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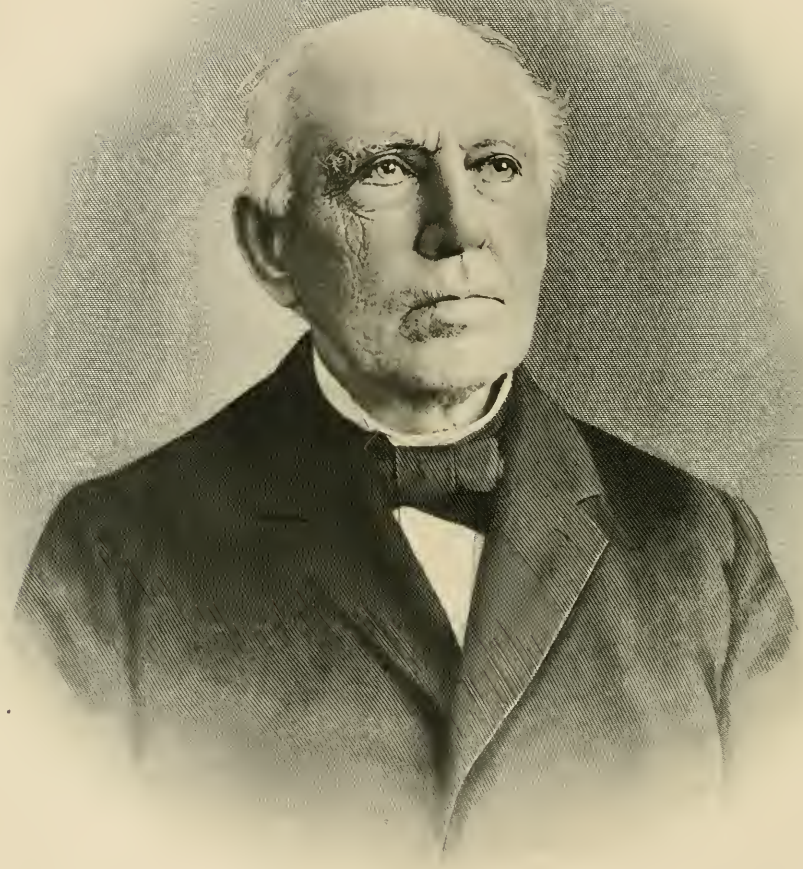
BIOGRAPHICAL AND GENEALOGICAL
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Theron D. Brewster

4. 3.

BIOGRAPHICAL AND GENEALOGICAL RECORD.

THERON D. BREWSTER.

THE visitor in Peru, Illinois, always has pointed out to him one of the time-honored old landmarks, a substantial and imposing brick residence, two stories in height, and surrounded by well kept grounds. This is the old Brewster home, which has stood here for almost three-score years, having been erected in 1841 by the gentleman whose name heads this article, one of the honored early settlers of this place.

Coming from staunch Puritan stock, Mr. Brewster was born in Salisbury, Litchfield county, Connecticut, February 29, 1812, being the eldest son of Daniel and Asenath (Canfield) Brewster, who were likewise natives of the same state. When he was sixteen years of age the mother of Theron D. Brewster died, and in December, 1835, the father also passed to his reward.

In his youth our subject received thorough training as a farmer, his father being a successful agriculturist. His tastes did not lie in that direction, however, and when he had completed his education in the academy at Westfield, Connecticut, he concluded to try his fortune in the west, sooner or later. In 1835 he came to Peru, where he accepted a clerical position, but at the end of six months he was summoned home to his father's deathbed and remained at the old homestead until the fall of 1836, adjusting the estate. The following year he laid out Ninawa addition to Peru, and commenced dealing in real estate, and in 1843 he embarked in the mercantile business here in partnership with Herman Baldwin, with whom he was associated three years. He then began dealing in grain, and, building a large warehouse on the bank of the Illinois river, carried on an extensive and remunerative business as a member of the firm of Brewster & Beebe. At the end of five years he retired, and for several years thereafter was in the dry-goods business, in company with E. Higgins.

Many other local industries and enterprises received the support of Mr. Brewster. In 1856 he was the president of the stock company which owned and sank the Peru coal shaft, which was worked with good results for about seventeen years. In 1852 the firm of T. D. Brewster & Company

was formed, and, buying out Messrs. Tuller, Pitts & Dodge, who had been manufacturing plows on a limited scale, and had conducted a small machine shop, the Peru City Plow Factory was established. He became the manager of the concern and remained at its helm until 1882, when, on account of his advanced age, he withdrew from its management. At that time (1882) the concern was reorganized into a stock company and is now known as the Peru Plow & Wheel Company. His last years were especially devoted to the real-estate business, in which he had been interested throughout his career. He managed with great ability the sale of property which he bought of the heirs of his uncle, Lyman Brewster, a pioneer of this county, who owned much of the land upon which Peru now stands.

Remarkably successful in all of his undertakings, no man was more intimately associated with the development and upbuilding of Peru. He was the first mayor of the city, elected in 1851, and re-elected in 1852 and again in 1854. As early as 1838 he held the office of town trustee and for several years served as a member of the board of education. He was a prime mover in securing to Peru the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad, and served as one of its first directors. He was an organizer of the First National Bank of Peru and served as its president during its existence of some twenty years. Beginning the battle of life empty-handed, he amassed a fortune by his excellent business methods, pluck and enterprise. Politically he was a strong Republican after the organization of that party. Though not a member of any religious body, he was most in sympathy with the Congregational denomination, and was liberal in its support.

Mr. Brewster was twice married, the wife of his youth being Miss Phoebe Mann, a native of Pennsylvania. Their union was solemnized in 1844, and five years later she died, leaving a son and a daughter. For his second wife Mr. Brewster chose Miss Margaret Jones, of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and four of their children—two sons and two daughters—survive. Mourned by the friends and associates of a life-time, Mr. Brewster passed away at his home in Peru, March 2, 1897.

Benjamin D. Brewster, son of Theron D. Brewster, who was so influential in the founding of Peru, was born in this place November 24, 1864, a son by his father's second marriage. He was reared and educated here and later attended Bryant & Stratton's Business College, in Chicago, Illinois. After having mastered the course of commercial training afforded him in that institution he accepted a position as a traveling salesman for the Western Clock Manufacturing Company, of LaSalle, remaining with that firm for three years. Then, going to New York city, he spent two years there with the Time Stamp Company, and in 1893 returned to Peru. For the past five years he has conducted the real-estate and loan business formerly man-

aged by his father, and besides is interested in the Peru Plow & Wheel Company, being a director in the same. Since this concern became a stock company it has enjoyed remarkable prosperity and growth in the volume of business transacted, and long since was found to be entitled to rank among the leading industrial enterprises in this section of the country. A branch house was established some time ago in Council Bluffs, Iowa, it being known as the Peru Plow & Implement Company, and of this Mr. Brewster holds the place of secretary. He has inherited much of his father's business talent, and is a young man of sterling integrity of character, respected by all who know him.

BENJAMIN M. HETHERINGTON.

The only representative of his family in America, this respected citizen of LaSalle was born in Ireland fifty-eight years ago. His parents, John and Ellen (Moynahan) Hetherington, passed their entire lives in the Emerald Isle, dying when our subject was young.

Being an ambitious youth, Benjamin M. Hetherington decided to come to America, where he was confident that he would find better advantages, and in 1854 landed in Savannah, Georgia. He then spent about four years in visiting different parts of this country, and thus is a competent judge of the merits of the various localities. In 1858 he was married, in Jackson county, Wisconsin, to Mary, daughter of Michael and Kate (McDonald) Lawlor. They were natives of Ireland, who first settled in New Jersey upon their arrival in the United States, and subsequently removed to Galena, Illinois, where Mrs. Hetherington was born.

The year after his marriage Mr. Hetherington and wife became residents of LaSalle, and thus for two-score years they have been identified with the welfare of this place. During this long period our subject has been connected with the coal-mining industry, and for many years has held the responsible position of mine manager of the Union coal shaft in LaSalle. To his ingenuity and constructive ability may be ascribed the two bridges built across the Illinois river at LaSalle and Utica. Recognized as a hard worker and a thoroughly competent man in his line, he commands the respect of all who are associated with him in any manner.

For eighteen years Mr. Hetherington has been a member of the LaSalle board of aldermen, and in this office has done much effectual work toward the upbuilding and improvement of the place. In his early manhood he cast in his lot with the Democratic party, but, being one who reads, studies and thinks for himself and has the courage of his convictions, he took issue with his late political comrades in the last presidential campaign, fearlessly

declaring himself for sound money. He went to the state convention in Chicago as a delegate to the Democratic convention that nominated the Hon. John M. Palmer for the office of chief executive. Mr. Hetherington acted in the capacity of township supervisor for five years, and in other local offices has proved his genuine regard for the public advancement.

The marriage of our subject and wife was blessed with twelve children, eight of whom are living. In the order of their birth they are named as follows: Margaret, John, Thomas, Mary, Kittie, Nora, Benjamin W. and Lawlor. The family belong to the Catholic church, and are actively connected with its work and benevolences.

FREDERICK G. COOPER.

Frederick G. Cooper, engineer of the city water-works at LaSalle, Illinois, was born at Lockport, this state, July 12, 1862, a son of Thomas and Christine (Bloom) Cooper and a grandson of Thomas Benton Cooper, who sprung from Quaker stock and whose place of nativity was in Pennsylvania, about twenty miles from Philadelphia. His occupation was that of husbandry, and although a Quaker and a believer in peace yet he took up arms and fought in the war of 1812. After his marriage he moved to the state of New York, where he died in early manhood, leaving a widow, who lived to be a very old lady, dying in the summer of 1892, and an only son.

This son was Thomas Cooper, who was born in New York, and moved to the state of Illinois some forty years ago, settling at LaSalle and making that his headquarters while he plied his vocation of boating on the Illinois river and the canal. He was united in marriage to Miss Christine Bloom, with whom he has lived in conjugal happiness many years and who is still the presiding genius of his home in Newton, Illinois. They have three children awaiting them in the better land and three who are spared to them here, viz.: Martha, wife of Charles Heagy, of LaSalle; Frederick G. and Lydia. Mrs. Cooper was a daughter of Peter Bloom, a shoemaker in Sweden, who was a soldier in the wars that were waged in that country and finally left there for America with his family. On the voyage over they suffered shipwreck and one of his daughters was lost. With the remaining children, two sons and one daughter (now Mrs. Cooper), he made his way to the inland country and settled in Henry county, Illinois, where he lived to be more than eighty-three years of age.

Frederick G. Cooper received a public-school education, but early in life developed a fondness for machinery which culminated in a mastery of the trade to which he is devoted. When seventeen or eighteen years of age,

he began his apprenticeship as an engineer, and it was not long before he could take charge of an engine. For nine or more years he has been employed in the water-works and electric-light plants of the city and takes a pardonable pride in his work. He was married August 23, 1888, to Miss Nellie Williams, a daughter of Captain E. L. and Lydia A. (Hyers) Williams. Three children, Thomas, Edwin and Lydia, have blessed their home. Mr. Cooper is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics he does not incline to either party, being entirely independent of party influence and in all local elections voting for the candidate whom he thinks will best serve the interests of the people.

Captain Edwin Lewis Williams, the father of Mrs. F. G. Cooper, was born in Darien, Connecticut, at which place his parents died after attaining an advanced age. The father, William Williams, was a native of Limerick, Ireland, while the mother, Phoebe, came from Holland. When a lad of about sixteen years, Edwin L. Williams came west and learned the trade of painter, at Toulon, Stark county, Illinois. He enlisted in Company F, Eighth Illinois Volunteers, at Pekin, and served four years, doing duty at Fort Donelson, Fort Henry and the siege of Vicksburg; and taking part in many skirmishes. He returned to his home in Pekin, on account of poor health, but his patriotic ardor was in no way dampened, and as soon as he recovered somewhat he raised another company, Company K, One Hundred and Forty-sixth Illinois, of which he was chosen captain. They were sent to Springfield, Illinois, where they did state service, and he was one of the body guards of the body of our martyr president, Lincoln, as it lay in state. After receiving his discharge he went to Iowa, having previously served as postmaster of Pekin, Illinois, and located at Mt. Ayr, where he filled the offices of deputy sheriff and city marshal from the year 1872 to 1883. He was united in wedlock to Miss Lydia Hyers, a native of West Point, Lee county, Iowa, and a daughter of William B. and Eleanor (Waggoner) Hyers, a carpenter and cabinet-maker of that place. She was of Scotch descent, and one of seven children. After leaving Mt. Ayr, Mr. Williams took his family to Tazewell county, Illinois, locating in Spring Lake township, where he was scale master and assessor for several years, and where he died, in his fifty-ninth year, in 1893, loved and respected by all.

JOSEPH ERTEL.

Joseph Ertel, proprietor of the Eagle Mills and dealer in flour and all kinds of feed, Mendota, Illinois, is a young man who has worked his way to the front and who occupies a representative position among the business

men of his town. Mr. Ertel was born in Austria, March 5, 1865, and was reared in his native land, learning there the miller's trade. In 1891 he took to himself a wife and on the same day of his marriage bade good-by to home and friends and native land and with his bride started for America. Upon his arrival in this country he came directly west to Iowa. After four weeks spent in Iowa City he located in Tomberg, Keokuk county, Iowa, and was there for two years engaged in railroading, as a section hand. In 1893 he came to Mendota and secured employment in the Eagle Mills, then operated by Mr. Meisenbach, and remained with him one year. The next two years he was engaged in farming in Minnesota. Returning at the end of that time to Mendota, he took charge of the mills in which he had formerly been employed, and has since run them successfully.

Mr. Ertel was married in the old country, as already stated, in 1891, the lady of his choice being Mary Pesibel, and they are the parents of four children. Fraternally Mr. Ertel is identified with the A. O. U. W.

CLYDE M. SNOW.

Clyde M. Snow, one of the younger business men of Earlville, Illinois, is a son of Simeon Edward Snow, who was born in Shaftsbury, Vermont, October 15, 1849. Mr. Snow's paternal grandparents were Reuben Russell Snow and Sarah (Mason) Snow. In tracing the genealogy of the family, we observe that Reuben R. Snow was a son of Simeon Snow, son of Reuben Snow, son of Eleazar Snow, son of William Snow, son of William Snow, Sr., who was the parent tree of the family in America, coming from London, England, his native city, to New England, in 1635. He was then in his youth and was brought to this country as an apprentice. Reaching his majority, he married and settled in Massachusetts. Many have been his descendants, and they have been scattered to many of the states of the Union. Among them have numbered prominent professional and business men. Longevity is remarkable in the Snow family. Not a male descendant in direct line, reaching maturity, save one, has died under the age of eighty years. One died at the age of seventy-seven years. The paternal grandfather of our subject came from Vermont to Illinois in 1857 and located in Earlville, and here died in 1898, aged eighty-seven years. His occupation was not confined to one vocation of life. Various pursuits he followed. In early life he was a tanner and in later life a druggist, and to-day is best remembered in Earlville as a druggist. He was a member of the Vermont legislature in 1851. Only three of his children lived to a mature age, they

being Emery and Zerina, who are now deceased, and S. E. Snow, the father of the immediate subject of this sketch.

S. E. Snow was about seven years of age when his father came to Earlville, Illinois, in which place he has always made his home. For more than thirty years he has been continuously engaged in the manufacture of carriages, in blacksmithing and dealing in farm implements. His place of business was burned out in 1875, but he rebuilt and to-day has a fine brick structure for a business house, and is a prosperous business man. He commenced his business career with a limited capital, has worked out his own success, and won his way to a position among the substantial and leading citizens of Earlville. In politics he is a Democrat, and fraternally a Master Mason. In 1867 S. E. Snow married Arabelle Warren, a native of Paw Paw, Illinois, and the subject of this biography, Clyde M. Snow, is their only child.

Clyde M. Snow was born in Earlville, Illinois, March 9, 1868. He attended the public schools of Earlville, spent six months in a military academy at Oxford, Maryland, and took a commercial course in Bryant & Stratton's Business College at Chicago. From boyhood he worked more or less with his father, and was devoting his time to the interest of his father's business when he was commissioned postmaster of Earlville, May 1, 1894. For four years he acted in that capacity, rendering satisfactory service to the public. June 15, 1898, he became a member of the drug firm of Pool & Snow, of Earlville, and at this writing is engaged in the drug business. In politics Mr. Snow has been active as a Democrat. He is a Master Mason and also belongs to the Knights of the Globe.

HARRY W. TODD.

Harry W. Todd, the prosperous and well known grocer of LaSalle, was born on the Vermilion river, at Todd's Mills, near Vermilion, July 9, 1856. He is a son of Ira and Mary W. (Cushman) Todd. The family are of Scotch extraction, and the great-grandfather fought in the war of the Revolution. The grandfather, also named Ira Todd, came west in 1832 and bought the mill at Todd's Mills. Previous to this he conducted mills at Jersey City, New Jersey; Cooperstown, New York; Northampton, Massachusetts; and Hartford, Connecticut. He was at the head of the milling company in St. Louis, a company which he helped to organize and which had formerly had its headquarters at Jersey City and Detroit. He died at Winona in his eighty-sixth year.

Ira Todd, the father, was one of ten children, eight sons and two

daughters, of whom but one is now living. That one is George Todd, of St. Louis, who is now in his eighty-fourth year and has resided in that city since 1835. He was an extensive manufacturer of mill machinery. Ira Todd remained at Todd's Mills until 1857, when he came to LaSalle and conducted a wholesale grocery house, at the same time operating a mill in Peru which was known as that of W. & I. Todd & Company. He was the victim of the "wildcat" currency and failed in business during the war as a result of that policy. He then opened a retail grocery in this city in company with J. S. Roberts, Calvin Wilson and Dr. J. C. Brown. Later he had charge of the books in the glass factory and the Oglesby Coal Company's offices. After his son Harry opened his grocery store he assisted in that, retiring from active life a few years prior to his death. He was a man of robust constitution and great endurance. He was a great reader in all lines of importance to the public and a close Bible student. A man of decided views, he formed his opinions after mature deliberation, and was not easily moved to change them. He was a Republican in former times and a great friend of Alexander Campbell, of LaSalle. He was also a friend and admirer of Abraham Lincoln. He later became a strong Prohibitionist. The mill first operated by him was the one his father purchased in 1832. Farmers used to bring their grist a distance of fifty miles and wait until it had been converted into flour or meal.

He was married to Mary W. Cushman, a sister of the late Colonel Cushman, of Ottawa, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Todd were honored members of the Congregational church, in which he held the office of deacon for about twenty-five years. He was a native of Hartford, Connecticut, while his wife was from the state of Massachusetts. Three children were born to them, of whom two are living: George I. and Harry W., both of LaSalle. The father died January 25, 1899, after passing his seventy-sixth year. His wife died November 7, 1894, when in her seventieth year. The father of Mrs. Todd was Hercules Cushman, a native of the state of Massachusetts and of English descent. His grandfather came to America about the time the Mayflower brought the early Pilgrims. Hercules was a lawyer in his native state, where he died in middle life. He was twice married, the ladies being sisters named Washburn. He had three children, two daughters and one son.

Harry W. Todd has made his home in LaSalle from the time he was brought here by his parents in 1857. Here he received his education. He was with E. B. Treat seven years, quitting his employment once to open a hardware store of his own. This was conducted but a short time when he returned to his former employer. He also engaged for a time in the wholesale and retail butter and egg business. In 1883 he opened his

grocery store at 545 Marquette street, where he has since conducted it. He has a growing and prosperous business and endeavors to satisfy the wants of his many patrons. He is a Republican in politics and is a member of the Congregational church society. He is also a member of the Knights and Ladies' Security. He has traveled extensively in the states and is a man of pleasing address and an intelligent converser. It has been forty-three years since he first made his home in LaSalle, and thirty-five years of the time have been spent in the old home at No. 1007 Marquette street. In November, 1899, Mr. Todd married Miss Neva L. Dimmitt, of Kansas City, Kansas.

WILLIAM HARTH.

The German-American citizens of the United States have always been numbered among her most loyal sons, and to their industry and energy and sound business enterprise much of the prosperity which this great nation enjoys may be justly attributed. One of the old and honored residents of LaSalle county was William Harth, who lived his last years in retirement from active labors and cares, and for the last eleven years of his life made his home in Peru. He enjoyed the respect of the friends and neighbors who knew him for years, some for almost half a century.

The parents of the above named gentleman were Theodore and Gertrude (Pfeld) Harth, both natives of Germany, their occupation being that of tillers of the soil. The father died when about sixty-three years of age, in 1831, and the mother, whose death took place in 1844, was then in her sixty-fourth year. They were both identified with the Catholic church. Both of the grandfathers of our subject were agriculturists and passed their whole lives in Germany. Grandfather Pfeld died suddenly, when in the full vigor of life, while engaged in plowing a field. His children were three in number. Christian Harth, a brother of our subject, is the only survivor of the parental family, as one by one their six sons and four daughters passed into the silent land.

William Harth was born in the town of Kull, on the banks of the river Rhine, in Germany, March 12, 1821. His boyhood was quietly spent in the usual vocations of a farm and in attendance at the common schools. He continued to live at home until he reached man's estate, and in 1846 he decided to try his fortune in the United States. Almost immediately after his arrival in this country he settled in LaSalle county, Illinois, and, having purchased a quarter section of land in Eagle township, he proceeded to cultivate and improve his property. As the years rolled by he prospered and from time to time he added more land to his possessions until he owned five

hundred and forty acres. In 1888 he left the homestead, and thereafter resided in Peru. As good opportunities presented themselves he disposed of his farms, and with abundant means for old age spent his days in well deserved rest and retirement. Thrift and industry were the secrets of his success, for he early learned the lesson that honest toil is the only safe and sure method of earning a livelihood and competence. In political affairs he was always an ally of the Democratic party.

The marriage of William Harth and Katherine Henn, a daughter of Philip and Helena (June) Henn, was solemnized October 17, 1847. They have had four sons and six daughters, namely: John, Joseph, Elizabeth, Henry, Mary, Christina, Anna, Peter, Minnie and Sibella. John and Joseph live in Kansas. The latter chose for his wife Mary Shetzer and the former is also married. Elizabeth became the wife of William Laufenberg and they live in Little Rock, Arkansas. Henry married Louisa Genter and is a resident of Nebraska. Mary, who wedded John Smith, also lives in Nebraska, her home being in Hartwell. Anna, Mrs. Frank Schinzel, is living in Leonora, Illinois. Peter married Ella Clampler and makes his home in Spring Valley, Illinois. Minnie is the wife of Peter Meisen, of Leonore, this state. Miss Sibella, unmarried, took care of her parents during their last days. William Harth and wife were devout members of the Catholic church, as were their ancestors before them for many generations.

HENRY E. SCHWEICKERT.

This gentleman, a prominent business man of Peru, is a native of this place, his birth having occurred here August 24, 1863. He is one of the nine children of Vincent and Mary (Wellner) Schweickert, who were born in Baden and in Rhein, Bavaria, Germany, respectively. For three years after his arrival in America, in 1853, Vincent Schweickert resided in Reading, Pennsylvania, where he found employment at his trade of brick and stone mason and plasterer. He was married during his stay in that city, whence he came to Peru in 1856, and he and his estimable wife are still living in their comfortable home on the corner of Pike and Ninth streets. He was one of the five children of Jacob Schweickert, whose life was spent in Germany, death cutting short his career when he was but forty years of age. His business was the raising of silk-worms and the bleaching or whitening of cloth. The father of Mrs. Mary (Wellner) Schweickert served in the German army under Napoleon, and was a coal-miner by occupation. He died in his native land, at the ripe age of eighty-two years.

Henry E. Schweickert and his six surviving brothers and sisters are all citizens of Peru. The former are named in order of birth: Charles, Jacob, Bertram and Francis Xavier. Mary is the wife of Peter Weyand, and Lizzie is Mrs. Frank Ellerbrock. In common with the others, our subject was a pupil in the public and parochial schools of Peru, his studies being completed in the high school here. At intervals he worked on farms in this county until he was twenty years old, when he began learning the brick and stone mason's trade.

Ten years ago Henry E., Charles and Jacob Schweickert entered into partnership and carried on a contracting and building business for two years. Then our subject withdrew and conducted his affairs independently for seven years, and since 1898 has been associated with his brothers Jacob, Bertram, Francis X., and Frank Ellerbrock, under the firm name of Schweickert Brothers & Company. They do an extensive and paying business, and are winning a large share of the patronage of the public.

On the 17th of May, 1887, Mr. Schweickert married Miss Lizzie Ellerbrock, a daughter of John William and Anna (Utendorf) Ellerbrock. Six children have been born to our subject and wife, namely: Vincent, Peter Phillip Maria, Henry Charles Anton Alexander, Mary Franciska, Mary Hildegard and Mary Beatrice.

Mr. and Mrs. Schweickert are members of the Catholic church, and he is connected with the fraternal orders of St. Joseph's Benevolent Society and the Catholic Order of Foresters. Politically, he is a Democrat. The pleasant home of the family was built by our subject in 1888. It stands on the corner of Pike and Tenth streets, an attractive residence section of the town, and near the home of the elder Schweickerts.

OTTO T. PROELSS.

Otto T. Proelss, foreman of the sulphuric-acid department of the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Works, LaSalle, Illinois, came to this city October 12, 1889, started to work in the laboratory of the factory and for ten years has been in the employ of the establishment.

Mr. Proelss was born in Viviez, France, August 9, 1870, a son of Dr. Otto and Anna (Eckhort) Proelss, both natives of Germany. Dr. Otto Proelss was educated at Heidelberg University, at which institution he graduated with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. For twenty years he was the superintendent of the Gladblach Zinc Works, and held the position at the time of his death, in 1890.

Otto T., the subject of this sketch, also had excellent educational

advantages in his youth. He spent four years in the gymnasium at Freiberg and later was a student in the gymnasium of Mulheim, where he completed his course. The father's occupation tended to lead the son into the zinc business, with which he became familiar in the old country, and in 1889 he came to the United States to enter the employ of the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Works, as above recorded.

Mr. Proelss was married in 1894 to Miss Alvine, daughter of Charles Seepe, a prominent dry-goods merchant of Peru, Illinois. Charles Seepe is a native of Prussia, born near Ham, June 9, 1842, one of the seven children of Gerhard and Maria (Kemper) Seepe, both natives of Prussia. The family came to America in 1849 and settled at Peru, Illinois, where both parents died. Charles Seepe was reared in Peru from his seventh year and at fourteen became an apprentice at the dry-goods business. Since 1872 he has been in business for himself. He was married October 23, 1864, to Miss Sophia Beckley, daughter of John Beckley, and to them were born three sons and six daughters, namely: Jennie, Julia (deceased), Clara, Alvine, Albert, Charles, Harry, Etta and Edith.

JAMES EDWARDS.

James Edwards, the superintendent of the Peru Plow & Wheel Company, is a native of England, having been born in Redruth, Cornwall, March 16, 1848. This has been the birthplace of the Edwards family for several generations past, the great-great-great-grandfather of our subject having been wrecked on the Cornish coast between Perron and Portreath and located near the scene of the wreck, about two miles inland. Here the family remained and the different members were born down to the birth of our subject, James Edwards. Since then the family have scattered until none of the name are left in that vicinity at the present day.

James Edwards, the father of our subject, began when a boy to work in copper, tin, coal and iron. He became an engineer of ability and was in the employ of one firm, Sparrow & Son, for more than twenty-seven years. He was united in marriage to Miss Grace Bowden, by whom he had three sons and three daughters, of whom James and William are the only survivors. Both parents were Wesleyan Methodists. The wife and mother died in 1885, in her fifty-eighth year, and the November of the next year found the father in Chicago, where he made his home with his son James until his death, on May 29, 1890, at the age of sixty-six and one-half years. His father was William Edwards, a miner and engineer, and a member of the Home Guards militia during the Napoleon wars. He died at the age of fifty-seven,



James Edwards

leaving six children. It was the great-grandfather of William who founded the family in Cornwall. The maternal grandfather of our subject was William Bowden, a native of Wendron, Cornwall, and a farmer. The Bowden family were large land-owners and prominent people. William was a soldier in the Home Guards during the peninsular wars, and held a number of township offices. He died at the age of eighty-four years, after rearing six children,—three sons and three daughters.

When ten or twelve years old, James Edwards went to work in a pottery, and later entered the tin and copper mines at Cornwall, where he remained until he was fifteen. He has worked his own way in the world from that tender age, and is a ready sympathizer and helper of any young man who earnestly and industriously strives for advancement. When he was fifteen he began learning the trade of blacksmith, serving his time until he was twenty-one. Two years later he came to America and located in Indianapolis, where he was in the employ of the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati & Indianapolis Railroad for six months. He left them to accept a position as locomotive blacksmith in the Atlantic & Great Western shops at Galion, Ohio. He was there four years and then returned to England, where he was in the employ of the Pendleton Iron Works, and later took charge of the iron works of Bradford & Son. Still later he was connected with the Manchester Carriage Company, and then opened a business of his own. He was in the crockery and glassware business for five or six years, but disposed of his stock in 1886, returning to America in July of that year. He stopped in Chicago and worked in the iron business with Harris & Winslow, the Babcock Fire Engine Company, and R. T. Crane until 1890, when, in December, he came to Peru and took the superintendency of the Peru Plow & Steel Company, the position he still retains. This institution makes agricultural implements of nearly all descriptions and gives employment to a large force of men, nearly two hundred being given steady work. Although the superintendency of this plant is attended with great responsibility and care, Mr. Edwards maintains a calm and courteous manner that is unruffled by the little worries incident to business life. No doubt his great success and popularity are attributable in a great measure to the fact that his men appreciate his kindness and civility and are willing to make extra efforts to meet his wishes in all their work.

Mr. Edwards was married August 20, 1872, to Miss Nannie Williams Bowden, daughter of John and Nannie (Williams) Bowden, of Cornwall. Ten children have been born to them, namely: John Harrison, deceased; William Henry, deceased; Grace Bowden, deceased; James, deceased; Emily; Charles; James, deceased; Gertrude; Nannie; and Henry. The children are living with their parents. Although Mr. and Mrs. Edwards are

not communicants of any church, they are believers in the Congregational doctrines and attend that church. He is a member of the Masonic order and both he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star. He also belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and is the worthy master of the Mystic Workers of the World. Politically he is in sympathy with the Republicans. Mr. Edwards is temperate in his habits, never tasted beer or tobacco, and has made the golden rule the motto which has governed all his actions.

VINAL H. HACKETT.

Vinal Herbert Hackett, proprietor of a livery establishment at Mendota, Illinois, is a New-Englander by birth. He was born in Merrimack, New Hampshire, August 22, 1856.

At nineteen he came west to Illinois and located at Dixon, where he resided for a period of ten years, the most of that time engaged in the livery business, with a partner. April 2, 1888, he came to Mendota, and has since been engaged in the livery business here, having a large establishment and doing a prosperous business with the best class of trade.

MICHAEL E. LOOS.

Michael E. Loos, rolling-mill foreman for the Illinois Zinc Company, LaSalle, Illinois, is of German birth, but has been identified with this country since his early boyhood. He was born in Luxemburg, Germany, January 30, 1843, a son of Nicholas and Lena (Krier) Loos and one of a family of ten children. The Loos family left their native land in 1855 and after a successful voyage landed in this country, Illinois their objective point and their first place of settlement being in Ogle county. There the father died, in 1861, at the age of sixty-one years. The mother survived him until 1871, when she died in Freeport, at the age of seventy-two.

At the time of their emigration to this country Michael E. was a boy of twelve years. His schooling was all obtained previous to that time, for after they settled in Illinois he was occupied in assisting his father in the work of the farm. However, he has always been a close observer and great reader, and what he missed in school advantages he made up in home study, thus gaining a wide range of useful information. He continued the occupation in which he was reared, that of farming, until 1866. In the meantime the civil war came on and he rendered his adopted country valiant service in the army. He enlisted September 7, 1861, as a private

in Company H, Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry, and served as such until June 14, 1865, when he was promoted to the rank of second lieutenant. His first enlistment was for a term of three years, and at the end of that time he veteranized in the same company. He participated in the engagements at Pittsburg Landing, Corinth, the Atlanta campaign, and was with Sherman on his memorable march to the sea. At the close of his service, July 12, 1865, he was honorably discharged at Louisville, Kentucky, and returned home. He resumed farming at his old home, and farmed that season and the next, after which he moved to Freeport, Illinois, and turned his attention to railroading, first securing an engagement in the service of the Northwestern Railroad Company, later was at El Paso, on the Illinois Central Railroad, and then went to Nebraska and took a homestead claim. In 1873 he located in LaSalle, Illinois, as car inspector for the Illinois Central Railroad, and two years later, in 1875, he entered the employ of the LaSalle Zinc Company, with which he remained until that company sold out to the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company. He then entered the employ of the latter, with which he remained until 1882. That year he became connected with the Illinois Zinc Company, and was made foreman of the rolling-mill department the following year, which position he has since filled. His long identity with this concern is ample evidence of the value of his service and of his reliability.

Mr. Loos was married in 1865 to Catherine Orth, and two children, William and Catherine, are the fruits of their union.

Like most veterans of the Union army, Mr. Loos belongs to that popular organization, the Grand Army of the Republic. Also he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America. He served one term as alderman of LaSalle, elected to the office by a Republican constituency. Religiously he and his family are Catholics.

JOHN E. HAMPSON.

John E. Hampson, a well known citizen of Farm Ridge township, LaSalle county, Illinois, dates his identification with this place from 1865. The record of his life and ancestry, briefly given, is as follows:

John E. Hampson was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, October 16, 1848, son of John B. Hampson, one of the venerable citizens of Farm Ridge, Illinois. John B. Hampson, also a native of Washington county, Pennsylvania, was born March 16, 1815, a son of Daniel and grandson of Joseph Hampson, the former a native of New Jersey. Joseph Hampson and wife, nee Hazen, were the parents of three children,—Lydia,

Harriet and Daniel. When Daniel was seven years of age the family home was changed from New Jersey to Pennsylvania, where he grew up and married Miss Mary Biddle, also a native of New Jersey. She was a daughter of Timothy Biddle, of that state. Daniel and Mary Hampson had nine children, four sons and five daughters, namely: John B., Catherine, Lucinda, Hannah, Ezekiel, Wiley, Mary, Nancy and Thomas; and of this number John B. is the only one now living. The father died at the age of fifty-six years; the mother at seventy-six. In early life they were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, but later united with the Cumberland Presbyterians, and Daniel Hampson was an elder in the church for a number of years. John B. Hampson married, in 1838, Miss Ruth Bane, a native of the same county in which he was born and a daughter of George and Rhoda (Clutter) Bane, both natives of Washington county, Pennsylvania. To John B. and Ruth Hampson were born four children, as follows: Mrs. Mary J. Oller, who died in Washington county, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Charity Ann Berkhimer, of Humboldt, Iowa; John E., whose name initiates this review; and Joseph Alexander, of South Ottawa, Illinois. John B. Hampson, like his father before him, is identified with the Cumberland Presbyterian church and is an elder in the same. Politically he is a Republican.

Returning now to John E. Hampson, we record that when he was a youth of seventeen years, in 1865, he came with his parents to Illinois. Farming has been his life work. He is the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of fine land in Farm Ridge township, devoted to general farming and improved with good house, barn, orchard, etc.

Mr. Hampson was married, February 24, 1874, to Miss Eliza Walley, a native of Illinois, born in Farm Ridge township, LaSalle county, daughter of Samuel and Eliza (Hera) Walley, the former a native of Chester county, Pennsylvania, who came to Illinois in 1841; the latter a native of Philadelphia. Samuel Walley's family comprised the following members: Louisa, who died at the age of twenty years; Elias, a resident of Deer River, Minnesota; John, a resident of Cedar county, Iowa; and Mrs. Hampson. Mrs. Walley died in 1871, at the age of forty-six years; Mr. Walley, in 1896 at the age of eighty-three years. They were Methodists. Mr. and Mrs. Hampson have seven children, namely: Lura B., wife of Charles E. Woodward, of Ottawa, Illinois; Birdie M., wife of George Hopple, of Arlington, Nebraska; and Ethel, Ralph E., Walter W., Nelly R. and Lloyd, at home.

Mr. Hampson has always manifested an interest in public affairs, especially those of a local nature, and has served acceptably in an official capacity. He is at this writing one of the township road commissioners, and for twenty years has been a member of the school board. He is politically

a Republican and fraternally a Knight of Pythias. Frank and genial in manner, honorable and upright in all his dealings, he is a man who has the confidence and respect of all who know him.

THOMAS IMUS.

The venerable gentleman whose name heads this sketch and who resides at the corner of Fifth street and Second avenue, Mendota, Illinois, came here from the Green Mountain state in 1856, and has lived here ever since, an honored and respected citizen. He has marked the town's growth from its infancy. At the time he arrived it had only one store, that owned by Giles & Wells. He engaged in the marble business, which he conducted successfully until about 1880, when he sold out, having since that time lived retired from active business life.

Thomas Imus was born in Bennington county, Vermont, in the town of Arlington, August 21, 1815, a son of William and Annie (Rising) Imus, the former a native of London, England, and the latter of Suffield, Connecticut. Six children composed their family, two sons and four daughters, all of whom have passed away except the subject of this sketch, who was the youngest. The father was a watchmaker by trade, which he followed in the early part of his life. He came to America in 1753, located in Suffield, and subsequently removed to Bennington county, Vermont, where he became the owner of about one hundred and fifty acres of land and where he spent the rest of his life in agricultural pursuits. He died in 1830, at the age of ninety-six years. He was twice married. By his first wife, Lucy Buck, he had nine children, and by his second wife six, the subject of our sketch being one of the latter. The second wife was eighty-four years old at the time of her death. They were all Episcopalians. During the Revolutionary war William Imus was three times drafted into the service, but would not fight against his own country and relations, and each time hired a substitute.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was William Imus. He was the father of four sons, and was a large property owner. He lived and died in England. The maternal grandfather also was an Englishman. He came to America in the eighteenth century, settled on a New England farm and devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits the rest of his life, and reached a ripe old age.

Thomas Imus, the direct subject of this review, was reared on his father's farm in Vermont, and after his father's death he began learning the marble-cutter's trade, being at that time twenty-one years of age.

On the 28th of February, 1845, he married Miss Louisa Gleason, a daughter of Newton and Annis (Mixer) Gleason, and two children, a son and daughter, were born to them. The son, Newton, married Isabella Wyrick and lives in Mendota; they have one child, named Mable. The daughter, Mattie, is the wife of William E. Wixom, and they have one child, named Blossom. Mrs. Thomas Imus died August 2, 1894, at the age of seventy-three years. She was a devoted Christian and a member of the Baptist church.

Mr. Imus has always been a temperance man, and in his younger years was a member of the Rechabites and the Good Templars. Also he was for years a member of the Masonic fraternity. His early political affiliation was with the Whig party, and when the Republican party was organized he identified himself with it and has since given it his support. For a number of years he was a school director in Mendota, and his influence has always been directed on the side of right and progress. Now in his old age he enjoys the confidence and esteem of his many friends in the town where he has lived for nearly half a century.

JOSEPH REINHARDT.

Hon. Joseph Reinhardt, of Peru, LaSalle county, was a native of Germany, having been born in the town of Fulda, in Hesse, Prussia, January 11, 1828. His parents, Conrad and Clara (Malkmas) Reinhardt, lived and died in Germany, where the father was a physician of ability. Joseph was the only son in the family who grew to adult years and to him was accorded an excellent education. After receiving a liberal education in other branches, he entered the University at Jena, where he took a course in the agricultural department, preparing himself to prosecute intelligently that branch of labor.

When twenty-four years of age he contracted marriage with Miss Bertha Brennemann, also a native of Prussia, and the same year, 1852, started for the United States. Five children were born to them, who became honorable and useful citizens. They are: Adolph, a resident of Spring Valley; Emma, wife of Julius Brennemann, of Peru; Mary, wife of John G. Feldes, of Chicago; Helen, wife of C. W. Leimbach, of Chicago; and Lina, wife of E. J. Robinson, of Arkansas. The wife and mother passed to her reward August 2, 1887, after the family had made their home in Peru. When he first arrived in this country, Mr. Reinhardt settled on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Putnam county, Illinois, eight miles south of this city. There he lived and toiled for thirty-one years.

well knowing what it was to work, for he labored early and late, acknowledging no defeat and overcoming all obstacles that stood between himself and prosperity. With true German perseverance and pluck, he plowed his fields and prepared his seed, using not only his acquired knowledge, but his native shrewdness in preparing for the harvest, and was rewarded by being able to turn his abundant yield into money and land. In this way he continued until he had accumulated a large acreage, consisting of several farms in Putnam county. Owing to his good judgment, industry and frugality, he prospered far above the average, and much credit is due him for placing farming, in that community, on a broader and more scientific scale than it formerly occupied. After more than a quarter of a century of hard labor, he moved his family permanently to Peru, where he spent his last days in retirement from the arduous duties of active business life.

He supported the cause of Republicanism and took a deep interest in all affairs of state and nation. Being a strong friend to education he was a prominent worker for that cause, serving as school director for many years. In 1870 he was elected to the Illinois legislature, serving two years, and in 1885 was elected to the state senate for four years from LaSalle county. Both in legislative halls and senate chamber he so discharged the duties devolving upon him as to receive the highest commendation and approbation. As a legislator, Mr. Reinhardt reflected credit on his constituents and won for himself a splendid reputation. After taking up his residence in Peru he was for several years a member of the school board and was a most active citizen in working for the public welfare. For years he was treasurer of the Peru Farmers' Insurance Company. His character was above reproach and the probity of his official life admits of no question. His death occurred October 22, 1899, in the seventy-second year of his life.

DAN W. BOWEN.

Dan W. Bowen, one of the leading farmers of Freedom township, LaSalle county, is a native of Berkshire county, Massachusetts, his birth having occurred July 22, 1842. The family was established in New England at a very early period, but the record has been lost, and all that is certainly known of its history refers no further back than to the grandfather of our subject. David Bowen, as was his name, was a native of the state of Massachusetts, where he pursued the quiet, industrious life of a tiller of the soil. His son William, the father of Dan W., was likewise born in the old Bay state, and was reared to the calling of his ancestors. For a companion and helpmate along the highway of life he chose Emeline Burt, and in 1854 they removed to Illinois. At first the home of the family was in

Earl township, whence they later removed to Meriden township. There the father, whose birth had occurred in 1817, died in 1895, after a residence of two-score years in this state. The wife and mother departed this life in 1891. Their children comprised the following named: Julia, wife of Wellman Tisdale, of State Center, Iowa; Marian, deceased, formerly the wife of George W. Dumond; Dan W.; Harriet and Gertrude, both of Earlville; Louise, wife of Jesse Reynolds, of Newton, Kansas; and Cora, wife of Duncan Dunn, of Freedom. Two children died in infancy,—Frank and Francis.

Dan W. Bowen obtained a fair education in the district schools of his native state and Illinois, and was early initiated into the duties of farming. For several years after reaching man's estate he continued to live on the old homestead and shared the profits and losses of running the same, with his father. Then for two years he rented a farm in Freedom township, at the end of which period he returned to the old home, and for a dozen years or more was engaged in the cultivation of the farm. At length he purchased a homestead in Earl township, but, after operating it for a short time only, he rented the place, and in turn leased what is known as the David Davis farm, in Freedom township, where he has the advantage of a greater acreage, situated in one body. He has been quite successful in his undertakings, and enjoys the respect of all of his neighbors and acquaintances.

During the war of the Rebellion, Mr. Bowen, then a young man, was very anxious to offer his services in the defense of the Union, but deferred to the wishes of his father, who needed him on the farm, for he was an only son. At last, however, the elder man yielded to the wishes of the younger, and in September, 1864, our subject was duly enlisted in the ranks of the Federal army to serve for one year. He became a private of Company E, Fourth Illinois Cavalry, which was mustered out of the service in September, 1865. During this last year of the great conflict the old and seasoned troops were the ones placed at the front, where their experience was needed, and the later-enlisted regiments were assigned to guard duty, and were posted on the outskirts of the main branches of the army. Thus Mr. Bowen did not take part in any of the great battles of the war, though he participated in some pretty sharp skirmishes with the enemy while he was stationed at or near Memphis, Vicksburg, Yazoo City, Natchez, and other points in the Mississippi valley. Returning home in the autumn of 1865, he resumed the peaceful vocations of life, and has striven to perform his entire duty as a citizen.

In January, 1866, Mr. Bowen and Eliza, daughter of Samuel Smith, of Kendall county, Illinois, were united in marriage. She died in April, 1876,

leaving three children, namely: Fred, who married Lydia Haslett and resides in Earlville; Elsie; and Josephine, wife of D. Franks, of Earlville. In January, 1879, Mr. Bowen married Gertrude L. Cook, and their five children are Gladys, Fay, Scott, Inez and Helen. Mrs. Bowen is a daughter of Lyman and Sarah Cook, who came from Meriden, Connecticut, to Earl township many years ago.

JOHN BRAUN.

A highly respected German-American citizen of Peru is he of whom this sketch is penned, his residence here dating back half a century. His paternal grandfather followed the same calling, that of tailor, in Germany, as does our subject. The latter's father, George Braun, who was one of six children, four of whom were sons, likewise was a tailor by trade, though he gave some attention to farming also. He was a soldier under the great general, Napoleon Bonaparte, and died when in the prime of manhood, aged about forty-nine years. His widow, whose maiden name was Katharina Diedewig, came to America in 1852, bringing with her their four younger children. For some time she made her home in Peru, and in 1853 the dread scourge, cholera, swept her away. She was an only daughter, but had three or four brothers. Her father, who was a shoemaker by trade, died in Germany, at an advanced age. George Braun and wife were devout members of the Lutheran church, and were upright, honored citizens, as their ancestors were before them.

John Braun of this sketch is the twin brother of Peter Braun, born April 15, 1819, in the village of Nieder Saulheim, on the river Rhine, in the province of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany. His other brothers and sisters who grew to mature years were George; Andrew; Katherina, who married Jacob Kreis, and is now deceased; Appolonia, wife of Mr. Graeber, of Lawrence, Kansas; and Lorena, wife of Clemens Young, of Kansas.

When he was young John Braun attended the public schools of his native land, and as soon as old enough he commenced learning his father's trade. In 1843 he came to the United States, and for one year lived among the Indians and forests of Washington county, Wisconsin. Then, going to Chicago, he worked at his trade for six years in that infant metropolis, and in 1850 came to Peru, which has been his abiding place ever since. At first he was employed as a journeyman, but in 1860, growing a little more ambitious, he opened a shop of his own. The beginning of the civil war the following year, however, interfered materially with his business prospects, and he gave up his independent enterprise. For the next fifteen years he was employed as a cutter in tailoring establishments here, but

during the Centennial year he opened his store, which has been conducted ever since under the firm name of Braun & Son. It has enjoyed the patronage of the leading citizens of Peru, and only first-class work and the best of material are confidently expected to emanate from this well known business house. Many minor concerns have waxed and waned since Braun & Son opened their shop, but their popularity has continued unabated, and they have always been kept very busy in meeting the demands of the trade.

On the 2d of June, 1847, John Braun married Katherine, daughter of Adam Betz, and though this worthy couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary two years ago they bid fair to live to enjoy many happy returns of the festal day. Since 1851 they have resided on Center street, near the city hall, and are much attached to their home, around which the associations of almost half a century cling. In religious faith they are Lutherans.

Two of the eleven children born to John and Katherine Braun died in infancy. The eldest son, Charles A., who has been engaged in business with the father since early manhood, married Julia Van Horn, and has two children,—Ora and Fred. Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of our subject, is the wife of L. A. Williams, a well known Ottawa lawyer, secretary to the Old Settlers' Society, and they have two children, Charles and Lorena. George married Annie Wilson, and died about three years ago in New York city. Mary E., who is unmarried, is a teacher in the Englewood (Illinois) schools. Fred W. married Mrs. Kate E. Standiford, and has one child, June Elizabeth. They reside in Los Angeles, California, where he is engaged in the wholesale drug business. John, his next younger brother, is employed by him in the drug store mentioned. John married Linda Hill, of Los Angeles, California. L. Gustav, the youngest of the children, is a mail-carrier in Chicago. He married Marian E. Van Sciver, and has two children,—Harold and Ida. Anna, wife of Frank Crawford, is the mother of four daughters, and is a resident of Lake Mills, Wisconsin. Emma married John Klinger and lives at the corner of Second and West streets, Peru. John Braun, our subject, and his sons, are affiliated with the Democratic party.

CHARLES A. BRAUN.

An almost lifelong resident of Peru, Charles A. Braun is well known in this vicinity and bears an enviable reputation as a business man and citizen. He is devoted to the welfare of this place, doing all within his power to promote the cause of progress and good government.

Of German ancestry, Mr. Braun has inherited many of the best qualities of the sons of the Fatherland. His sterling integrity, justice and general

reliability, united with his business traits of industry and perseverance, have won for him the approbation of his associates and acquaintances. A son of John and Katherine (Betz) Braun, natives of Germany, Charles A. was born in the city of Chicago, Illinois, March 17, 1848. When he was two years old he was brought to Peru by his parents, and here he grew to manhood. His education was obtained in the public schools and in the German Lutheran parochial school. During the winter of 1865-6 he attended Bryant & Stratton's Business College in Chicago, thus gaining a practical knowledge of commercial methods. Prior to this, however, he had been employed by the dry-goods house of R. & A. D. Murray, and subsequently he worked for J. B. Lininger, who was in the same line of business in Peru. His next situation was as bookkeeper for the firm of Hank, Ream & Company (later known as C. J. Hank & Company), who were likewise in the dry-goods business. On the 7th of August, 1877, the young man started in business in partnership with his father, under the style of Braun & Son. They occupy fine quarters in Turner Hall building, carry a full line of furnishing goods and a well selected stock of material to be manufactured into suits and overcoats of the latest fashion. The firm commands a large and remunerative custom, and numbers among its patrons many of the leading citizens of the town and locality.

July 9, 1879, C. A. Braun married Miss Julia, daughter of John and Mary (Hibbs) Van Horn. They have a son and daughter, named respectively Ora and Fred. The family reside in a pleasant home at the corner of Grant and Second streets. Prior to his marriage, Mr. Braun traveled extensively in various parts of the United States and Canada, and is well posted in matters of general interest. In his political faith he is a Democrat, and fraternally he belongs to the Mystic Workers of the World. His success in life has been well deserved, and his example is one worthy of emulation.

GEORGE HOLLAND.

George Holland, a hardware merchant of Mendota, was born in the city of Albany, New York, September 8, 1852, and is a son of Nicholas and Anna (Strausner) Holland, both natives of Germany, but residents of the state of New York at the time of their marriage. In 1856 they came to Mendota, where the father worked at his trade of plasterer and mason until his death, which occurred in his sixty-fourth year. Six children were born to them, George, Maggie, August, deceased, Hannah, deceased, Sophia and John. The mother is a resident of Chicago, making her home with a daughter.

George Holland was but three years of age when his parents moved to this city, and it was here he received his education in the public schools. He began work at the age of fifteen as clerk in the hardware store of Hodge Brothers. Later he accepted a clerkship with Curtis & Rude, with whom he remained twenty-five years. In 1894 Mr. Rude withdrew from the firm and his place was taken by Mr. Holland, who purchased the interest of Mr. Curtis in 1897, and now conducts the store under the name of Holland & Company, with Mr. Rude as a silent partner. He handles a general line of hardware and has worked up a fine trade, his courteous treatment of his customers making him a popular salesman, and his long experience giving him the advantage of knowing the wants of his patrons and the best line of goods to place in stock.

He was married in 1876 to Miss Ella Cooper, of Mendota, who has presented him with four children, two of whom are deceased. He is a Republican and was elected to the office of city clerk in 1885, and has held the office continuously since, discharging the duties in an able and efficient manner. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, and is highly respected as well for his kindly bearing as for his honest and upright dealings, while his business record calls for the commendation of the business men.

JOHN T. MILLING, M. D.

No one in Peru, LaSalle county, has lived here as long, uninterruptedly, as has the honored old citizen whose name stands at the beginning of this sketch. Half a century ago he established himself in practice in this town, and though he is now four-score years of age many of his old friends and patients are urgent in their desire to retain his medical attendance whenever illness seizes upon them. He is still as ambitious and enterprising as are many men of half his years, and the invaluable experience he has acquired in a life-time of professional work would be to any young practitioner a treasure-house of wealth untold could the venerable physician's wisdom be transferred. The only surviving charter members of the LaSalle County Medical Society are Drs. Milling and Hatheway. The former has always kept up his active relations with the society, and moreover has belonged to the medical organization of the state. His acquaintanceship is very extensive, and in scores of families his name has been a household word for the greater part of the existence of Peru, which town he has seen developed from a hamlet to a large and prosperous place.

Nine children were born to John and Susan (Siddel) Milling, and only

three of the number survive, namely: Dr. Milling, of this sketch; Jane, who resides at the old homestead in Ireland, and is now ninety-five years of age; and Elizabeth, also a resident of the parental home, and now in her eighty-sixth year. Their father, who was a farmer of county Louth, Ireland, died in 1823, when about seventy years of age, and their mother's death occurred the previous year. They were both Episcopalians in religious faith. The paternal grandfather of our subject, John Milling, was a physician also, and lived and died in the Emerald Isle. He had eleven children. Mrs. Susan Milling was one of three children, and her father, likewise, spent his whole life in Ireland.

Dr. J. T. Milling was born in county Louth, Ireland, April 16, 1819. In his school-days he studied Latin and Greek, and chose his course with special reference to taking up medical work later. In accordance with the custom of that time he graduated in the several departments of the Royal College of Surgeons, receiving separate diplomas from each branch. He was graduated in the surgical department in July, 1842, and in the general medical department in 1843. Entering the college in 1839, he was not deemed thoroughly competent to practice until he had spent four years in earnest study and hard work—rather of a contrast, so he found, to the loose methods in vogue on this continent, at the same time, when any man who had spent a few weeks or months in assisting an established physician might set up an office and practice of his own, if he chose to do so. It was in 1843 that Dr. Milling sailed to the United States, and, locating in Princeton, Bureau county, Illinois, he continued to practice there until 1849, when he became a permanent resident of Peru. For years his life was not an easy or desirable one, in many respects, for it meant to ride through all kinds of weather, far and near, across swamps and over roads of the worst possible description, to suffer hardships to which the modern practitioner is an utter stranger. He never neglected the call of the suffering, and rarely considered his own comfort or convenience. He endeared himself to hundreds, and his name has been spoken with love and reverence throughout this locality for years and years.

The sharer of the Doctor's joys and sorrows for almost a half century, his devoted wife, formerly Elizabeth Leech, is still living and is the center of his home and affection. They were married on the 10th of July, 1850, and became the parents of two beautiful daughters, both of whom were summoned to the better land when at the threshold of mature life. Mary Virginia died at twenty-three and Frances Elizabeth at eighteen. The parents of Mrs. Milling were John and Mary (Parr) Leech, natives of Dublin, Ireland, who came to America about 1795, when they were children, and with their respective parents settled in the vicinity of Steubenville, Ohio. The

latter were pioneers of Jefferson county, Ohio, and at death they were placed to rest in a country cemetery there. In early days John Leech belonged to the state militia of Ohio. About 1833 he came to Illinois and settled on the present site of Peoria, when the only structure there consisted of a fort. At the close of two years or so he went to Putnam county, where he died in 1839. His widow survived him, and died in 1880, at the advanced age of ninety-three years.

From the time that he received the right of franchise in this, the land of his adoption, the Doctor has adhered to the Democratic party. For some four years he served as county coroner, and for two-score years he has been examiner for the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York. The home in which he and his loved wife have spent almost all of their happy married life was built in 1852, and thus is one of the oldest houses in the town or county. In the summer of 1895 occurred one of the pleasantest events in the quiet but laborious career of this worthy couple. They made a tour of Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales, visiting the old home of the Doctor in the Emerald Isle, and having a most enjoyable time generally. In religious creed he holds to the one in which he was reared, the Episcopalian, while Mrs. Milling's preference is for the Presbyterian church.

THEODORE G. HERBERT.

Theodore G. Herbert, of the firm of Herbert Brothers, proprietors of a meat market in Mendota, was born in Lee county, this state, near the town of Compton, July 31, 1864. The Herberts are of German origin. Mr. Herbert's parents, Andrew and Appolonia (Zach) Herbert, were both born in Germany, Hesse-Darmstadt being their native place. In their family were eleven children, seven sons and four daughters, of whom five are now living, three sons and two daughters, namely: Theodore G., the direct subject of this sketch; Andrew J., his partner; Benjamin, of Mendota; Caroline, wife of Charley Beckett, of Mendota; and Emma Elizabeth, wife of Henry Fike, residing two miles north of Mendota. Their father, a shoemaker by trade, emigrated to this country about the year 1862 and first located at LaSalle. A short time afterward he moved to a place near Perkins' Grove, Lee county, all this time working at his trade. Next we find him engaged in farming, which he continued up to 1895. He first rented eighty acres and later a larger tract, and for several years he carried on farming operations successfully. In 1894 he bought a home in Mendota, and has lived here ever since, retired. He and his wife were originally German Catholics, but for some years past have been identified

with the German Evangelical church. Politically he is a Republican, and at one time he served as the road commissioner of Lee county.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was Andrew Herbert. He, too, was a native of Germany, and by trade he was a mason. He lived to the ripe age of eighty-five years. Of his children, three sons and four daughters, only two are now living,—Andrew and Margaret Becker. Grandmother Herbert was seventy-six when she died. The great-grandfather of our subject also was named Andrew Herbert. He was a farmer. Both he and his wife reached advanced age, he being ninety-six at the time of death and she seventy-four.

The maternal grandfather of Mr. Herbert lived and died in Germany; served his time as a soldier in the army, and afterward worked at his trade, that of carpenter. Both he and his wife attained old age. Their only child was Mr. Herbert's mother.

Theodore G. Herbert was reared to farm life in Lee county, Illinois, receiving his early education in the district school near his home and later attending a seminary in Aurora, Illinois. When he started out in life on his own account it was as a farm hand, working by the month, and after one year of this kind of service he rented eighty acres of land, which he cultivated two years. At the end of this time, in 1890, he moved to Mendota and engaged in running a meat market in company with M. O. Larson, with whom he was associated two years, then buying out his partner and the next three years running the business alone. The following three years he had for a partner J. B. Kuney; and since then he and his brothers, Andrew and Benjamin, have been associated together under the firm name of Herbert Brothers. They have a nice shop and are doing a large business, meeting with the success which their enterprising efforts warrant.

Mr. Herbert resides in a pleasant home on Twelfth street in Mendota. He was married on the 4th of February, 1890, to Miss Emma E. Rupert, daughter of Andrew and Mary (Metzger) Rupert. They have four children, viz.: Hildah L., Rupert A., Theadore A. and John Robbins. All the family belong to the Evangelical church, and both he and his wife are identified with the Mystic Workers of the World, and he also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. Politically he is a Republican.

THOMAS M. PAGE.

The respected citizen of LaSalle, Illinois, whose name introduces this sketch was born in Frankfort, Franklin county, Kentucky, May 21, 1842, a son of Thomas S. and Jane B. (Julian) Page. He was born in New York city, April 19, 1800, only a few hours after the landing of his parents at

that port from England, their native country. They made a settlement in Richmond, Virginia, where Thomas S. was reared. He moved to Kentucky and became a prominent man in that state. For a period of eighteen or twenty years he filled the office of auditor of state, of which office he was the incumbent at the time the civil war broke out, and during the war he was in the adjutant general's office, as bookkeeper. Politically he was a Know-nothing and a Whig, and later a Republican. He died in Frankfort, Kentucky, in 1879. He was twice married, his second wife, Jane B., nee Julian, being the mother of Thomas M., the subject of this sketch.

Thomas M. Page was reared in his native city, Frankfort, receiving a common-school education in the schools of that place. When the civil war came on he was a young man just emerging from his 'teens, and in the second year of the war, in September, 1862, he enlisted in Company C, Ninth Kentucky Cavalry, as a private, and when mustered into service was made second lieutenant by the adjutant general. As a member and officer of this command he served one year. He was in the advance at the battle of Perryville, and throughout his service he acted the part of the brave, true soldier. At the expiration of his term of enlistment, in 1863, he was honorably discharged and came to LaSalle, Illinois. For five or six years he was in the employ of the Kentucky Coal Company, at LaSalle, following which service he was engaged in farming two years, returning then to the coal company. In 1871 he engaged as an employe of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, and for eleven years was ticket agent and car accountant. After this he again turned his attention to farming, this time in Dakota, where he spent three years. Returning to LaSalle, he accepted a position as check clerk at the Illinois Central Railroad depot, which position he gave up in October, 1897.

Mr. Page was married in LaSalle, in 1868, to Miss Mary Kate, daughter of the late Dr. James C. Brown, of LaSalle. Seven children have been born to them, namely: Julian Day, Henry Brown (deceased), Anna Louise (deceased), Mary Elizabeth (deceased), Addison Thomas, Catherine and Annie Pauline.

Politically Mr. Page is a Republican. In religious relations his family are identified with the Congregational church.

SIMPSON CLARK.

The aged resident of any community who has assisted in the development of the material blessings amid which he lives, and who has exerted an influence for good before the people about him, is always held in special esteem. Such a man is the venerable Simpson Clark, of Mendota, Illinois.

now ninety-three years old, but active, alert, full of good cheer and rich in interesting reminiscences.

Simpson Clark was born March 12, 1806, in Thornton, Grafton county, New Hampshire, a son of John and Elizabeth (Enos) Clark, early residents of Londonderry, Rockingham county, that state. John Clark was a Revolutionary soldier and he and his father served in the same company. He left the plow to go to war, and after American independence was assured he again became a farmer. He died at Thornton, New Hampshire, about 1809. His wife died about 1856, aged eighty-nine years. They had eleven children, all of whom lived to manhood and womanhood. The tenth in order of birth was Simpson Clark, who was named Simpson in honor of his maternal grandmother's maiden name, and who is the only member of the family now living. At the time of his father's death he was about three years old. His mother kept him four years longer, until he was seven, and then he was given a home in the family of James Smith, of Squam Ridge, Grafton county, New Hampshire, in which he remained, getting a limited amount of schooling and living the life of a farmer's boy of all work until he was eighteen. He then went, a stranger, to seek his fortune in Boston, and for a time his experiences were discouraging; but at length he met a friend named Wheaton, who procured work for him of a farmer living just outside the city. After a few months he returned to New Hampshire and worked at quarrying and laying stone. Later he was employed at the United States navy-yard at Charlestown, Massachusetts, and helped to lay the foundations of the runways from which the Vermont was launched. From this work he went to Quincy, Massachusetts, and was there employed in the stone yards for a time. For a number of years he lived in Boston and was a member of the city police force. Railway construction, on the line of the Connecticut River Railroad, next claimed his services, and he was stationed at New London.

In 1829 Mr. Clark married Miss Matilda Vickery, daughter of Abraham and Rachel (McLinch) Vickery, of New Hampshire, and she bore him two children, named Chastina E. and Matilda L. Chastina E. Clark married Ivory Chick, a native of Maine. They had a son, named Ivory S. Chick. Ivory Chick died while on a visit to Maine in 1854. Matilda L. Clark married Nicholas Johnston and is now living, a widow, at Boulder, Colorado. She has six children, named Charles, Frank, Mary, Lizzie, George and Roy.

In 1852 Mr. Clark, his wife and their daughter Matilda came west to LaSalle, Illinois, where Ivory Chick, husband of his daughter Chastina, had a contract for construction work on the Illinois Central Railroad, and had preceded them with his family. Mr. Clark was employed at railroad

building for some time on a salary, and later did contract work on the Bureau Valley Railroad, toward Peoria. Returning to LaSalle he removed to Mendota in the fall of 1854, built a residence and remained there nine years. He then purchased a twenty-acre farm at Troy Grove and later added other land to it and farmed there successfully thirty years and then retired from active life and located at Mendota. Mrs. Clark died August 15, 1892, aged eighty-one years and ten days. Mrs. Chick, his widowed daughter, had been a member of his family for many years and she then took the position which she has since held as the head of his household. Mr. and Mrs. Clark were reared under religious influences, and though they never joined any denomination, were always in sympathy with the church. Since the death of his wife, however, Mr. Clark and also Mrs. Chick have united with the Baptist church, to which his younger daughter also belongs.

Mr. Clark has always been a leader of many of the men with whom he has been associated. In New Hampshire he was captain of a militia company four years. He was constable and deputy sheriff in LaSalle county before he moved to Troy Grove. Until 1896 he was a Democrat who never failed to vote for the nominees of his party; but at that time, influenced by his view of the financial question, then paramount, he cast his vote for "McKinley and sound money." An earnest, kind-hearted old gentleman, modest in his manners and social intercourse, he takes an interest in current events and converses well on all the important topics of the day. His nobility of character is always evident and he is in every way worthy of the affectionate regard in which he is held by numerous friends, some of them of many years' standing. He preserves in a wonderful degree the robust health and physical strength which characterized him in the prime of his manhood, and in good weather took especial delight, until a recent date, in daily walks down town.

JOHN J. LEHR.

The subject of this sketch is a well known stock farmer of Farm Ridge township, LaSalle county, Illinois. He deals in fine stock, making a specialty of Jersey cattle, Poland-China hogs, and Oxford Down sheep, and takes a pride in the fact that his stock in point of quality is not excelled in the county. In 1893 he started his herd of Jerseys by buying the very best stock he could get, purchasing from the herds of Isaac Hodgson and Eli Bradford, prominent stockmen, and he now has twenty head of as fine Jersey cattle as can be found in LaSalle county. His farm, com-

prising one hundred and sixty acres, is located three miles west of Grand Ridge, and is one of the most desirable in the neighborhood, well improved with good buildings, fences, etc., and conveniently arranged for successfully carrying on both the stock business and general farming.

Mr. Lehr is a native of Illinois and was born forty-five years ago. He is of German parentage, both his father and mother having been born in Germany. His father, Valentine Lehr, came to this country in early life, first locating at Ottawa, Illinois. He worked for some time on the old Illinois canal. By trade he was a carpenter, a first-class workman, and built many of the best houses in Farm Ridge, South Ottawa and Deer Park. He was married in Ottawa, and to him and his wife were born eight children, five of whom are living, namely: Matilda Hagie, of Grand Rapids township, LaSalle county, Illinois; John J., the subject of this sketch; William, who lives in Saunders county, Nebraska; Mary Hawk, of Ottawa, Illinois; and Minnie Freeze, also of Ottawa. Godfrey died at the age of thirty-eight years, leaving a widow and five children. The mother of this family died at the age of thirty-six years, and the father lived to be sixty-eight. Both were members of the Lutheran church, and in politics the father was a Republican.

John J. Lehr was reared on a farm and received a common-school education. At the age of twenty-six years he was united in marriage to Elizabeth Berge, of Allen township, LaSalle county, daughter of George and Christena Berge. Mr. and Mrs. Lehr have had four children,—Christena and Louis J., aged respectively eighteen and thirteen years; and two who are deceased.

Politically, like his father before him, Mr. Lehr is a Republican. He has served officially as township assessor, as commissioner for six years, and as a member of the school board, in the latter capacity eleven years, always performing his duty with promptness and fidelity. His life, in both public and private capacities has been such that he has gained the confidence and esteem of all with whom he has in any way been associated.

CHARLES JACOB MITCHELL.

The subject of this sketch is a member of the firm of Mitchell Brothers, large farmers of the township of Dimmick, LaSalle county, Illinois, and is a son of the late William Mitchell, for a number of years one of the prominent farmers of this state.

William Mitchell was a native of Scotland, born in the year 1814, and when small came to America and took up his abode in Illinois, being among the pioneers of Dimmick township, LaSalle county. His early life was spent

as a shepherd boy, his simple earnings supplying him with the necessities of life. Finally by careful economy he acquired a tract of land, which he improved and which in time became a valuable farm. William Mitchell married Mary Wenner, daughter of Jacob Wenner, a German who settled in Dimmick township at an early day. Mrs. Mitchell is still living, at the age of sixty-nine years,—the age at which Mr. Mitchell died in 1883. The members composing their family are as follows: Elizabeth, wife of William Reed, of LaSalle, Illinois; William, a resident of Lawrence county, South Dakota, married Miss Edith Miner; Kate; James, a resident of Utica, Illinois, married Miss Bertha Bill; Minnie, wife of George A. Harts-horn, a prominent farmer of Waltham township, LaSalle county; Lena B., wife of the Hon. John Wylie, of Waltham; Charles J., whose name introduces this article; Henry J., engaged in the creamery business at Utica, Illinois; Walter B., of Utica, Illinois, and a member of the firm referred to in the first paragraph; and Frank R., also a member of that firm.

The Mitchells have political records as Republicans. Their father was the incumbent of many of the township offices, and his sons, like him, are public-spirited and enterprising men, who stand high in the estimation of the people of their respective localities.

Charles J. Mitchell was born on his father's farm above referred to, October 18, 1868, and here he has always lived. He was educated in the academy at LaSalle and the Normal School at Valparaiso, Indiana, completing his studies in the last named institution at the age of twenty-two. He then entered the employ of The Home Produce Meat Market in LaSalle, with which he was identified for a time, and since then he has been engaged in farming. In 1898 he and two of his brothers entered into a partnership under the firm name of Mitchell Brothers, for the operation of the Mitchell farm, one of the largest in the township and which is being successfully run as a stock farm, slaughtering and shipping being important features.

Charles J. Mitchell is a Knight of Pythias and a member of the Mystic Workers. His lodge of Knights is "Old 53" of LaSalle, one of the important lodges of the state and which has furnished some of the best Pythians in Illinois.

JOHN A. KINGS.

Few citizens of LaSalle are better known or more generally esteemed than John A. Kings, who has made his home here for nearly three decades and has served in official positions for a number of years, acquitting himself with ability and distinction.

He is a native of Richmond county, Staten Island, New York, his birth having occurred March 3, 1849. His parents, Garrett J. and Johanna (Schoemaker) Kings, were natives of Holland and came to the United States late in the '40s. They were married in this country, and in 1850 removed from Staten Island to Passaic, New Jersey, and later came to Illinois, settling in Belvidere, Boone county, upon a farm. There the father died in 1870, at the age of seventy-one years. The wife and mother is still living, and though now in her eighty-fourth year is remarkably strong and well preserved. Their children were: John A.; Garrett H., of Sanborn, Iowa; Andrew J., of Mitchell, Dakota; and Theodore F., of Phoenix, Arizona.

In his youth John A. Kings received a good public-school education. He continued to live on the old homestead and to assist his father until he was fifteen years of age. He then entered upon the business of rail-roading, and was thus employed until 1881. For several years after he came to LaSalle he was employed as section foreman, car inspector and yard-master for the Illinois Central Railroad Company. In 1881 he accepted a position as carpenter with the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, with which concern he remained until 1888. In May of that year he became a member of the LaSalle police force, and is still one of the guardians of the city's peace. He bears an excellent record, is faithful, prompt and efficient, and merits the good will which the citizens feel toward him. From 1884 to 1886 he was a member of the city council, and in 1889 was elected to the office of justice of the peace. In 1893, and again in 1897, he was re-elected, and is still serving in this important position.

In 1874 Mr. Kings married Miss Mary D. Flynn, a native of Canada and of Irish lineage. Two sons and two daughters have blessed the union of this estimable couple, namely: Mary J., Ellen Agnes, Francis J. and John. The family are Roman Catholic in their religious faith. They have a pleasant home and are highly esteemed by all who know them.

FRANK M. CRANE.

The Crane family, of which the subject of this sketch is a representative, traces its origin to New England. There Albert Crane, the grandfather of Frank M., was born and thence he went to the Catskill regions of New York, where he followed the trade of blacksmith. Albert Crane, his son and the father of Frank M., came from New York state to Illinpis in 1851 and settled on section 14, Dimmick township, LaSalle county, where he became a prosperous farmer and where he spent the rest of his life and died, his death occurring in 1894. His wife, Mary Aiken, whom he

married in his native state, died in 1876. Their children were the following named: Miss Sarah Crane; Robert Crane, of Burlington, Kansas; Albert, Jr., who died in 1886; James Crane; Mary E., deceased wife of Thomas Gardiner; and Frank M., the subject of this sketch.

Frank M. Crane was born on his father's farm, March 4, 1853, and was here reared and received his education in the common schools. At the age of twenty he engaged in farming on his own account. Stock-raising became one of the chief features of his business, and it is still a source of no small revenue to him. He owns a farm of five hundred acres, desirably located and substantially improved.

Mr. Crane was married December 15, 1886, to Miss Margaret J. Jackson, daughter of John Jackson, of Troy Grove, Illinois; and the children in their family are Charles H., Howard A., Nelson J., Edith M., Elsie and Aletha.

The Crane family for the most part have been identified with the Democratic party and active in its support. In 1896, however, Frank M. supported the McKinley ticket in the belief that sure relief from long financial depression lay in the triumph of the head of that ticket, and two years of its administration of public affairs have not served to convince him that he was mistaken in his judgment. For the last two years Mr. Crane has been a school director.

NICHOLAS CHARLES CUMMINGS.

The well known gentleman whose name forms the heading of this sketch has been a resident of Mendota, Illinois, for a period of thirty-six years, and for more than twenty years was in business here as a dealer in groceries and boots and shoes.

Nicholas Charles Cummings was born in Rensselaer county, New York, August 10, 1851, a son of John and Almira (Craver) Cummings, natives of the same state. He is the younger of two children: his brother Eli died in Mendota in 1898. Their father was a farmer, who came to Illinois with his family in 1852 and located in Lee county ten miles north-east of Mendota, where he bought land and for eleven years carried on agricultural pursuits. In 1863 he came to Mendota, where he lived, retired, till his death, in 1899. His wife died in 1886.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Eli Cummings, was of English and Irish descent, was a farmer and lived and died in New York state, at the age of eighty years. In his family were eight sons and two daughters. Mr. Cummings' maternal grandfather, Nicholas Craver, was a native of

Pennsylvania and by trade a blacksmith. In the early '50s he came out to Illinois and bought a farm adjoining the one owned by the father of our subject, and lived there until about 1872, when he moved to Mendota; and here he died, at the age of eighty-five years.

Nicholas C. Cummings was an infant when brought to Illinois by his parents, and the first twelve years of his life were spent on his father's farm, since then living in Mendota. He was educated in the public schools and the college at Mendota, and when he started out to make his own way in the world it was as a clerk in a grocery. In 1878 he engaged in the grocery business for himself, in Mendota, and later added also a stock of boots and shoes in connection with his groceries, doing a prosperous business in both lines until August 19, 1899, when he closed out the business.

Mr. Cummings owns and occupies a pleasant home on the corner of Fourth avenue and Eighth street, which he built a number of years ago. He was married November 25, 1872, to Miss Mary Alice Gheer, a daughter of Levi and Nancy Gheer. Two sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Cummings, namely: Arthur E. and Claude G. The former married Laura Roth, in 1895, and was superintendent for the Mendota Gas Company when he met with his death, by accident, being shot, the accident occurring as he was taking a gun from his buggy. This sad affair happened October 13, 1899. His age at the time of death was twenty-six years and a few days. Claude G., the second son, is twenty-four years of age and is an employe of the Mendota Electric Light Company.

Mr. Cummings is a Republican and has always taken a commendable interest in public affairs, especially those of a local nature. For nine years he has been a director in the city schools of Mendota. He is a member of Lodge No. 293, I. O. O. F., and Camp No. 65, Modern Woodmen of America.

BERTRAM SCHWEICKERT.

This popular young business man of Peru is one of the younger sons of our well known citizen, Vincent Schweickert, who is represented elsewhere in this work. Born in this town on the 22d of June, 1872, our subject has always been closely identified with the place, as child, youth and man, and the deepest interest is felt by him in all local affairs touching the good of the community.

When he had arrived at a suitable age he entered the parochial schools, and acquired a liberal education. He was about sixteen years old when he obtained employment in a bakery, where he remained for about a year, but, not caring for the trade, he decided to adopt that of his father and

elder brothers, and, to that end, commenced learning the business of laying brick and stone masonry. He has followed this calling ever since, and in 1898 went into partnership with his brothers, Henry, Jacob, Francis X., and his brother-in-law, Frank Ellerbrock. This enterprising firm, which is now commanding a large share of the local contracts for brick and stone work for buildings and bridges, is known as Schweickert Brothers & Company.

Bertram Schweickert resides in an attractive home on Ninth street, between Pike and Calhoun. The lady who presides here as wife, mother and hostess, was formerly Miss Mary Elizabeth Brinkmann, a daughter of Frank and Mary (Schumacher) Brinkmann. The ceremony which united the destinies of our subject and wife was performed in Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, on the 22d of April, 1896. Two sons bless their happy home, named respectively Ewald Vincent Frank and Lawrence Henry Thomas.

Mr. and Mrs. Bertram Schweickert are members of the Catholic church. He belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters; to St. Joseph's Benevolent Society; and to the Bricklayers and Masons' International Union, No. 11, of Illinois. In his political faith he is an uncompromising Democrat.

ANDREW B. BREESE.

Andrew Bray Breese, deceased, was one of the prominent men of Earlville, LaSalle county, where he had been engaged in the mercantile business for many years. He was a native of Newark, New Jersey, having been born April 29, 1824, and was a son of Bailey and Phoebe Breese, both of prominent New Jersey families. Mr. Breese was one of eleven children, five sons and six daughters. At the age of eighteen he came west with his parents, who settled in Paw Paw, this state, and about two years later moved to Grand Detour, where he entered upon his career as a dry goods merchant. Two years later he moved his store to Paw Paw, Illinois, and continued in the business there for fifteen years, when he came to Earlville and remained until his death. He was a veteran dry goods man, having been engaged in this business for forty-nine years, and his prosperity was assured from the start. He was a man of keen perception, a close observer, and displayed an acuteness in business that augured well for his success.

He was married in 1844 to Miss Mary E. Carber, a native of Bradford county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Jacob and Sabrina (Sweet) Carber. Jacob Carber and wife were natives of the state of New York, the former tracing his ancestry to Germany and the latter to England. He



A. B. Bruce

enlisted in the war of 1812 at the age of seventeen years. He was well educated and taught school in the east during his early life, coming west about 1835 and settling in Scott county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming in the Mississippi bottom. Here he died, leaving two children,—Mrs. Breese and Andrew J. Carber, a farmer of Scott county, Iowa. Mrs. Breese was a school teacher in her early life, and it was while thus engaged in the vicinity of Paw Paw that Mr. Breese made her acquaintance. Mr. Breese died December 18, 1891, after an illness of only three days' duration. His sudden death was a severe blow to the whole community, to whom the news came as a shock, and business and social circles alike felt the blow. He had a happy disposition and always looked on the bright side of life, while jovial good nature always made him a favorite in any social gathering. He was a Democrat in politics, but did not seek emoluments of office. In religion he had the comforting faith of the Universalist, and went to meet his Maker with the trust of a confiding child in a loving, all-wise and merciful Father.

Mrs. Breese, his widow, resides in Earlville, and holds an interest in the business so successfully inaugurated by her husband. The firm is Breese & McKinney, the latter having bought an interest in the store soon after the death of Mr. Breese.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Breese was without issue, but an adopted daughter, Ruth May, now the wife of John Buchanan, of Chicago, was the recipient of their loving care and bounty, finding at their hearthstone a parent's care and affection.

ALEXANDER C. FINKLER.

Alexander C. Finkler, who is recognized as quite an important factor in the local politics of LaSalle county, is now serving as city clerk of LaSalle. He is one of the native sons of this place, his birth having occurred here February 16, 1869. Thus he is in the prime of early manhood and ambition, and judging from what he has already accomplished in his brief career he has a most promising future.

Alexander Finkler, the father of the subject of this article, was born in Westphalia, Germany, and came to the United States with his parents when a young lad. His two brothers, Frank J. of Dixon, Illinois, and John A., who died at Streator, this county, and his only sister, Mary, who became the wife of Isaac Robinson, of Peru, LaSalle county, were all born in America. The parents located at Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where they continued to reside until death. When he had arrived at man's estate, Alexander Finkler, Sr., came to this county, and after living at Peru for

some time went to St. Louis, Missouri, where he was employed in the United States arsenal. In that city he formed the acquaintance of Miss Johanna McKnight, who was a native of Ireland. They were married in LaSalle, began their domestic life here, and their happy home was blessed with eight children, namely: A. C.; Frank (who is deceased); Mary; Eliza; Margaret; Agnes; Josephine; and Emily. The father died in 1883, at the age of fifty-six years, at his home in Ottawa, where he had been living for five years previously. His widow returned to LaSalle, where the greater part of her married life had been spent and where she is still a resident.

With the exception of five years spent in Ottawa with the rest of the family, Alexander C. Finkler has always dwelt in LaSalle, and received his education in its public schools. He was a youth of fourteen when his father died, and he at once took up the more serious realities of life. His father had been for years engaged in the manufacture of soda-water, and with energy and wisdom far beyond what could be expected of such a child, young Alexander took up the reins of the business and successfully carried on the undertaking for eleven years, finally selling out in 1894. In the meantime he pursued a course of study in the Dixon (Illinois) Business College, in order more fully to equip himself for his commercial career.

For several years Mr. Finkler has been active in the Democratic party, and in 1893 he was honored by election to the office of city clerk of LaSalle. Two years later he was re-elected, and again in 1897 and 1899, now serving his fourth term in this capacity. In 1898 he was his party's candidate for the more responsible position of county clerk, and, with the rest of the nominees on that ticket, was defeated at election.

In 1895 Mr. Finkler married Miss Nellie Lehan of LaSalle, and one child blesses their happy home, namely, Alexander. In his social relations Mr. Finkler belongs to the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Independent Order of Foresters, and the Turn Verein. Religiously he and his wife are identified with the Catholic church.

WILLIAM B. CHAPMAN.

William Barber Chapman, a retired business man and one of the most substantial and respected citizens of LaSalle, Illinois, was born in Petersburg, New York, February 25, 1828. He was one of seven children born to Moses and Lucinda (Collins) Chapman, namely: Moses, of Hutchinson, Kansas; Henry, a resident of Pasadena, California; Wealthy, the widow of Isaac DeVoe, of Seattle, Washington; William B., our subject; Lucinda

Chapman, of Forest, Illinois; Mary, widow of J. P. Knight, also of Forest; and Nettie, the wife of Henry Sloan, of Sidney, Washington. Both parents were natives of Springfield, Massachusetts, where they were married. The father learned the trade of blacksmith and carriage making, which he followed. They lived for a time in Orleans, New York, and from that state came to Illinois by horses and wagon, reaching Putnam county, this state, on November 2, 1843. He purchased a farm near Hennepin, which was cultivated by his sons, and upon which he lived until his forty-ninth year, at which time his death occurred. His wife reached the advanced age of seventy-one years. They were of the Baptist faith. He was a prominent man and held the office of justice of the peace in Orleans and was also county commissioner for many years. His father, Moses Chapman, of English origin, was also a blacksmith and reached an extreme old age, living all his life in Massachusetts. He had a small number of children. Henry Collins, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was a military man and connected with the armory at Springfield, Massachusetts. He had a few children and died in his native state when past his ninetieth year.

William B. Chapman was reared on a farm, attending the common schools in the east, and then entered the academy at Granville, Illinois. He remained at home until 1853 and then came to LaSalle and entered the livery business, which he conducted for sixteen years. He then went to Forest, Livingston county, purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, placed it in good cultivation, and remained on it for seventeen years, when he returned to this city and took charge of the land office for the Union Pacific Railroad for eight or ten years. Since that time he has lived a life of retirement from business. He is a stalwart Republican and served under Eli Watterman four years as deputy sheriff of LaSalle county. He was married on December 2, 1857, to Miss Martha Foster, by whom he had four children, all of whom died in childhood. Mr. and Mrs. Chapman are liberal contributors toward the support of the Congregational church, of which organization Mrs. Chapman is a member. Mrs. Chapman is a lady of culture and refinement, having received the advantages of a superior education. She took a preparatory course at Granville Academy and then entered the Albion College, at Albion, Michigan, at which she graduated in the class of 1855. She was the youngest but one in a class of eleven. Her studies having included a business course, she took charge of her father's banking business and acted as his bookkeeper for several years after returning from school.

As the parents of Mrs. Chapman were important factors in the early history of LaSalle county, a brief sketch of their career will here be ad-

missible. Benjamin G. Foster was born in Barnard, Windsor county, Vermont, where he grew to adult years and married Charlotte M. Brown, a native of the village of Swanton, that state. He was a carpenter and contractor, and in 1836 came to Peru, LaSalle county, leaving his family in the east in the care of his wife, until a more convenient mode of transportation could be provided for them, and it was not until the fall of 1847 that he saw his way to establishing them in this county. With true sturdiness of purpose, he at once began work at his trade and soon found steady employment. He erected nearly all the large, heavy buildings put up at that time, such as warehouses, elevators, stores, etc. He constructed the first coal shaft tower in LaSalle, afterward destroyed by fire, and built the first wagon bridge across the Illinois river at LaSalle. He employed a large force of men and made considerable money. He owned four properties on Fifth, one on Wright and one on Union street. The residence now occupied by our subject was owned by Mr. Foster. He was identified with the Whigs, and latterly with the Republicans, but was too much occupied with his trade to allow his name to be used as a candidate for office. The only exception to this rule was when he was elected school director. He was a great friend to education and was a member of the first school board in LaSalle. He was a member of the Congregational church. Mrs. Foster, although a Baptist in faith, was not identified with any church. She was of English descent and died in her fifty-seventh year, December 4, 1876. Mr. Foster survived her until September 1, 1882, when he had reached his seventy-first year of life, joining her in the "city beautiful." An uncle of his, Colonel Joseph Foster, was a well known soldier in the war of the Revolution.

GEORGE M. PINNELL, M. D.

Dr. George M. Pinnell, of LaSalle, is a physician of extensive experience and general information, and in his chosen specialty has met with unqualified success. He has traveled in all parts of this country and in Australia, has met many distinguished people, particularly those of his own profession, and is a most interesting speaker and converser.

Born in Buchanan, Upshur county, West Virginia, February 16, 1840, the Doctor is a son of Dr. David S. and Catherine E. (Wolffenborger) Pinnell, both of whom were natives of the Old Dominion, representing respected Virginia families. Dr. David S. Pinnell, who was a well-to-do planter and slaveholder, was actively engaged in the practice of his profession for the exceptionally long period of fifty-four years. Four of his sons were prominent in the same calling, namely: Dr. P. F. Pinnell, of

West Virginia; Dr. N. W. Pinnell, of Ohio; Dr. D. S. Pinnell, Jr., of Wheeling, West Virginia, and the subject of this narrative.

Thus it is evident that Dr. G. M. Pinnell comes of a family devoted to the healing of the "ills to which flesh is heir," all, moreover, men of versatile talent and fine education. Reared in his native town, our subject attended the schools of Morgantown, West Virginia, and after completing his literary and scientific studies began reading medicine under his father's instruction. At the end of four years of study and practice as his senior's assistant, he matriculated in the Western Reserve Medical College, at Cleveland, Ohio, where he was graduated in 1867. Two years later he accompanied his father to Melbourne, Australia, the latter having been appointed consul of the United States government at that city. There the young man spent four years more in preparation for his future work, and was graduated in the University of Melbourne in 1873.

Returning to this country soon afterward Dr. Pinnell was married, in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, to Miss Cora Spindler. He located in the town of Flemington, West Virginia, where he established himself in practice, remaining there for about four or five years. While pursuing his scientific investigations in Australia, in connection with medical work, he discovered a remedy for rheumatism, with which malady thousands of people in every land are afflicted. This remedy he has prepared and placed on the market under the name of "Dr. Pinnell's Vegetable Germicide Compound for Rheumatism," and for more than a score of years he has traveled, giving lectures on the subject of rheumatism, and treating patients who are afflicted with this painful and disabling disease. He has met with great success and thousands are deeply indebted to him and earnest in their praise of his methods. In December, 1897, he came to LaSalle, where he has since resided, and during the succeeding fourteen months he treated eight thousand three hundred and seventeen patients. There is no question in regard to the efficacy of the celebrated remedy which he uses, and his entire system and theories were far in advance of the times twenty years ago, as he then advocated the germ or bacilli theory, which has since claimed the serious attention and acceptance of the scientific world.

JOHN GIROLT.

The subject of this sketch, John Girolt, a prosperous farmer of Northville township, LaSalle county, Illinois, is an American by adoption and is thoroughly identified with the interests of this country, having fought for the old flag and the preservation of the Union in the dark days of civil war.

John Girolt was born in Alsace-Lorraine, Germany (then France), January 21, 1839, a son of John and Magdaline (Dolder) Girolt. In the Girolt family were five children, three sons and two daughters, all of whom are living, and in this country, except one son, deceased. The father died in Alsace-Lorraine, and after his death, in 1853, the widowed mother and her children came to America and settled in Northville township, LaSalle county. She died here in 1892.

At the time of their emigration to this country John was a boy in his fourteenth year. He was reared to farm life, receiving only a common-school education. The war of the Rebellion coming on, he was not long in deciding to enter the service of his adopted country. He enlisted in November, 1861, as a private in Company E, Fifty-eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, the fortunes of which he shared nine months. He was then transferred to the First Missouri Light Artillery, Company H, and continued in the service until the close of the war, when, in June, 1865, he was honorably discharged, coming out of the army with the rank of corporal. He was made corporal during the Atlanta campaign. Among the important engagements in which he participated were the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh and Corinth. He was in the Atlanta campaign and with Sherman on his famous march to the sea, and the last action in which he took part was the battle of Bentonville, South Carolina, going thence to Washington, D. C., to the grand review of the victorious armies. Mr. Girolt is a member of Clayton Beardsley Post, No. 674, G. A. R., and politically harmonizes with the Republican party.

At the close of the war he returned home and has ever since been engaged in farming in LaSalle county. He owns a fine farm of two hundred and thirty-five acres on the north bank of Fox river, in Northville township, and is successfully carrying on his farming operations.

Mr. Girolt was married in 1867 to Miss Louisa Bernard, and they are the parents of five children.

LOUIS WALDORF.

Among the wealthier residents of Mendota who have done a great deal for the city and whose money is extensively invested in home enterprises, is the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this sketch. He is a native of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, and was born November 30, 1848. His parents were Phillip and Margaret (Gud) Waldorf, both natives of the same province, where they were married and three of their children were born,—Margaret, Catherine and Louis. They emigrated to America in 1853, landing in New York April 13, and at once came to this county

and settled in Troy Grove, where the father engaged in farming until 1863, when he died in his forty-ninth year. Three children were born to them after locating in Troy Grove,—Phillip, William and Peter,—the first mentioned residing on the old homestead and the two latter in Nebraska. Margaret married Ferdinand Kampf, a farmer of Troy Grove township, and Catherine is the wife of Edward Grube, of LaSalle. The mother reached her seventy-fourth year and sank to sleep in 1872.

Mr. Waldorf was educated in the country schools and grew to manhood on the farm, remaining there until he was twenty-one, when he came to Mendota and with his brother-in-law, Mr. Grube, went to manufacturing and wholesaling vinegar. The business was conducted until June, 1874, when Mr. Waldorf sold his interest in the concern to his partner, who discontinued it in 1875, as it was not a profitable investment. In October, 1874, he entered into a partnership with M. Abrahams, under the firm name of Abrahams & Waldorf, and engaged in the wholesale liquor business in this city. On the first of January, 1890, Mr. Waldorf purchased the interest of his partner and has since carried on the business alone. He has been very successful, disposing of large quantities of liquor, and from the modest beginning of two thousand dollars' capital the business has spread to its present gigantic proportions. He is an able business man and is regarded by the citizens as one of the shrewdest in this section of the state. Not only has he guarded his own interests with an eagle eye but has also worked for the municipality, and he has been the means of bringing much trade to the merchants of this city. He formerly held the position of vice president of the Mendota National Bank, of which he was one of the organizers, and is one of the foremost citizens of Mendota. He resigned as vice president of the Mendota National Bank and sold his interest in the institution in September, 1899.

In 1878 he was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Pitts, a native of Luxemburg, Germany. Four children have been the fruits of this union,—Lorena, Arthur, Rufus and Herbert. Lorena and Arthur are graduates of the Blackstone high school, of Mendota, and are remarkably bright pupils. Mrs. Waldorf was a teacher of German in the Blackstone schools of Mendota from 1873 to 1878 and as such made many friends both among parents and pupils. They are members of the German Lutheran church and contribute liberally to the cause of Christianity and the spread of the gospel. Their home is a model of elegance and refined taste. Little short of a mansion in architecture it pleases the eye of all who view its magnificence. Entering the heavy oak doors leading to the vestibule the same refined taste is apparent, everything being of the most elegant but unostentatious character. The vestibule is a spacious room with a mosaic

floor and leads directly to the hall proper, which can also be used as a reception room and is a circular apartment ornamented with art glass of varied and beautiful tint. Passing to the left we enter the parlor and confront a large mirror built into the wall, the sides of which are green while the ceiling is frescoed with Mexican roses. The finish is birch with a mahogany finish, and in no part of the house has paint or paper been used, natural wood and fresco taking their places. In the rear of the sitting-room, which is finished in light oak with light blue fresco and ceiling ornamented with morning-glories, is the dining-room, a beautiful creation in dark oak with paneled wainscoting. This, like the sitting-room, has a fireplace, and a handsome sideboard is built in the wall. A butler's pantry connects with the kitchen, which is provided with all the conveniences known to modern housewifery. This floor has a pleasant bed-room, and each floor is supplied with an elegant bath-room, with onyx washstand, porcelain tubs, nickel fixtures, and floors and walls of pure white tile with delicate pink border. Hot and cold water, either hard or soft, can be had whenever needed; and not one point has been forgotten or neglected that would add to the comfort of the inmates. The wood-work of the entire second story is of highly finished cypress, and the large, pleasant bed-rooms are situated on this floor, as is also the library. The room designed for the eldest daughter is peacock blue, with wild-rose ornaments, and is a dream of beauty. The furniture is in keeping with the building and harmonizes with the finish in each room. In the cellar is the laundry, heating plant, etc., and taken altogether it is one of the handsomest and most complete residences it has ever been our good fortune to see.

On the close of the year 1899, Mr. Waldorf completed the building of a two-story business block, on the southwest corner of Illinois and Jefferson streets in Mendota. The building is the most modern business block in Mendota and is a model structure. Two store-rooms 30x85 feet, each with basements; and the second floor, devoted to office rooms, is heated throughout by steam, and has other conveniences of excellency. The entire building is a monument to the enterprise of Mr. Waldorf.

Mr. Waldorf is a Democrat and served as alderman for ten years. He is also a member of the board of education and a prominent member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

CHARLES CLEARY.

The career of an enterprising, honest business man is a matter of interest in any community, and when the public witnesses his gradual advancement and increasing prosperity it rejoices in his justly won success.

During a period of more than a quarter of a century Charles Cleary has been engaged in business in LaSalle and has won the esteem and best wishes of all with whom he has had dealings.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, John Cleary, was a farmer in Ireland, and died when about sixty-five years of age, from injuries received in a runaway. Of his eight or nine children Peter, the father of Charles Cleary, was a gentleman of excellent education and general attainments. In his early manhood he was a school-teacher, and subsequently to his marriage he turned his attention to agriculture. He was a participant in one of the rebellions in Ireland, but was too great a lover of his country to ever leave her shores. He died December 28, 1896, at the advanced age of eighty-seven, and on the 17th of March, 1898, his faithful wife followed him to the grave, she being in her eighty-seventh year at the time of her death. In her girlhood she bore the name of Frances Flynn, and her father, Henry Flynn, lived and died in Ireland. He was a shepherd much of his life, and for a few years was a pilot in the employ of the government. Peter and Frances Cleary were members of the Catholic church and reared their children in the same faith. Of their three sons and eight daughters nine are yet living, namely: Maria, wife of Thomas Cardon of Easky, Ireland; Ann, wife of John O'Donnell, of Culleen, Ireland; John, a resident of West Hartlepool, England; Charles; Kate, wife of Michael O'Leary, of Streator, Illinois; Frances, wife of James O'Leary, of the same town; Peter, of Joliet, Illinois; Jane, of Chicago; and Julia, Mrs. Michael Brady, of Culleen, Ireland.

Charles Cleary was born in county Sligo, Ireland, April 3, 1851, and received a common-school education. He was but twelve years old when he commenced learning the grocery business, to which line he has devoted himself chiefly ever since. In 1872 he came to America and for seven months was employed in New York city. The same year he came west and lived in Utica, Illinois, until the fall, when he removed to LaSalle, and for about a year was in the employ of Matthiessen & Hegeler, in their zinc works. The following four years he worked in the coal mines, and at length he commenced clerking in the grocery owned by Mr. Cavanaugh. During the next ten months he thoroughly mastered the details of the business and finally became the manager. In 1879 he purchased Mr. Cavanaugh's stock, and for several years carried on a grocery on First street, one block west of his present location, where he has been for the past fourteen years.

In his political convictions, Mr. Cleary is rather independent, but inclines to the Democratic party. A friend to education, he is now serving for the ninth year as a member of the school board. Socially, he is a

member of the Royal Arcanum and the Court of Honor. He is strictly temperate in his habits, leaving all kinds of intoxicating liquor entirely alone, and in every respect his life is worthy to be held up as an example to the young.

On the 1st of May, 1876, Mr. Cleary and Miss Annie, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Manly) Durkin, were united in wedlock. They have had seven children, but Annie Teresa and Teresa Annie died when young. Three daughters and two sons remain to brighten the home, namely: Mary A., Frances, Thomas H., Charles Vincent and Loretto. In 1889 Mr. Cleary purchased his comfortable residence, which is situated at the corner of Fifth and Creve Coeur streets.

JEREMIAH COLLINS.

For almost half a century Jeremiah Collins, justice of the peace, has been a resident of LaSalle, and numbered among its honest, industrious, patriotic citizens. Believing thoroughly that "there is no royal road" to success, he faithfully and perseveringly worked at his trade, allowed himself to be led aside by no visionary schemes of wealth easily obtained, and now in his declining years he enjoys a competence and the feeling that he has performed his duty nobly and commendably.

One of the sons of the Emerald Isle, Mr. Collins was born December 15, 1834. His parents, Jeremiah and Ellen (Mahoney) Collins, emigrated with their family to the United States in 1851, first locating in Pennsylvania, later removing to Indiana and finally taking up their permanent abode in LaSalle in 1852. Here they died, the father at the age of sixty-six years, and the mother when in her seventy-fourth year. Their children were as follows: Mary, deceased; Frederick, deceased; Lawrence, who was a captain in the civil war, and died from the effects of disease contracted in the service; Jeremiah; John, who graduated in the Notre Dame (Indiana) College, and took up the practice of law, but died during the war of the Rebellion; and James, who was associated in business with our subject for years.

Jeremiah Collins, Jr., learned the blacksmith's trade of his father, who was one of the early workers in iron in LaSalle. In 1859 the young man, then twenty-five years of age, became imbued with the Pike's Peak excitement, and started for the west overland, making the tedious and dangerous trip across the plains in a wagon. He spent some time in the gold fields, but returned to this place with small reward for his pains, and with the steadfast determination to stick to his trade in the future and

to earn his bread "by the sweat of his face." Rarely was he absent from his shop, and his patrons came to rely upon him, and to no one else would they give their work.

For eighteen years Mr. Collins served as a member of the LaSalle city school board, and he has always taken great interest in the education of the rising generation. Politically he is affiliated with no party, acting independently of party lines; and in 1897 he was elected justice of the peace for a term of four years. He is now acting in this position and is a capable, conscientious official, meeting his responsibilities to the satisfaction of all concerned. For twelve years Mr. Collins served as a city alderman, being first elected to the office in 1864.

In 1863 Mr. Collins was married, in this city, to Miss Mary McCarthy, a native of Ireland. She departed this life in 1874, and is survived by two daughters, namely: Mary and Ellen, who reside with their father, their home being at No. 1012 First street. Ellen is a successful teacher in the public grammar schools, and Mary is the mistress of the pretty and attractive home.

WILLIAM McELHENIE.

William McElhenie, who probably has been longer engaged in the livery business than any one in LaSalle county, is an esteemed citizen of the town of LaSalle. He is a native of Wayne county, Ohio, his birth having occurred September 2, 1846. He is of Scotch-Irish extraction, his ancestors having settled in the United States prior to the war of the Revolution. He is a son of William and grandson of Thomas McElhenie, of Pennsylvania. The former went to Ohio at an early day and there married Harriet Porter, a native of the Buckeye state, and daughter of John Porter, who was born in Ireland, and was a pioneer settler in Ohio. In 1852 our subject's parents came to Illinois, and for four years resided in LaSalle, where he kept the Tremont Hotel, and subsequently the St. Charles Hotel; and then, going to Mendota, engaged in the grocery, grain and commission business. He was very successful and popular as a business man and had a host of friends among his fellow citizens. He died in 1863, at his home in Mendota, aged fifty years, and his widow, who survived him, departed this life in LaSalle, in 1881, when she was in her sixty-sixth year.

William McElhenie is the only one left of his father's family, his brothers, Thomas J. and Albert H., having passed away. He was but six years old when he was brought to this county, and his educational advantages were such as the public schools afforded. When in his fifteenth year he embarked in business as a news agent on trains, and continued in this

calling until 1866. That year witnessed his permanent settlement in La-Salle, where he at first was interested in the transportation and expressing business. Then, quite naturally, he turned his attention to his present vocation, for which he seems specially adapted. He keeps a fine line of carriages and vehicles of various descriptions and a number of horses suitable for driving or as saddle animals.

Politically Mr. McElhenie is a Republican, and fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias, the Royal Arcanum, and the Modern Woodmen of America. At the close of the civil war, on the 2d of May, 1865, Mr. McElhenie was married, in Chicago, to Miss Anna Maria Graham, who, like himself, was a native of Wayne county, Ohio. Five children, who are still living, bless the union of this worthy couple, and have been given excellent educational advantages and judicious training for the more serious duties of life. These five children are Arthur J., of Pittsburg, Kansas, holding a responsible position with a coal company; Jessie M., wife of Frank Russel Fields, of Denver, Colorado; Pearlie L., George L. and Elsie.

OSCAR D. F. CONKEY.

During a period of forty-five years this honored citizen of Mendota has been very actively associated with the development and prosperity of the place, which was a mere village when he came here and located in June, 1854. When he first visited the place, the preceding November, there were but two buildings there. He aided the town in its early struggles, and has ever been its stanch friend and one of its most substantial and trusted citizens.

The ancestors of Mr. Conkey, on the paternal side of the family, were natives of Ireland, but several generations of the name have lived in the United States. Silas Conkey, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Massachusetts, and died in middle life. His home was in Salem, Washington county, New York. His widow survived him, living to the extreme age of ninety-five years. They were the parents of five sons and three daughters. One of the sons, Colonel Adam Conkey, was the father of the subject of this sketch. He won his title while serving in the New York state militia, and he also was a participant in the war of 1812. His life was passed chiefly in Lewis county, New York, and his long and useful career of ninety-four years came to a close in 1884. He was a farmer by occupation and lived many years in Martinsburg, New York. His wife, Elizabeth (Lee) Conkey, had preceded him to the silent land about twenty years. She was one of several brothers and sisters who were born and reared upon a farm



C S F Conkey



Elizabeth S. Conkey.

in the Empire state, and was of English extraction. She was a devout member of the Presbyterian church, and her noble Christian life was a power for good in the community where her lot was cast. Of her four sons and four daughters four are still living, namely: Amanda M., wife of D. D. Guiles, of Wellington, Kansas; Oscar D. F.; William F., of Iroquois, South Dakota; and Adelia M., now Mrs. Thomas Wilson, of Cleveland, Ohio. The others died in early life.

The birth of Oscar D. F. Conkey took place in Martinsburg, Lewis county, New York, December 1, 1821. He was reared in his native locality and supplemented a district-school education with a course in Lowville Academy. In 1843 he came to the west by way of Milwaukee, and spent one winter in Milwaukee and two summers and a winter in Batavia, Illinois. He then went to Massillon, Stark county, Ohio, where he operated a line of boats on the canal until the fall of 1853. At that time he returned to the west on a prospecting tour, and, being pleased with the country around and about the present town of Mendota, decided to locate here. The Burlington railroad was then in course of construction. He purchased land and the following summer he brought his family and became a permanent resident of the place. The Burlington railroad was built through Mendota in the winter of 1853-4, and Mr. Conkey embarked in the grain and general merchandising business. For about three years after his arrival here he remained in the general merchandise business and then sold his interest therein. From 1857 until 1888 he gave his entire attention to the buying, selling and shipping of grain. He won success and a goodly fortune in the legitimate channels of trade, and may justly be proud of his honorable record as a business man. At various times he has made judicious investments of the capital which was accumulated by his energy and zeal, and at present is interested in the coal business, which is carried on by his son, Harry, and is the treasurer of the Mendota, Troy Grove & Clarion Insurance Company.

On the 8th of February, 1851, Mr. Conkey married Miss Lucy Rex, and four children, all now dead, were born of their union. The oldest and youngest of the children, with their mother, were drowned in June, 1861, when they were attempting to cross a creek near Troy Grove. The stream was much swollen by recent heavy rains, and the little party were completely at the mercy of the flood. The second marriage of Mr. Conkey was celebrated February 8, 1865, Miss Elizabeth S. Eaken, a daughter of John Eaken, being his bride. Three sons were born to them, of whom George, the eldest, died in infancy; Arthur was summoned to the better land when about sixteen years of age; and Harry D. alone remains. He is engaged in the insurance business and also the coal business in Mendota, as previously noted, and is an enterprising, wide-awake young man, with a

promising future. On April 19, 1899, he married Miss Elizabeth Wilson, of Mendota, daughter of M. Wilson, the present recorder of LaSalle county.

Since 1855 Oscar D. F. Conkey has been a Master Mason, and he has many sincere friends in the fraternity. He and his estimable wife are active members of the Presbyterian church, he being a trustee and treasurer of the board of officers. For a number of years he has served as a member of the board of education, always upholding progressive methods. For years he acted as one of the city aldermen, and in his political convictions he is a stalwart Republican.

MILROY A. McKEY.

The success of such men as Milroy A. McKey, of Mendota, is the result of the influence upon the affairs of life of all those traits of character and qualities of mind which lead to honesty, thoroughness and permanence. It is not the success which comes from fortunate speculation, but that which is the reward of long years of unwearying well-doing. He has been identified with many of the leading enterprises of the city and county, and belongs to that class of representative American citizens who promote the public good while enhancing their individual prosperity. The extent and volume of his business may be indicated somewhat by a statement of his connections with many important concerns. He is the president of the Mendota Gas Company; ex-president and now director of the LaSalle National Bank; vice-president of the Mendota National Bank; director of the First National Bank of Mendota, of the Creston National Bank, of Creston, Iowa, and the Earlville National Bank; and is extensively interested in real estate and in other first-class investments in Illinois and adjoining states.

Mr. McKey is a native of Candor, Tioga county, New York, born May 4, 1825, and is descended from families which in different generations have furnished many prominent representatives to public life and business interests, and which in all periods of our national history have been patriotic and public-spirited to a degree that has made them leaders in the communities in which they have lived. His grandfather, in the paternal line, was Alexander McKey, a native of Scotland, who came to the United States before the Revolution and located at Troy, New York, where at the time of the historic Indian massacre one of his sisters was captured by the savages and was ransomed by him for a barrel of whisky. His father, mother and other brothers and sisters were killed and their house burned. He was a weaver and farmer, and some time after the Revolution removed to Chemung county, New York, where he died when past the age of

seventy years. During the greater part of his life he was a devout member of the Presbyterian church.

James Westbrook, Mr. McKey's maternal great-grandfather, lived in Chemung county, New York, where his death occurred when past the age of eighty years. The traditions of the family have it that he was six feet, four inches tall and massive in proportion, and that he was as brave as he was strong. He was a member of General Washington's staff and fought by his side during much of the struggle for American independence. His great-grandson has a cane which once belonged to James Westbrook, who on one occasion saved his life with it by warding off a blow aimed at him by a British soldier. Mr. Westbrook followed agricultural pursuits in times of peace, and was a large land-owner and an influential citizen. His ancestors came to this country from Holland. His son, James Westbrook, the grandfather of Mr. McKey, was born and died in Chemung county, New York. He was a slave-owner, and it is said that he emancipated his negroes but could not get rid of them because they liked him and depended upon him so much for everything that they would not leave him. His family was a numerous one, and his descendants are now widely scattered over the country.

Alexander W. McKey, father of our subject, was born in Harpersfield, Delaware county, New York, became a school-teacher, and while pursuing that profession also studied medicine. After receiving his diploma he engaged in the practice of medicine in Candor, New York, and for forty years was the leading physician of that place. In 1864 he removed to Bureau county, Illinois, and later took up his abode in LaSalle county, his death occurring in Troy Grove, April 5, 1876. The following day would have been the seventy-eighth anniversary of his birth. His widow died March 15, 1877, in her seventy-seventh year. He served his fellow townsmen as postmaster and as supervisor, as well as in other local offices, and took a deep interest in the cause of public education, doing all in his power to promote the welfare of the schools. He kept a small stock of school-books in his house and gave them, as occasion presented, to the children of people who were too poor to buy them. His wife, Maria (Westbrook) McKey, was born in Newark, New York, and by her marriage became the mother of five children, four of whom are living: Milroy A.; Eliza Ann, wife of N. T. Moulton, of Wenona, Illinois; Laura Maria, widow of LaFayette L. Huson, of Viola, Illinois; and William J., a well known resident of Princeton, Illinois. John A. McKey, brother of Dr. McKey and uncle of Milroy A. McKey, served his country as a soldier in the war of 1812.

Mr. McKey, of this review, was reared in his native town and acquired his education in the academy at Cortland and from a private tutor.

Subsequently he taught school for several terms in the vicinity of his home. In 1848, at the age of twenty-three, he came to Lamoille, Bureau county, Illinois, where he purchased two hundred and eighty acres of land. He then returned to the east, but in 1850 again came to Illinois and located at Lamoille, where he built a residence upon his land and then began the cultivation and improvement of the hitherto wild tract. In 1851 he went again to New York and this time returned with a bride to Bureau county, in the spring of 1852. There he successfully carried on farming until the fall of 1861, when he removed to Lamoille, and to Mendota in the fall of 1864. He had gradually become identified with business interests of importance in Mendota, and it was not long before he was a leader in the public affairs of the little city. He also became prominent in her city life, ably serving as mayor for four years, while for a number of years he was a member of the Bureau county board of supervisors and was one year its chairman. In politics he is an independent Democrat and wields the quiet but powerful influence of a sagacious and alert man of affairs in the ranks of his party. Socially he is a Master Mason and an Odd Fellow, and takes a helpful interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of those orders.

On the 30th of March, 1852, Mr. McKey was united in marriage to Miss Mary Frost, a daughter of Horton and Electa (Coryell) Frost. She died April 25, 1891, at the age of sixty-three years and sixteen days. She was a woman of many virtues, a devoted member of the Baptist church and an efficient assistant in many good works. On the 13th of January, 1892, Mr. McKey married Mrs. Georgietta McKean, widow of Nathan Hubbard McKean and a daughter of Henry and Phoebe (Young) Fisher. Mrs. McKey is of Scotch and French lineage, and was born near the Bunker Hill monument, at Charlestown, Massachusetts. Her parents died in the east when she was very young, and she came west, being married in Brookfield, Missouri, to Nathan H. McKean, by whom she had two children, Georgia Adelaide and Frank Paine. Their daughter died at the age of thirteen years and eleven months. Frank P. McKean is now a bookkeeper in the First National Bank of Mendota.

Mr. McKey is recognized as one of the most able business men of Mendota. His sagacity and foresight enabling him to make judicious investments, while his diligence, indomitable energy and undaunted perseverance have won him a prosperity that numbers him among the most substantial citizens of the county, he has not only advanced his individual interests, but has done much toward promoting the general welfare by encouraging trade and commerce. His career, both public and private, has been marked by the strictest integrity and faithfulness to every trust

reposed in him. The record of his life is unclouded by shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil; he is known as an honorable man and a pleasant, social companion.

ERNEST G. MASON.

Among the enterprising young farmers of Rutland township, LaSalle county, Illinois, who claim this county as their birthplace is the subject of this sketch, Ernest G. Mason, whose post-office address is Wedron.

Mr. Mason was born December 9, 1867, a son of Daniel Mason, who has for years been one of the highly respected citizens of LaSalle county and who still resides on his farm. Daniel Mason was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, July 9, 1821, a son of Daniel Mason, Sr., who was a native of Pennsylvania and a veteran of the war of 1812. The younger Daniel Mason was reared and married in Indiana, the lady of his choice being Elizabeth Towsley, daughter of F. Towsley. The fruits of their union were ten children, five of whom are living at this writing, namely: Lucy, wife of Andrew Wenmer, the custodian of the state capitol at Lincoln, Nebraska; Mary, a resident of Wedron, Illinois; Jane, deceased, who married J. E. Hill, of Fairmount, Nebraska; Ernest G., whose name forms the heading of this sketch; and Charles A., of Rutland township, LaSalle county, Illinois.

Ernest G. Mason spent his boyhood days not unlike other farmer boys, working on the farm in summer and in winter attending the public schools. December 1, 1898, he married Miss Carrie Makeever, daughter of R. M. Makeever and wife Mary, nee Showers. He has an infant daughter, born October 17, 1899, by the name of Bessie Marie Mason.

Mr. Mason is a public-spirited and wide-awake young man, interested in all that pertains to the general welfare of his locality. He has served two years on the school board. Politically he is a Democrat, and fraternally a Master Mason and a Modern Woodman, having his lodge membership at Marseilles.

FRANCIS M. PARR.

Francis Marion Parr, of Northville township, LaSalle county, Illinois, was born in this county June 10, 1845, a son of Thomas J. and Sarah Ann (Pitzer) Parr.

Thomas J. Parr was born in Licking county, Ohio, March 13, 1815, and died in Dayton township, LaSalle county, Illinois, February 19, 1898. He was a son of Thomas Parr, who came with his family to LaSalle county,

Illinois, in 1834, and settled in Dayton township. Sarah Ann (Pitzer) Parr was born in Licking county, Ohio, March 30, 1815, and with her widowed mother and family came to LaSalle county, their arrival here dating October 16, 1831. They settled on the left bank of the Fox river, about nine miles above Ottawa, which was then a small village of only a few houses. Dayton was then a frontier fort. This was the year previous to the Black Hawk war. Here Miss Pitzer grew up and became the wife of Thomas J. Parr. She is still living, a resident of Dayton, now in her eighty-fifth year. Of their six children we record that Jesse N. married Anna Cain; Amanda E. married Noah Brunk; Joseph B. married Sarah Knickerbocker; Francis M. is the subject of this sketch; Martha A. married Lyman Cole; and William H. married Mary Ruger.

Francis M. Parr was reared on the farm, and farming has been his life occupation. Soon after his marriage, which event occurred in 1868, he settled in Freedom township. Later he bought eighty acres of land in Serena township, to which he removed and where he lived several years. Disposing of that farm, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Northville township, where he has since lived.

Mr. Parr was married December 31, 1868, to Miss Julia Curyea, a native of Ohio, born July 23, 1843, and a daughter of John and Lydia (Sager) Curyea. Her parents were natives of Virginia, whence they went to Ohio in early life, and from there came in 1843 to Illinois, settling in Dayton township, LaSalle county, where Mr. Curyea owned the well known Curyea mill. Mr. and Mrs. Parr have two children, viz.: Ettie B., wife of Frank Jones, a farmer of Serena township, LaSalle county; and Jay C. Parr, who is engaged in farming with his father in Northville township. Jay C. Parr was born April 6, 1877, and in 1897 married Miss Jessie Dominy, daughter of J. Martin Dominy and Rebecca J. (Miller) Dominy, of Freedom township, LaSalle county.

FREDERICK E. HOBERG.

One of the most prominent members of the bar in LaSalle county, Illinois, is Frederick E. Hoberg, who resides in Peru, where he was born December 29, 1862. His parents were August William and Justine (Schlingmann) Hoberg, both natives of Prussia. Their marriage was solemnized in this country, the maiden having preceded her betrothed here by two years. He landed in America on the day that saw Franklin Pierce elected to the office of president. He came to Peru, where he was married, in 1853, and with the possible exception of two years has resided

in LaSalle county ever since. Some fifteen years ago they moved to Peru, where they are spending their declining years. Five of the ten children born to them are living at this time. They have been adherents of the Lutheran faith for many years. The father has been a mechanic and is well known throughout the county. He is a Democrat and for six years has filled the office of alderman of Peru.

When Frederick E. Hoberg was a child his parents moved to Tonica, where they resided until he was fifteen, returning then, in 1878, to his native city. His education was received in the public schools, and at the age of fifteen he left school to accept a clerkship in a dry-goods store in Peru. He remained with this concern seven years, but his whole ambition was to enter the profession of law, and for this purpose he left his place as clerk to enter the law office of H. M. Gallagher, of Peru, to study under him. He was admitted to the bar in 1887 and began practicing in Peru the same year. It is said to be one of the most difficult things for a young man to enter upon any profession in his native city and make of it a success, that in order to obtain the smiles of the fickle goddess of fortune it is necessary to start where you are a comparative stranger; yet young Hoberg settled down amidst the people who had known him from childhood, and here proved the fallacy of the adage. His success was assured from the start, and for nine years he represented the city as attorney, in a manner that showed a thorough knowledge of the requirements of the office. A Democrat, he has been active in the work of helping that party to success, and has been called to fill a number of municipal offices in recognition of the fact that he ever holds the welfare of the community as of paramount importance. He has been town and city clerk, a supervisor, and a member of the board of education, and in discharging the duties incumbent upon him has shown that the public confidence has not been misplaced. He is a Knight Templar and also a Modern Woodman of America. In 1889 he was married to Miss Annie R. Knapp, of Peru, a most estimable lady. Five children have been born to them, one of whom is deceased.

CHARLES ROHRER.

Charles Rohrer, who is engaged in general farming and stock-raising on section 9, Northville township, LaSalle county, has throughout his life been connected with the agricultural interests of this community. He was born on section 8 of this township, his parents being Louis and Lib (Smith) Rohrer. His father, now a resident of Sandwich, Illinois, was for many years a prominent citizen of Northville township. He was born in Alsace, Germany, January 6, 1837, and in 1845 came to America with his parents,

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Joseph and Mary Ann (Harter) Rohrer, who located on the farm now occupied by the subject of this review, Charles Rohrer. There Joseph Rohrer carried on agricultural pursuits until his death, in 1858. He was the father of six children: John B., Rosalie, Louis, Celestia, Constantine and one now deceased. On the 4th of July, 1857, Louis Rohrer was married to a daughter of Frederick and Amelia (Foster) Smith, who had seven children. Her parents came to LaSalle county in 1834. Her father was born in Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, August 6, 1810, and was one of the honored pioneer settlers of this county. By the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Rohrer ten children were born, namely: Annie, Charles E., William J., Clara E., Frederick, Matilda J., Herbert C., Elizabeth, who died at the age of fifteen years, and two who died in early childhood. Mr. Rohrer, while residing in Northville township, held several offices, including those of highway commissioner and supervisor. He finally removed to Sandwich and is now an esteemed resident of that city.

Charles Rohrer, whose birth occurred March 3, 1861, was reared on the homestead farm and early trained to the duties of farm life, assisting in caring for the stock, in tilling the fields and harvesting the crops in the late autumn. He attended the district schools through the winter after crops were all gathered, and gained a good practical English education. After attaining his majority he began farming on his own account, and has made it his life work. The waving fields of grain indicate his energy and diligence, and in addition to the cultivation of the various cereals adapted to this climate he raises considerable stock, and in both branches of his business is meeting with good success.

On the 3d of September, 1885, Mr. Rohrer was united in marriage to Miss Adaline Bernard, a daughter of David Bernard, and their union has been blessed with seven children, namely: Edna, Louis, Lillie, Joann, David, and Edwin F. and Emma, twins, born October 27, 1899.

In his political affiliations Mr. Rohrer is a Democrat, but has never been an office-seeker, preferring to devote his time and energies to his business interests, in which he is meeting with a well merited prosperity. His life has been a quiet and uneventful one, but one true to all manly principles, and his native county numbers him among its valued citizens.

HENRY ZOLPER.

The substantial and well known citizen whose name heads this sketch—Henry Zolper—is a contractor in brick and stone work at Mendota, where he resides in a modern residence of his own building, on Burlington street,

between Twelfth and Thirteenth avenues. A sketch of his life is appropriate in this work, and is as follows:

Henry Zolper, as the name indicates, is of German descent. He was born in Peru, Illinois, November 15, 1855, a son of Henry and Eva (Trecker) Zolper, natives of Germany. Their family is composed of four children, two sons and two daughters, as follows: Henry; Catherine, wife of Mat Reckinger; Elizabeth, wife of Christopher Burg; and Peter J. Henry is of the third generation that has followed the trade of brick and stone mason, both his father and grandfather before him having been masons. The father of our subject on coming to this country in 1852 settled in Peru, Illinois, where he worked at his trade and did contracting until 1867, when he moved to Troy Grove, this state. There he passed the rest of his life and died in 1897, at the age of sixty-eight years. His first wife died in 1864. Some years later he married Miss Elizabeth Henscheidt, but by her had no children.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was Peter Zolper. As above stated, he was a brick and stone mason. He lived and died in Germany, and at the time of his death was sixty-two years of age. In his family were four children.

The maternal grandfather also was named Peter. Peter Trecker was a German, a carpenter by trade, who came to America about 1852, and settled at Peru, Illinois, where he died at the age of seventy-two years. He had six children.

Henry Zolper, the immediate subject of this review, lived in Peru until he was twelve years old, attending the parochial and public schools, and from that time on his youthful days were passed on the farm, his education being continued in the common schools. His mother died when he was nine years old and for nineteen years thereafter his father remained a widower. When he was fifteen young Henry began learning the trade of brick and stone mason, which he has followed ever since. He moved to Mendota in February, 1898. Previous to this he had established a large business here and at other points in the county, doing all kinds of brick and stone work, and making a specialty of cement or manufactured stone sidewalks. His business career thus far has been a successful one and he has accumulated valuable property.

Mr. Zolper was married April 18, 1882, to Miss Mary Reck, daughter of Peter and Barbara (Kratz) Reck, natives of Germany and for many years farmers in Troy Grove township, LaSalle county, Illinois, their residence in this county dating from 1848. To Mr. and Mrs. Zolper were born three sons, Harry W., Joseph L. and Benedict J. Mrs. Zolper died in 1889, at the age of thirty-six years. She was a devout member of the Catholic

church, as also is Mr. Zolper and as were his father and mother. Mr. Zolper maintains fraternal relations with the Catholic Foresters, M. W. A. and the A. O. U. W. Politically he is a Republican.

FRANK W. BEDARD.

Frank W. Bedard, of LaSalle, Illinois, is secretary and general manager of the Peru-LaSalle Gaslight and Power Company, and is one of the trustworthy, self-reliant men who figure largely in the prosperity and growth of the municipality in which they reside. He was ushered into this life in this city, January 27, 1857, his parents being John and Mary M. (Chapin) Bedard. The grandfather, John Napoleon Bedard, was a native of France and later a resident of Ottawa, Canada, where he died in his sixtieth year. John N. Bedard, the father, was one of six children who grew to mature years. While yet in his 'teens he made a visit to the Mississippi valley but returned to Canada, where he remained until 1853, when he took up his residence in LaSalle. He was in the railroad business and also bought grain, but later opened a grocery store which he conducted for several years. During the civil war he was on a gunboat on the Mississippi river, but was not enlisted, and remained but a short time. He was a tax collector here at one time. His death occurred in 1878, when he was but forty-five years old, and surviving him are his widow and six children. The children are: Frank W.; Belle, wife of John W. Dugan, of LaSalle; Adelaide, the wife of Charles Ward, of Chicago; Charles, of LaSalle; George, of Boulder, Colorado; and Edith, wife of B. N. Rhodes, of this city. Mrs. Mary M. Bedard is a resident of LaSalle. She is a member of the Presbyterian church and a lady of noble Christian character. Her father, F. C. Chapin, was a native of New York, where he followed the trade of printer. He came west about the year 1853 and located at Toulon, where he worked at painting a short time and then came to LaSalle, dying in his eighty-eighth year. He was of French and English stock and left seven children to perpetuate his memory.

F. W. Bedard has always lived in LaSalle, attended the public schools when a boy, and here gained his business education. When he was seventeen he entered the gas works and may truly be said to have grown up with the plant. Becoming thoroughly conversant with every detail of the business he was placed in charge of the plant as superintendent about fourteen years ago, and so acceptably were the duties of the office discharged that he was still farther honored a year ago, by being assigned to the office of secretary and general manager. This plant employs from ten to twenty men, and its

interests are carefully looked after by Mr. Bedard, who is very popular with those in his employ.

He was united in marriage, November 26, 1885, to Miss Margaret E. Lininger, daughter of Daniel and Emma (Slyder) Lininger, early settlers of Peru. Mr. Bedard is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and also of the Court of Honor. He has always given his support to the Republicans. During his forty-two years of life in LaSalle he has made a wide circle of acquaintances, all of whom hold him in the highest esteem.

CHARLES HOSS.

Charles Hoss, the popular cashier of the First National Bank of Earlville, LaSalle county, is one of the native sons of this county, his birth having occurred in Troy Grove township, October 19, 1859. His ancestors were of sturdy German stock, and he possesses many of the qualities which have made the people of that nation great and honored.

The paternal grandfather of our subject lived and died in Prussia, attaining a ripe age. He reared several children, one of whom was William, father of Charles Hoss. He learned the trade of weaver in the Fatherland, but after his arrival in the United States, in 1846, he devoted his attention to agriculture. Locating in Troy Grove township, LaSalle county, he entered eighty acres of land, which he improved and continued to cultivate until well along in years. He departed this life at the old home, where he had passed so many happy years, January 25, 1899, when within two months of the eighty-fourth anniversary of his birth. His wife, Elizabeth, died many years previously, in April 1870, at the age of forty-two years. They were Catholics originally, but in their later years became liberal in matters pertaining to religion. The father of Mrs. Hoss was John Bellinghausen, who came to this country from Prussia, and after living in Peru, Illinois, for a number of years passed to the silent land, at the age of seventy-six years. He was a carpenter by trade, and provided well for his large family. Two of his sons, Charles and John, were soldiers in the war of the rebellion, enlisting in the ranks.

Charles Hoss is one of the six children born to his parents, the others being Theodore, Adolph, William, John and Minnie. With them he passed his early years on the homestead in Troy Grove township, a portion of his time being devoted to the acquisition of an education in the district schools. When in his thirteenth year he went to Peru, where he commenced clerking in a dry-goods store, and for ten years was thus employed. By this means he gained an excellent idea of business methods, and his stability

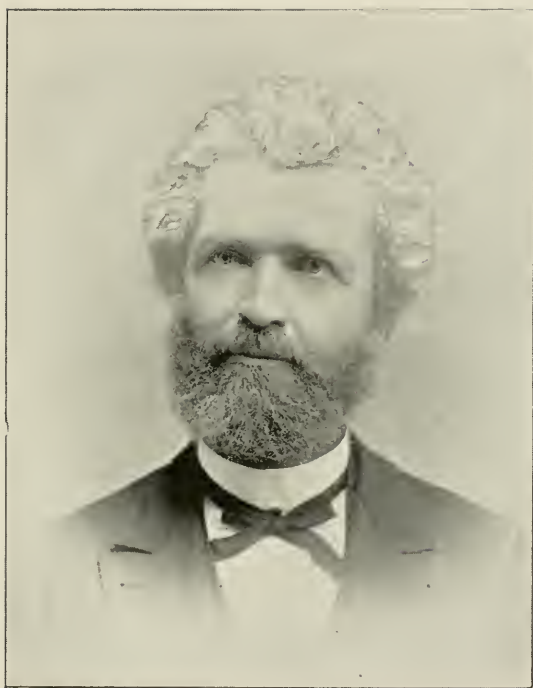
and general trustworthiness were the foundations of his later success. When he was in his twenty-fifth year he was offered a position as a bookkeeper in the First National Bank of Peru, in which capacity he acted for about a year. Desiring to see something of the west, he went to various points in that great territory, but eventually returned and for six months was employed in the Peru Plow Works. In 1885 he came to Earlville, and for nearly fifteen years he has been the cashier of the First National Bank of this city.

In addition to this, Mr. Hoss has been interested in various local enterprises, and is a truly patriotic citizen, in the best sense of the word. He has been the local agent for several fire-insurance companies, and is a notary public, as well. During the past four years he has been the city treasurer, and for one term he served as a member of the school board. In his political views he is an ardent Republican.

The marriage of Mr. Hoss and Miss M. Bella Stilson, daughter of Samuel T. and Sarah T. (Lukens) Stilson, was celebrated October 25, 1888. They have two children, Carl S. and Herman H. The family occupy a pleasant modern house, which was erected on Ottawa street by Mr. Hoss the year of his marriage. It stands upon land which was a part of the original homestead of Samuel T. Stilson, one of the worthy pioneers of this place. Mrs. Hoss is a member of the Methodist church, and, like her husband, is interested in everything which tends to elevate society and benefit humanity.

WILLIAM H. FRASER, M. D.

William Halliday Fraser, M. D., one of the leading physicians of La-Salle for more than a quarter of a century, was born in the town of Perth, in the county of Lanark, Canada, March 26, 1839, and is a son of Archibald and Mary (Halliday) Fraser. The paternal grandfather, James Fraser, was a house builder by occupation, and was a native of Inverness, Scotland. The family sprung from Norman-French antecedents and came to Scotland with William the Conqueror. The Frasers took a prominent part in the Scottish struggle for liberty. James Fraser died in Canada, leaving an only child, Archibald, the father of our subject. Archibald was a lad of ten years when his father moved from Scotland to Canada. Here he grew to manhood, and tilled the soil until the age of thirty-nine years, when his career was cut short by accidental death. Surviving him are the wife, four sons and four daughters. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Halliday. She also was a native of Scotland, and was five years of age when her parents established their home in Canada. Her father was chosen by the Colonists



Wm. H. Loder, M.D.

and employed and paid by the British government to teach the Colonists in Canada. He was the only teacher in Canada paid by that government. He was sent out in 1815, with three ship loads of colonists, who were sent to counteract the influence of the French in Canada. While they were en route the battle of Waterloo was fought, and from that time French power was on the wane, making it unnecessary to send more colonists. Grandfather Halliday passed his ninety-second year, and at his death left eight sons, four daughters and one hundred grandchildren, all living. Mrs. Fraser, the mother of our subject, is now in her ninetieth year and is still a resident of Canada.

William Halliday Fraser was one of the younger members of the family. He passed his boyhood and youth on his father's farm and attended the country schools, his Grandfather Halliday being his first teacher. At the age of seventeen he went to Toronto to attend the Provincial Normal School, from which he graduated. When eighteen he received a class A normal-school provincial diploma. After spending four years in teaching he entered McGill university, Montreal, graduating in 1867 and going at once to Edinburgh, Scotland, to continue his medical studies. In the summer of that year he received his diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons, being the first from the Dominion of Canada to graduate from the institution. Returning he located in Nova Scotia, opening an office in Liverpool, where he practiced two years, and then moved to Chicago, where he remained until after that city was swept by the great fire of 1871. The following summer was spent in the northern part of Canada, and then he again took up his residence in Illinois. In 1873 he came to LaSalle, where he has practiced since, and he enjoys an extended patronage, which embraces a large territory and has been most lucrative. He is painstaking and careful in diagnosis, skillful and efficient in practice, and brings a sympathetic heart to soothe the sufferer.

Dr. Fraser was married in 1869 to Miss Lydia M. Watterman, of Milton, Nova Scotia, whose ancestors came over in the Mayflower. Nine children, five sons and four daughters, have been born to them, and have been reared in accordance with the teachings of the Congregational church, of which the Doctor and his wife are members. These children are Halliday Mary, wife of B. F. Pay, of Mankato, Minnesota; Caroline E., wife of Daniel W. Cole, of Melrose, Massachusetts; Millera L., wife of W. S. Mason, of LaSalle, Illinois; W. A. Gordon Fraser, master mechanic at the Michigamme mines of the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company; Henry P. Fraser, United States Express messenger on the Rock Island road; and Edward S., Annabell, Malcolm and Kenneth, who are students.

In politics the Doctor affiliates with the Republican party, but has given

little time to politics, his attention being centered in his profession. He was made a Master Mason in 1894, and became a member of the Scottish Clan in 1891,—Clan Fraser, of LaSalle, being named in his honor. In 1893 he was made physician-in-chief of that order in the United States and Canada, an office which he has held ever since. He is a prominent member of the State and County Medical Associations, and of the Eastern Illinois Valley Medical Association. He comes from a family of remarkable longevity, and has the promise of many added years of usefulness in this community, where he has won the respect and esteem of every one.

JACOB F. SCHWEICKERT.

Among those who have literally, as well as figuratively, assisted in the building of Peru, the Schweickerts, father and sons, have played a very important part. Their work is noted for thoroughness, reliability and durability, and throughout all this section of LaSalle county examples of their handiwork may be seen.

The subject of this sketch is a native of Peru, his birth having occurred April 3, 1866. The history of his parents, Vincent and Maria Schweickert, esteemed citizens of this place, appears elsewhere in this volume. The boyhood days of our subject passed uneventfully, his time being divided between attending the public or parochial schools and the accustomed recreations in which lads delight. When he was in his fifteenth year he entered the employ of a farmer, and continued to give his attention to agriculture for four or five years.

Having no special taste for farming, young Schweickert next began learning the stone-mason's trade, which his father had followed before him, and within a short period he became regularly engaged in business with his brothers Charles and Henry and his father. At present he is associated with Charles A., Henry E., Francis Xavier, and Bertram Schweickert, and his brother-in-law, Frank Ellerbrock, under the firm name of Schweickert Brothers & Company. They execute contracts for foundations for buildings and bridges, stone and brick work in general, plastering and for other work in similar lines.

In the various fraternities, our subject is identified with the International Bricklayers & Masons' Union, of America, and with the Coal Miners' Union; is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters and St. Joseph's Benevolent Society. In his political belief he adheres to the principles of the Democratic party.

September 24, 1889, in Springfield, Illinois, Mr. Schweickert married

Miss Mary Magdalene, daughter of Peter and Christina (Schmidt) Morhauser, all natives of Germany, but since 1883 residents of the United States. For some years past the parents have owned and carried on a farm in the vicinity of Springfield. Of the five children born to our subject and his amiable wife, one, the youngest, Jacob, died when but eight months old, and those who survive are named respectively Magdalene, Bertram, Frank and Margaret. The family reside in a pretty, modern brick house, built by Mr. Schweickert the year of his marriage. It is situated in one of the best residence sections of the city, at the corner of Pike and Ninth streets. In their religious creed, both our subject and wife are Catholics, as were their fathers before them.

CHARLES CARTER.

One of the pioneer farmers of LaSalle county, Charles Carter has been a witness of its marvelous development, and from his boyhood has performed his full share of the work involved in its progress from a wild state to a condition of fruitfulness and prosperity in all lines. Honorable, true and just in all his dealings, he is respected and admired by all who are acquainted with him, and without exception the confidence of his neighbors is accorded him.

The birth of Charles Carter occurred in Wayne county, New York, December 23, 1837, and he was seven years old when brought by his parents, Asa and Hannah Carter, to Will county, Illinois, whence three years later they removed to LaSalle county. Locating on the homestead, in Farm Ridge township, which is now owned by our subject, he grew to manhood here, assisting in reducing the land to a proper state for cultivation. In the days of his boyhood the old-fashioned plow was used, and scythes and cradles were employed in the place of the improved farm machinery of to-day, which on every farm does away with the labor of several men in harvest time. Such education as he received was that which the district schools afforded. Now Mr. Carter owns three hundred and twenty acres of rich land, valued at eighty dollars an acre, and rendered much more desirable by the excellent house, barns and other buildings which stand upon the place. Everything is kept in a neat manner, improvements are made whenever needed, and all bespeak the constant attention of the practical owner.

In 1863 Mr. Carter married Miss Caroline Helm, who was born in Brown county, Ohio, and reared in the Lutheran faith of her pious ancestors. This marriage was blessed with one child, namely, Nettie, now

the wife of F. A. Bangs, of Mobile, Alabama. But Mrs. Carter passed to her reward on high in 1865, and in 1866 Mr. Carter married Mary Lizzie Tole, and by this marriage there were six children, five of whom are living, as follows: Lillian, the wife of J. H. Rambler, of Calhoun county, Iowa; Clara B., the deceased wife of Robert Heath, of this township; Charles E., a resident of this locality; Earl, of Calhoun county, Iowa; and Woodford Royal and Rose Ethel, at their parental home. The mother of these children passed to her reward on high January 14, 1884, and subsequently Mr. Carter married Annie M. Albert, of Preble county, Ohio, and by this marriage there was one child, who was named Lewis Wilber and who died May 1, 1894.

Fraternally Mr. Carter is identified with Victor Lodge, No. 578, I. O. O. F., of Grand Ridge. He contributes toward the support of schools and churches, and upholds all worthy public enterprises which he deems of benefit to the people. Frank and jovial in disposition, he is very popular and is heartily welcomed wherever he goes. His right of franchise is used in favor of the nominees and principles of the Democratic party.

GEORGE JUST.

Every employer of men and every observant person in general has noticed that there are two totally different kinds of workers: those who perform, more or less grudgingly, the duties assigned as their share, thinking most longingly of the time when freedom shall be theirs again; and that much rarer class, those whose work is a pleasure to them and who find their chief interest in figuring out some mechanical or financial problem, and in their busy zeal find the hours of labor all too quickly slipping away. To the latter class belongs George Just, who for long years has been a faithful and trusted employe of the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, of LaSalle.

A son of Adolph and Julia (Michaelis) Just, our subject was born in Ostrowo, province of Posen, Germany, December 7, 1843. The father, who was a surveyor in the employ of the government, died in his native land when seventy-eight years of age, and the mother departed this life at the ripe age of eighty-one years. They had six children, three sons and three daughters, and George was next to the youngest of the family.

In his boyhood George Just attended the public schools and gymnasium for six years, gaining a fair education. When sixteen and a half years of age he went to Breslau, where, as a clerk in a grocery, he served a hard apprenticeship of four years. He received no wages during this

period, and his only hours of freedom were from two to six o'clock of every fourth Sunday afternoon! He remained another year, receiving one hundred and fifty dollars and his board that year, and was allowed from two to ten o'clock in the afternoon and evening of alternate Sundays. Then he went to Berlin, where he learned the drug business, and spent a portion of his time in the mixing and compounding of paints. Here he was given two hundred dollars a year and his board, and had his evenings after seven o'clock at night; but he was not content and finally persuaded his father to allow him to come to America.

On the 17th of June, 1868, George Just embarked for New York city, where he spent three days and then continued his westward journey. Landing in Chicago, he searched for work for some ten days in vain, and was then advised to go to Mineral Point, Wisconsin. There he was unable to obtain employment, and, bethinking himself of an acquaintance who was at Peru, Illinois, he wrote to him and was urged to come to this county. His father had given him two hundred dollars, but it had melted away for necessary expenses until he had but seventeen dollars left at the time that he applied to the firm of Matthiessen & Hegeler for a position as book-keeper. He had reached Peru and for a short time had worked at house and fence painting, but he wisely decided that it would be better for him to seek for steady employment in the service of a well established, prosperous business concern. At first he was given a place as a shipping clerk, and at the end of eighteen months he was promoted to the more responsible post of night foreman in the rolling-mill. On the 5th of May, 1871, he was made general foreman of the rolling-mill department, and from that time until the present he has faithfully, punctually and creditably performed every duty devolving upon him, and no more trusted employe is on the pay-roll of the company. The habits of steadiness, sobriety and uprightness in word and deed which were formed by him during his long and severe apprenticeship in Germany have been the habits of his entire life. During the thirty-one years of his connection with the zinc-works company he has taken not more than three weeks altogether for his own pleasure and recreation, and by frugality and wise use of his earnings has acquired a competence.

In 1873 Mr. Just married Mrs. Bertha Fleischer, a widow with one child, Otto. Mrs. Just came to LaSalle in 1866. Her parents were Peter and Bertha (Rose) Remmong. She was born in Stelle, Rhine, Germany, May 30, 1847, was left motherless at ten years of age, and when fourteen came to America with a family the head of which, Mr. Pagenstecher, came to LaSalle to build the rolling mills for the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company. He was here five years, in completing the work. Mrs.

Just, came with the family as a maid in their service. In 1868 she was first married, by which union she had a son, now residing in Chicago, named Otto Fleischer. Mr. and Mrs. Just's daughter Harriet is the wife of Harry Eickoff, of Peru; and their other children are Julia and George. Their pleasant home is the abode of peace, content and happiness.

WILLIAM J. SIEGLER.

William J. Siegler, a rising young attorney of LaSalle, Illinois, is a man of push and energy whose untiring effort and perseverance have opened for him the doors of success at an age when the majority of young men are in college. He was born in this city, October 4, 1874, and is not yet twenty-six years old, although he has been practicing his profession for almost two years and is accounted shrewd, logical and clear-sighted. His parents are Bartholomew and Helen (Heltenberg) Siegler, both natives of Germany. In former years the father, a tinner by trade, was engaged in the hardware business in LaSalle, and subsequently served in the employ of the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, for over twenty years, in the capacity of tinner. For the last several years he has lived a retired life.

William J. Siegler was reared and educated in this city, attending the public schools. He then paid his own way through the St. Bede College, located near Peru, at which he graduated in 1894. He then turned to the study of law and entered the office of O'Connor, Duncan & Haskins, where he applied himself diligently to the task in hand and made rapid advancement. In the meantime, from March until December, 1896, he served as deputy circuit clerk under Daniel A. Maher, of Ottawa. The following June he was admitted to the bar and two months later opened an office in LaSalle, where he has since prosecuted the practice of his profession, steadily winning his way to the front ranks. In the spring of 1899 Mr. Siegler was elected to the office of city attorney for LaSalle, an office he now holds, his services meeting with public approval. He is a member of the LaSalle Bar Association, and is an active partisan in the cause of Democracy. In religion he is a Roman Catholic.

CHARLES A. FRANK.

The business interests of Earlville, Illinois, have an important factor in the person of Charles A. Frank, proprietor of a bakery, restaurant and confectionery.

Mr. Frank was born in Earl township, LaSalle county, Illinois, April

28, 1872, son of August H. and Ann (Cook) Frank, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Ireland. The Frank family is composed of three sons and five daughters, namely: Harriet, wife of Levi H. Norton, of Zearing, Iowa; Amanda, wife of John Norton, of the same place; Laura, of Chicago; Isadora, wife of E. Schwanz, of Somonauk, Illinois; Frederick W., of Paw Paw, Illinois; James D., of Earlville; Charles A., whose name introduces this sketch; and Mayme, of Earl township. August H. Frank, the father, was six years old when brought by his parents to America. For a number of years he lived in New York. By trade he is a carriage painter, at which he worked in the east, but on coming to Illinois he turned his attention to farming, first working on his father's farm at Somonauk. In 1871 he came to LaSalle county and settled on a farm in Earl township, one mile north of Earlville, where he made his home a few years. For the past twenty-two years he has lived in Earlville.

Frederick Frank, the grandfather of Charles A., served his time as a soldier in the German army, and after coming to this country devoted his attention to farming. He died near Somonauk, Illinois, at about the age of seventy years. His family was composed of five sons and one daughter. The maternal grandfather of our subject was William Cook. He died in Ireland, at an advanced age.

Charles A. Frank was reared in Earlville from his fourth year, receiving his education in the public schools. In November, 1895, he engaged in his present business, opening a bakery, restaurant and confectionery, and for the past four years has done a prosperous business, keeping a neat and attractive establishment and catering to a good class of trade.

As above stated, Mr. Frank has lived in Earlville ever since he was four years old, and it should be added that he has a host of friends who appreciate his many good qualities of heart and mind as well as his excellent meals and polite attention to patrons. Mr. Frank is a member of the I. O. O. F., and also belongs to the orders of Knights of the Globe and Modern Woodmen of America. Politically, like his father, he is a Democrat.

HUDSON V. CHASE.

Hudson V. Chase, the city clerk and police magistrate of Earlville, Illinois, lives on Ottawa street, and has been a resident of this place for fourteen years. A native of the Keystone state, he was born in Honesdale, Pennsylvania, May 9, 1846, a son of Cyrus and Sophronia (Suydam) Chase, natives respectively of New Hampshire and New York. Their fam-

ily comprised four sons and six daughters, of which number four are now living, namely: Isadora, widow of Alfred W. Kellogg, of Valparaiso, Indiana; Josephine L., also of Valparaiso; Cyrus Van Buren Chase, of Clayville, New York; and Hudson V., whose name introduces this sketch. The father was a manufacturer of woolen goods in the east, and later carried on a wagon-making establishment in Valparaiso, he having come west to Indiana in 1860. He died in Valparaiso in 1874, at the age of seventy-three years. His widow survived him about ten years and at the time of her death was eighty-three. Both were members of the Universalist church. He was a Republican and was at one time nominated for congress, but preferred not to enter public life and withdrew from the contest.

Turning back to another generation, we find that the paternal grandfather of the subject of this sketch was named David Chase. He was of English descent, was a native of Massachusetts, and at the time of his death was eighty years of age. He was the father of six children. The maternal grandfather of Mr. Chase was a native of Holland. On coming to this country he located in New York, where he spent the rest of his life and died at a ripe old age. His was a remarkable family. Of his fourteen children all with one exception lived to be over eighty.

Hudson V. Chase passed the first three years of his life in Pennsylvania. He then went with his parents to New York, where he lived until he was sixteen, the family home being in Oneida county. During this period he spent his winters attending the common schools. When he was sixteen he began working at the carpenter's trade in Valparaiso, and was thus occupied at the time the civil war broke out. In May, 1862, he enlisted in Company E, Fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, which became a part of the Army of the Cumberland, and he was in the service twenty-one months. Among the engagements in which he participated were the battles of Dandridge and Chickamauga and numerous skirmishes.

The war over, Mr. Chase received an honorable discharge and returned to Valparaiso, and instead of resuming work at his trade he took up the study of law, diligently pursuing the same and being admitted to the bar in 1866, and for a short time he practiced law in Valparaiso. About that time, however, the ministry seemed to have a great attraction for him, and, feeling called to preach, he left the bar for the pulpit, entering the ministry of the Universalist church. His first charge was at Franklin Grove, Illinois, where he preached one year. Afterward he was stationed at Dixon, this state, eight years; Cedar Rapids, Iowa, two years; Sycamore, Illinois, three years; and Earlville, Illinois, three years. At the end of this time he was threatened with nervous prostration, and rested for two or three years. His next work was to edit the Earlville Gazette, he being its first editor, a

position he filled two years. Since 1894 he has filled the positions of police magistrate and city clerk.

On the 1st of May, 1866, he married Miss Addie Arundle. To them were born four children,—Isadore, Herman, Hudson and Evelyn,—all living and at home except Hudson, who died at the age of ten months.

Mr. Chase belongs to McCullough Post, No. 475, G. A. R. He is a Republican.

FRED A. KOEHLER.

One of the leading carpenters, contractors and builders of Peru, LaSalle county, is Fred A. Koehler, a native of this place, his birth having occurred March 8, 1862. For nearly half a century his family has been identified with Peru and its business interests, aiding in local enterprises and materially contributing to its growth and improvement.

The parents of our subject were Albright and Elizabeth S. (Burkhart) Koehler, both of whom were born in Germany, the former in Michelstadt, Hessen, and the latter in Opergimper, Baden. Their marriage was celebrated in Peru, in 1858. The former came to the United States in 1852, and within a year or two was followed by his parents. His father, George Koehler, was a physician, and for many years was successfully engaged in practice in Peru, Henry and Chicago, Illinois. About 1854 Albright Koehler came to Peru, where for several years, or until the civil war, he was a druggist, and on November 14, 1861, he enlisted as a private in the Union army, belonging to Company A, Fifty-third Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was soon promoted from the ranks, on account of his knowledge of drugs and medicine, to the more responsible post of assistant surgeon. In the fall of 1862 he was discharged from the army because of ill health. When he returned to Peru he turned his attention again to the drug business, spending periods of time at Mendota, Peoria, Henry and Wenona, Illinois, and then again returned to Peru and took up the painter's trade, and for a number of years was employed in that line. For a long period he served as a justice of the peace, making a creditable record. A member of the Masonic fraternity and the Grand Army of the Republic, he stood high in the estimation of his comrades. He died December 1, 1891, aged fifty-three years, eight months and fifteen days. His widow, who was born August 8, 1838, and is still living, in Peru, came to this place in 1851, with her parents, John and Mary Ann (Ehrlacher) Burkhardt. Her father was a mechanic, and died in Peru in 1857; and her mother lived many years thereafter, dying in 1881. Six children, of whom two are deceased, were born to Albright Koehler and wife, namely: Louisa

W., Fred A., George C. (deceased), Emma M. H. (deceased), Leopold W. and Minnie J.

Our subject was reared in Peru and received a practical education in the public schools. When fourteen years of age he commenced serving an apprenticeship to the carpenter's trade, and spent three years in this manner. In 1885 he branched out in business on his own account, becoming a member of the firm of Utz, Sperber & Koehler. After continuing with his partners for some six or seven years he withdrew and since that time has conducted business alone. He has met with deserved success, and among the numerous buildings which stand as monuments of his skill here are the Masonic Temple, Turner Hall, the residences of C. Brunner, C. Nadler, and many other public and private structures which might be mentioned. Faithful, reliable and prompt in the execution of his contracts, he has won the high regard of his patrons and the good will of the citizens generally.

Following his father's example, Mr. Koehler is affiliated with the Democratic party, being quite independent in local politics, however. He is an honorary member of the Peru fire department and belongs to the Peru Rod & Gun Club, the society of the Turn Verein, and the Knights of Pythias. In 1882 he married Miss Elizabeth Wickert, of Peru, and of the five children who blessed their union two have been summoned to the silent land. The children's names are Elma, deceased; Fred W.; Edith, deceased; Walter and Irene. Mrs. Koehler's parents are August and Lena (Erb) Wickert, natives of Germany.

GEORGE CAMENISCH.

George Camenisch is one of the younger business men of LaSalle, Illinois, who by close application and steady, frugal habits has built up an enviable reputation in the business world, and enjoys the respect and esteem of the entire community. He was born in this city, December 17, 1868, and has always made it his home. His father, David Camenisch, was a native of Switzerland, who came to America when about ten years of age and at Peoria enlisted in the United States Army and served in the civil war as a soldier for four years. He was twice wounded,—at Champion Hill and Fort Donelson. After the war he located in LaSalle, about 1866, and, having learned the cigar-maker's trade before the war, he continued in the cigar business until his death, January 7, 1884, when he was in his forty-second year. He was married to Sophia Planner, a daughter of George Planner, a German who came to America many years ago and

settled in Peru, and whose last years were spent in the home of his grandson, our subject, where he died when about sixty-five years old.

George Camenisch attended the public schools until he was fifteen years of age, when he learned the trade of a cornice-maker, following it ever since. In 1895 he started for himself and does a large amount of contract work, putting up all kinds of roofings, steel ceilings and cornices. He is a skillful and conscientious workman who takes pride in his work. December 6, 1893, he was married to Miss Selma Schneider, a daughter of Gustave and Edith (Kolbe) Schneider. They have two children,—Adolph and George. They have a cosy home on Fourth street, where their many friends find a hearty welcome. Mr. Camenisch is a member of the LaSalle Turnverein, and in politics a strong Republican.

JAMES BROTHERTON.

James Brotherton, city treasurer and highway commissioner of LaSalle, was born in this city November 10, 1856. His parents were Henry and Marcella (Dooley) Brotherton. The grandfather of our subject, Henry Brotherton, died in his native country, England, at the age of seventy years or more. He had a large number of children, many of whom came to England, and among them the father of our subject. He came to America some time during the '40s, locating in LaSalle and working at his trade, that of engineer, for several years in the Matthiessen-Hegeler Zinc Works. He afterward worked at Oglesby and was accidentally killed on the Illinois Central Railroad about the year 1880, when forty-five years of age. He married Marcella Dooley, a native of Ireland and a daughter of James Dooley, who died in that country at an advanced age, leaving four or five children. Mrs. Brotherton is a devout Roman Catholic. Her residence is in Spring Valley. Seven children were born to her, of whom six are now living, namely: Mary Ann, wife of Charles McCarty, of Oglesby; this state; James; Alfred, of Dickey county, North Dakota; Drucilla, wife of Patrick Corcoran, of Spring Valley; Maggie, wife of William Doyle, of Spring Valley; and Katie, wife of Edward Doyle, of the same village. Their father served in the civil war under Captain Neddy.

James Brotherton attended the parochial schools of his native town, and at the early age of thirteen began learning the trade of engineer. He followed this vocation until 1894, when he met with an accident in which he had the misfortune to lose two fingers. This incapacitated him for some time and he did not again take up his trade. He was the foreman of the street improvement for some time and then was made center police. In 1893 he was elected a commissioner of highways, a position he still holds.

In 1897 he was elected to the office of city treasurer and now performs the duties of both trusts in a manner highly satisfactory to his constituents.

Mr. Brotherton was united in marriage, September 19, 1887, to Miss Mary O'Day, daughter of Patrick and Ann (Flannagan) O'Day. They were early settlers in Peru, the father coming from Ireland and the mother from Brooklyn, New York. He was a coal miner in county Mayo, where his parents died. He married Ann Flannagan, whose parents died in Brooklyn, and five children were born to them, namely: Thomas O'Day, of Westville, Illinois; Katie, unmarried and living in Centralia; Nellie, unmarried and living in Streator; Annie, wife of John Pouk, also of Streator; and Mrs. Brotherton. They were members of the Catholic church and both died in middle life,—she at the age of thirty-four, in 1882, and he at the age of forty-five, in 1893. Mr. and Mrs. Brotherton are members of the Catholic church and are highly esteemed in the community. He is a Democrat and contributes in no uncertain way to the success of the local ticket. He belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Woodmen of America.

SAMUEL HASTINGS.

For forty-five years Samuel Hastings has been numbered among the influential citizens and leading business men of Mendota, but is now living retired. As a representative of commercial circles he has borne an important part in securing the material development and substantial progress of the city with which his family name has so long been interwoven. The substantial residence which is to-day his home, located at the corner of Monroe and Michigan streets, was erected by his father in 1854, and is thus one of the landmarks of the town.

Samuel Hastings was born in Moorfield, Harrison county, Ohio, September 11, 1829, and traces his ancestry back to John Hastings, who was a native of Ireland, but of English descent. He came to the United States, locating in Harrison county, in 1822, and there continued his accustomed vocation of farming. His death occurred when he was about seventy-two years of age. His brothers, Thomas and James, accompanied him to this country, the former settling near Washington, Pennsylvania, while the latter became a resident of Jefferson county, Ohio.

The Hon. John Hastings, a son of John Hastings, the emigrant, and the father of Samuel Hastings, of this review, was born in Inniskillen, Ireland, and was one of five children. In 1822 he came to these hospitable shores with his father and for some time pursued his studies in a seminary



Samuel Hastings

in Mount Pleasant, Ohio, while later he engaged in teaching for several years. After his marriage he settled upon a farm which his father gave him, and a few years later embarked in the mercantile business near Cadiz, Ohio. After managing that enterprise with ability for a number of years he was nominated and elected to the state senate, where he served his constituents with credit for two terms. For a long period he was a justice of the peace, and in 1850 he held the office of census enumerator. In 1854 he came to Illinois and was associated with his son Samuel in the dry goods and lumber business in Mendota until his death, which occurred September 12, 1857, when he was fifty-three years of age. He married Miss Jane Knox, who was born in Stribane, county Tyrone, Ireland, a daughter of Samuel Knox, a wealthy gentleman who was born and reared in Scotland and became connected with agricultural pursuits. That he carried on an extensive business may be inferred from the fact that he employed thirty servants. About 1817 he came to the United States, locating in Harrison county, Ohio, where he died at the age of seventy-six years. He was one of the typical "old-school" gentlemen, quiet and severe in manner and a strict Presbyterian in religious faith. For a number of years he was an elder in the church and took an active part in its work. Mrs. Jane Hastings, together with her five brothers and sisters, were reared in the same belief, but in her later years she identified herself with the Methodist denomination, to which Mr. Hastings likewise belonged. She preceded her husband to the better land, dying January 9, 1855, when in her fiftieth year.

Samuel Hastings, whose name introduces this review, is one of twelve children, seven of whom were sons. The surviving members of the family are: Mary Ann, a resident of Lee county, Illinois; Jane, of Mendota; Mariah, widow of S. Newton Barton, who died during the civil war; Harry, of Lee county, Illinois; and James, of Seattle, Washington. They were reared upon the paternal homestead in Harrison county, Ohio, and in the town where their father carried on business, and were provided with good educational advantages. John Hastings, the eldest brother of our subject, was associated with him in business in an early day, and died in Mendota, in 1858, at the age of thirty-two years.

After he had completed the common-school course, Samuel Hastings entered the commercial college in Columbus, Ohio, where he obtained a knowledge of business forms and banking. In 1853 he came to Mendota, while upon an inspecting tour seeking a settlement in a desirable location. Pleased with this town, he returned to his native state and the following June, accompanied by other members of his father's household, took up his abode in the city which has since been his place of residence. He was associated with his father in the dry-goods business until the latter's death,

and afterward accepted a clerkship in the employ of W. T. Black, under the firm name of W. T. Black & Company. In 1867 Mr. Hastings withdrew, and as a member of the firm of W. F. Corbus & Company was engaged in the drug business until 1876, when he bought out the interest of the senior partner and continued alone in the enterprise for eighteen years. In 1894 the firm became Hastings & Wylie by the admission of Robert A. Wylie to the business, and finally, in December, 1898, after this extremely long and successful commercial career, Mr. Hastings sold out his interest and has since practically lived a retired life. He owns a valuable farm of eighty acres situated about ten miles north of the town and has other property and investments which yield good returns.

In 1865 Mr. Hastings was appointed and afterward elected secretary and treasurer of the Mendota Cemetery Association, which was organized several years ago, but to him was left the task of systematizing the business. He has since continued in this office, and to his ability and excellent business ideas may be largely attributed the development, extension and adorning of this beautiful city of the dead. During the war Mr. Hastings was an ardent worker in the Union League of America, which organization was formed to encourage loyalty to the Union and give aid and succor to the loyal citizens throughout the land and to further promote the general welfare of the public and to furnish such aid to the Union soldiers as they needed in the way of clothing, shelter, food and other supplies. In the interest of the league Mr. Hastings labored very actively and effectively, and was a warm friend of the Union cause.

In his political affiliations he is a stalwart Republican, unswerving in the principles of the party. For years he has been a leading member of the Mendota Lodge, No. 176, F. and A. M., Mendota Chapter, No. 79, R. A. M., and Bethany Commandery, No. 28, K. T. He and his sister, Jane K., live together in the old family residence, which has sheltered them for so many years. They have the care of two nephews,—Harry Hastings Wright and Roy Knox Wright,—whose parents are deceased. Miss Hastings is a lady of excellent education and amiable qualities, and an active member of the Methodist church. Both she and her brother have many friends, and are highly esteemed by all who enjoy their acquaintance.

RALPH O. DUPEE.

The Dupee family, so well known and highly esteemed in Earlville and LaSalle county, is one of the honored early families of New England, it having been established in Boston in 1685 by Jean Dupuy (as the name was originally spelled), who fled from La Rochelle, France, his own loved

country, to America, on account of the persecution of the Huguenots. His descendants continued to dwell in the land which had been such a kind foster mother to him, and in the opening year of this century Jacob Dupee was born in Boston. He learned the tailor's trade and during the last years of his life dwelt in Earlville and Chicago with his children, four of his sons having lived to maturity. He died in this town in 1879, when nearly four-score years of age. His wife was of Scotch-English extraction, one branch of her family dating back to the historic Mayflower.

One of the sons just mentioned was Ralph Oscar Dupee, who was born in West Brookfield, Massachusetts, April 23, 1846, and was reared with his three elder brothers,—Charles A., for years one of the prominent lawyers of Chicago; Jacob A., of Earlville, with whom he was engaged in business for more than twenty years; and Henry H., for the past ten years a resident of Paola, Florida. The great civil war claimed the anxious attention of Ralph O. Dupee as he was approaching maturity, and though he was young he enlisted in the Forty-second Massachusetts Infantry and served for four months, in the Army of the Potomac, when the terrible conflict was finished.

As early as 1854 one of the Dupee brothers came to the west, and as the years rolled away his example was followed by the other members of the family. After his army service, R. O. Dupee came to Illinois and for a period dwelt at Augusta. In 1867 he came to Earlville and entered into business with his brothers Jacob and Henry, the latter of whom withdrew from the firm in 1871, on account of poor health. The other brothers continued successfully engaged in the same enterprise until the death of Ralph O. Dupee, in the spring of 1895. He was the vice-president of the Earlville Bank for several years, and was the president of the board of education two terms. The patriotic spirit which led to his enlistment in the defense of the Union always governed him, and few are more sincere in desiring the welfare of the public and the land of freedom. He was an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and in his religious belief he adhered to the staunch old Congregational creed of his forefathers. During a period of years he served as the church clerk, treasurer, trustee and superintendent, and his place in the congregation has indeed been hard to fill. The entire community felt that it had suffered an irreparable loss when he was so suddenly stricken, but his example and the ennobling influence of his manly life endures and will endure for many years to come. In all of his relations, in the business world, in the church and the Grand Army of the Republic, in the social and home circles, he was loved and admired for his truly superior qualities of mind and heart. His uniform courtesy and kindness, his generosity and considerateness, won the respect

of the most casual acquaintance and endeared him forever to those who knew him intimately. His widow, whose maiden name was Sarah Cone, is still a resident of Earlville. She was born in Rhode Island and is of Scotch-English descent. Her father, Rev. William Cone, was a native of New Hampshire, and was a minister of the Methodist denomination. At a very early day he came to Illinois, where he preached the gospel until he was well advanced in years. He died in Earlville and left three children to mourn his loss.

Mrs. Dupee, soon after her marriage, joined the Congregational church, and in church matters has ever taken an active interest. She is the mother of one daughter and three sons, namely: Ella, Walter R., Frank W. and John.

WALTER R. DUPEE.

Walter Ralph Dupee, the son of Ralph O. and Sarah (Cone) Dupee, was born in Earlville, November 9, 1875, has passed his entire life here and is thoroughly identified with its welfare. He received a liberal education in the local public schools, and completed a thorough course of study in the higher branches of learning at the Beloit (Wisconsin) College. After the death of his father he returned home and at once sought to master the business which had been brought to such a successful standing by his father and uncle. He remained with his uncle in the business for two years, at the end of which time he became the sole proprietor and is now managing his affairs with marked ability.

Following in the political footsteps of his respected father, he is a stanch Republican. Fraternally, he is connected with the Knights of the Globe, which lodge in Earlville was named in honor of his father, Ralph O. Dupee. He also belongs to the Phi Kappa Psi, of Beloit College. He is a member of the Congregational church, and is actively interested in all worthy religious and philanthropic enterprises.

ANTON KELLENBACH.

Anton Kellenbach, who was for many years one of Peru's influential business men, and is now living practically retired, is a native of Germany, his birth having occurred in Prussia, August 15, 1820. He is a son of Anton and Katherine (Schwartz) Kellenbach, and is the only survivor of the family, in which there were ten brothers and sisters. The father was a farmer by occupation, and but little is remembered of him by our

subject, who was but four years of age at the time of the death of his senior. The wife and mother died when she was about seventy-five years of age. Both were Catholics in their religious faith.

In his youth our subject was a student in the common schools of his native land, and later he learned the stone-mason's trade. In 1854 he sailed for America, where he believed that greater opportunities for advancement awaited him, and since that year he has made his home in Peru. For a quarter of a century he was in the employ of the Rock Island Railroad Company, engaged in the construction of bridges. Then for several years he was variously employed, and for about three years past has taken charge of the stables of the Union Star Brewing Company, of Peru. As a citizen his record has been exemplary, and he has been actively interested in the promotion of whatever he believed to be of permanent benefit to this community. In his political attitude he is a staunch Republican.

The marriage of Mr. Kellenbach and Miss Margaret Birkenbeuel was solemnized February 18, 1849, in Prussia. She is a daughter of Peter William and Anna Fay (Heinmann) Birkenbeuel. Ten children were born to our subject and wife—seven sons and three daughters—namely: William, Peter, Henry, Albert, William E., Henry, Lena, Emma, and two others. Only three of the number are now living,—Lena, William E. and Henry. Lena became the wife of H. M. Gallagher, who was a prominent citizen of Peru, and whose death occurred some eleven years ago. They became the parents of three children,—Kate Murray, Harry Milton and William Hamilton. William E. Kellenbach is represented in the next article. He is a leading citizen of La Salle, is married and has four children,—Eddie, Lillie, Anabelle and Willie. Henry Kellenbach also is married, and has two children,—Henrietta and Margaret.

WILLIAM E. KELLENBACH.

In any line of business, success comes to the conscientious worker and not to the undeserving: it comes as the direct reward of earnest, painstaking endeavor, of skill and well applied energy. Even in this day of sometimes suddenly acquired fortunes, it appears that the old decree in regard to winning one's bread by the "sweat of his face" is as much in force as ever, and that to the majority of men a livelihood must be earned by hard, honest toil. Thus it has been in the case of the subject of this article, who has manfully discharged his duties and thereby has won the regard of the public.

The parents of William E. Kellenbach, Anton and Margaret (Birkenbeuel) Kellenbach, are represented in the preceding article. Born in Peru, LaSalle county, September 22, 1861, our subject has passed his entire life in this section of the state. In attendance at the public schools of his native town the years sped away rapidly until he was about fifteen, when he began learning the blacksmith's trade, to which calling he has ever since devoted himself. In 1882 he opened a shop upon his own account, making a specialty of fine horse-shoeing. In 1886 he came to LaSalle, where he established himself in business, his shop being at the corner of Joliet and Second streets. This immediate region is noted for the splendid race and driving horses which are raised here, and Mr. Kellenbach has been fortunate in securing the business, or the major portion of it, of shoeing this fine stock. In his line he is an acknowledged expert, and by his skill in fitting the proper kind of shoes numerous defects of otherwise excellent horses are permanently overcome.

For fourteen years Mr. Kellenbach has been actively connected with the fire departments of Peru and LaSalle, seven years in each place, and for the past two years has been the fire marshal of this city. Moreover, he is the superintendent of the city electric-light plant, and in both of these responsible positions is rendering the public effective service. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, and to the Royal Arcanum, and in politics is a Democrat.

On the 7th of December, 1882, the marriage of Mr. Kellenbach and Miss Anna Broemer, a daughter of George and Dora Broemer, was solemnized in Peru. Two sons and two daughters have blessed their union, namely: Edwin, Lillian, William and Anabelle. The family residence is pleasantly located at the corner of Third and Joliet streets, Mr. Kellenbach having purchased the property about two years ago.

JACOB KUNEY.

One of the venerable citizens of LaSalle county is Jacob Kuney, now living retired in the pretty town of Earlville. Though now well along in years, he comes of families noted for longevity, and doubtless will live to see many years of the new century so near at hand. Both of his grandfathers were soldiers in the war of the Revolution, and patriotism has been a notable characteristic of all of his relatives.

The Kuneys are of German descent, as the name indicates, but several generations have resided in America; and the grandfather of our subject, for whom he was named, was a Pennsylvania farmer, the father of a large

family. Of these children, Samuel Kuney, a native of the same state, was engaged in farming in Perry county, Pennsylvania, until his death, at the age of sixty-five years. His wife, Mary, daughter of Jacob Bergstresser, survived him, attaining the age of eighty-six years. She, too, was a Pennsylvanian, though her father was a native of Germany. He was eighty-six years old at death, but his wife lived to be six months over one hundred years of age! For many years he served as the clerk of the county court, but the chief business of his life was agriculture. In religion the Kuneys were originally Lutherans, but later identified themselves with the Methodist church. Of the five sons and five daughters of Samuel and Mary Kuney, but three are now living, namely, our subject; Sarah, of Jackson, Minnesota, widow of John Bergstresser; and Daniel, of Baker, Kansas.

The birth of Jacob Kuney took place in Perry county, Pennsylvania, November 29, 1816, and when twenty years of age he left home and went to Niagara county, New York. At the time of the Canadian rebellion he was called into military service, but at the end of two weeks was allowed to resume his accustomed vocation. In 1838 he was married, and for a period was occupied in farming, later learning the blacksmith's trade, which he pursued about four years. In 1847 he went to Waukesha, Wisconsin, accompanied by his wife and three children. Locating near the town, he continued to reside there for twenty years, at the end of which time he sold his farm of three hundred and twenty acres and removing to Winneshiek county, Iowa, invested in one thousand acres of land. Two years later, in 1869, he divided six hundred acres of this tract among his children, and, selling the remainder, came to LaSalle county. Here he bought four hundred acres of land in Earl township, and subsequently disposing of this property he purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres situated about a mile north of Earlville. This place he still owns, though he rents it and makes his home in Earlville, in the enjoyment of well earned rest from toil.

As previously noted, Mr. Kuney was married in 1838, the lady of his choice being Miss Amanda, daughter of Joshua and Laodicea (Cotton) Slayton. Six children were born to our subject and wife. The eldest son, Cassius M. Clay, was graduated in the Bryant & Stratton Business College, and at seventeen years of age enlisted in the Union army, serving with distinguished bravery from the beginning to the close of the war of the Rebellion. He wedded Miss Ellen Guthrie and has five children,—Inez, Edith, Ralph, Carl and Max. The family is now living in Wasco, Oregon. Garrett Smith, the younger son, married Miss Alice Boozle, and is a resident of Earlville, his occupation being that of a farmer. He has five chil-

dren,—Perry, Cora, Harry, Mabel and Agnes. Mary, the oldest daughter of our subject, now living at White City, Kansas, is the wife of Horace Harmon, and is the mother of four living sons,—Joseph, Horace, Guy and Ernest. Emeline, the second daughter, married Joseph Gauthie, of Waukesha, Wisconsin. Desire married Ellis T. White, of Earlville, and their children are Eria, Archie, Laura, Sadie, Radley, Clyde and Ralph. Josephine D. wedded Henry Boozle, a farmer, now of Des Moines, Iowa, and their children are: Grace, Angie, Kittie, Myrtle, Louise, John and Harry. Altogether, Mr. and Mrs. Kuney have thirty-nine grandchildren and thirty-one great-grandchildren; and it is a remarkable fact that of all their descendants only six have passed to the silent land.

For many years Mr. and Mrs. Kuney have been devoted members of the Congregational church. Politically he is a Republican, and though he has never desired public office he has served as township assessor four times, thrice in succession when he was living in Wisconsin, and once while in Earl township. In all of his relations with his fellow men, Mr. Kuney has been honorable and just, winning the respect of every one, and to his children he will leave what is better far than riches, the record of an exemplary life.

THADDEUS RUDE.

Thaddeus Rude, who for more than three decades has been one of the honored citizens of Mendota, was one of the sturdy frontiersmen who came to this state when it was a wilderness and paved the way for the civilization and prosperity of later years. Nobly did he perform his part in the development of its resources, and never for a moment has his interest in its future diminished or weakened.

Mr. Rude is a fitting example of the self-made man,—one who by the inherent force of his character has acquired an enviable name and place among the business men and capitalists of his generation. Doubtless he is indebted largely to his upright New England ancestors for much of what is finest in his nature, and certainly the influences which were brought to bear upon him in the impressible days of his childhood cannot be overestimated. He was named in honor of his grandfather, Thaddeus Rude, who was of Scotch-Irish descent, and was born in Salem, Massachusetts, in which state many generations of his family had lived and died. His death took place when he was but little past the prime of life, the event occurring in Ashfield, Massachusetts, in 1826. Of his several children four grew to maturity. His widow survived him many years, dying when nearly ninety years of age. The maternal grandfather of our subject, David Vincent, a native of Cape



Theodore R. Rude



Emily Rude

Cod, was a hero of the Revolutionary war, and was one of Washington's valiant band of dauntless patriots who suffered the untold hardships of that dreadful winter at Valley Forge. In his early life he was a sailor, but his last years were quietly spent at Ashfield, his death taking place when he was seventy years of age. He had three daughters and several sons, the latter becoming substantial, respected business men, and one of the number, John, serving in the Massachusetts legislature for two or three terms with credit.

The parents of our subject were Thaddeus and Betsy (Vincent) Rude, both natives of the Bay state. The former was engaged in the clothing business at Haydenville, New York, in his early manhood, and later turned his attention to agriculture, carrying on a farm in Franklin county, Massachusetts. Death cut short his career when he was in his prime, as he was but thirty-nine years of age when he died, in 1833. His widow survived him many years, and in 1856 came to Illinois. Thenceforth she resided at the home of her daughter Mary, in Bureau county, dying in 1886, at the extreme age of ninety-three. Mr. Rude was a man of prominence in his community, and at various times was called upon to serve in local offices, among others that of selectman. Both he and his honored wife were active workers in the Congregational church, and always stood ready to support all enterprises which they deemed worthy. They were the parents of eight children, four of whom were sons. Those who survive are Thaddeus; Hannah, wife of Rev. William McCulloch, of Red Oak, Iowa; Mary, widow of Lorenzo Whitney, of Williams Station, Illinois; David, of Mendota; and Harriet, wife of Joseph Hawks, of Williams Station.

The birth of Thaddeus Rude took place in Ashfield, Massachusetts, February 24, 1822. He was reared upon a farm, and with true Yankee spirit he mastered agriculture and kindred occupations. In 1849 he determined to seek a fortune in what then was the new west. Coming to Bureau county, Illinois, he bought eighty acres of prairie land, and within a short time disposed of that property, which was situated in Berlin township, and removed to La Moille township. There he purchased a quarter section of land for five hundred and forty dollars, and industriously set about increasing its desirability and value. The country was very wild, the deer coming and eating out of his corn cribs, and the wolves frequently howling upon the doorsteps of his house. In time, as he prospered, he added to his original homestead until it comprised four hundred acres, and in 1867 he sold the original quarter section for eleven thousand dollars. He then removed to this county, and since then has made his home in Mendota, where he is highly esteemed as a citizen of enterprise and true public spirit. For about three years he and his partner, Frederick Schroeder, were engaged in the

grain business, and managed an elevator which they erected. Mendota was a great grain market at that time, much greater than it is to-day, and the firm did an extensive business. After selling out his interest to Mr. Schroeder, Mr. Rude turned his attention to real estate, and for years has handled fine farm lands in this and other western states, meeting with success. At one time he owned land in five or six counties in Iowa, some four thousand acres altogether, and at present he has twenty-five hundred acres in the county of Hamilton alone. Beginning his business career in this state with a capital of barely five hundred dollars, he gradually accumulated a fortune, by adherence to the recognized rules of legitimate trade, and is to-day a man of means and influence,—an example entirely worthy of being held up to the ambitious young man now starting out in commercial life.

When a resident of Bureau county Mr. Rude acted in the capacity of road commissioner, but aside from this he never has acted in official positions. He is an ardent Republican, and has endeavored to perform his entire duty as becomes a patriotic American, giving due attention to the great questions of the day.

On the 11th of January, 1844, the marriage of Thaddeus Rude and Keziah, daughter of Rufus and Keziah (Hall) Hall, was solemnized. She departed this life November 17, 1893, aged seventy-one years and four months. For almost half a century she had been a faithful helpmate, loyally aiding her husband in his early struggles to make a livelihood and place in the business world, and her memory is cherished by a host of her old friends. Religiously she was a Congregationalist. On the 2d of June, 1895, Mr. Rude and Mrs. Emily Fisher, widow of Clement Fisher, were united in wedlock. She is a daughter of Henry and Mary (Leatherby) Ham, natives of Somersetshire, England, and both now deceased. Mrs. Rude had four children by her first marriage,—three who died in infancy, and Carrie, wife of Charles Thelo, Jr., of Mendota, Illinois. The latter have three children,—Eda, Earl and Fred. Mrs. Rude is a member of the Church of England, and is interested in all movements calculated to uplift and benefit humanity.

JOHN OVER.

The village of Leonore, LaSalle county, Illinois, includes among its leading and prosperous citizens the subject of this sketch, John Over, a Prussian by birth and an American by adoption. It was less than ten years ago that he left his native land, and since his arrival here we find him rushing into financial independence at a remarkable speed and succeeding

in business at an age when most men have either made their stake or have retired from the arena in despair.

John Over was born in the province of Prussia, February 28, 1858, the son of Henry Over, a farmer. Selecting the trade of carpenter, John served an apprenticeship therein and followed that branch of mechanics as a business while he remained in Prussia. Being influenced by relatives and friends who had come to this country, he decided to try his fortunes here, and accordingly, in company with Conrad Eschbach, he set sail from Bremen, Germany, in 1890, on the ill-fated steamship *Elbe*. Arrived in New York, he came west to Illinois, and the first two years of his residence here he spent in work at his trade. Then, with a small capital, he began business as a merchant in Leonore. October 1, 1892, was the date of his debut as a "kaufman," and the popularity of his place of business is a fact noted by all who have in any way come in contact with it.

Mr. Over is a man of family. He was married April 25, 1893, to Miss Anna Berninger, whose father, Alexander Berninger, was a Prussian emigrant to LaSalle county. They have two children,—John and Alvis.

GEORGE W. PITZER.

Among the early settlers of LaSalle county, Illinois, was William Pitzer, a native of Licking county, Ohio, who was born September 23, 1809, came west in 1831 and took up his abode on the frontier. He was a son of Richard Pitzer, a major in the war of 1812 and a man noted for his bravery in battle. William Pitzer married Miss Sarah Kite, daughter of Adam Kite, a native of Ohio. She was born March 10, 1810. Their union was blessed in the birth of seven children, namely: Alva, a resident of South Dakota; George W., whose name forms the heading of this sketch; Jacob, a resident of Lyon county, Kansas; David, also of Lyon county, Kansas; Elizabeth, wife of Robert Lane, of Chebanse, Illinois; Julia, wife of B. F. Fuller, of Lyon county, Kansas, and Malinda J., wife of L. J. Grove, of Miller township, LaSalle county, Illinois. William Pitzer was a farmer all his life and lived to the ripe old age of seventy-four years, his death occurring January 19, 1884, on his farm. His wife's death occurred March 21, 1887, also at the age of seventy-four years. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

George W. Pitzer was born in LaSalle county, Illinois, July 27, 1837; was reared on his father's farm, and has always made this county his home and given his attention to agricultural pursuits. His present farm, a fine tract of two hundred acres, he purchased in 1889. This farm is one of

the best improved and most highly cultivated in the locality, its general appearance at once giving evidence of the fact that its owner is a progressive, up-to-date farmer.

The grandson of a valiant soldier, George Pitzer, when the civil war came on, showed his patriotism by offering his services to his country. He enlisted in 1862 and was assigned to the One Hundred and Fourth Illinois Infantry, under Colonel Moore and Lieutenant Hapeman, and served three years. He was in the battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, and during his army life spent six months in hospital. At the close of the war he returned home and resumed farming.

Mr. Pitzer was married in 1866 to Miss Elmira Grove, daughter of Joseph Grove, deceased (see sketch of Jesse Grove), and who previous to her marriage was a teacher. They are the parents of four children: Elma, wife of James McMichael; and Harry, May and Earl, at home.

Like most veterans of the civil war, Mr. Pitzer is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Politically he casts his vote and influence with the Democratic party.

TERRY SIMMONS.

For almost a quarter of a century Terry Simmons has been identified with the journalistic circle of LaSalle county, and in consequence is widely known. He is a gentleman of marked ability and wide information, is devoted to the best interests of the county and state, and uses his influence on behalf of good government and all that goes toward the elevation of his fellow-men.

Several generations ago the ancestors of our subject emigrated from Scotland and Ireland to the United States, and his paternal grandfather, Morris Simmons, was a native of New York state. The birth of Terry Simmons occurred in Shabbona, De Kalb county, Illinois, September 26, 1855. His parents, M. M. and Phylance (Terry) Simmons, were natives of the Empire state, and there were reared to maturity. They came to Illinois in 1835, and in 1870 removed to Marseilles.

The school days of Terry Simmons were passed in the town of his birth, Leland and Marseilles. It was his privilege to attend Jennings Seminary at Aurora, Illinois, for some time, and upon the completion of his studies he was employed in the post-office here under D. H. Slagle, serving for six years as deputy. In the Centennial year he founded the Marseilles Plaindealer, and eighteen years later, November 28, 1894, purchased the

Seneca Record, both of which papers he has published ever since. They are issued weekly, on Fridays, and are extensively circulated throughout the county. Devoted first and foremost to the interests of their respective communities, county news and other information also find a place in their columns. Personally, Mr. Simmons is a Republican in national affairs, but is thoroughly independent in local elections, favoring the most suitable candidate and best principle, regardless of party lines.

June 12, 1879, the marriage of Mr. Simmons and Miss Julia Thompson was celebrated at Leland, Illinois, and their union has been blessed with four sons and three daughters. Mrs. Simmons is a daughter of Henry and Minnie Thompson, of Leland.

FRANK E. STATES.

A representative farmer of the younger class is Frank E. States, who owns and occupies the States homestead and farm on section 33, Miller township, LaSalle county, Marseilles being his post-office address. He was born in Grundy county, this state, December 31, 1863, and is descended from ancestors who were among the early settlers of Pennsylvania. Emanuel States, his father, was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, May 6, 1823, a son of Abraham and Rebecca States. The mother of our subject was before her marriage Miss Elenora Lysinger, and she was born September 9, 1828, in Bedford county, Pennsylvania. Emanuel and Elenora States were the parents of twelve children, nine of whom are living at this writing,—six sons and three daughters. Their mother died April 9, 1876, and their father was married a second time, to Mrs. Eliza Coats, of Lewis county, New York, who died September 8, 1897, he surviving her till March 9, 1899, dying in the seventy-sixth year of his age.

Frank E. States was a child two years of age when his parents moved from Grundy county to LaSalle county, and here he was reared, on his father's farm, dividing his boyhood days between working on the farm and attending the public schools. He now owns the home farm, a valuable tract of one hundred and sixty acres, on section 33 of Miller township. December 24, 1889, he was married to Miss Rhoda M. Drackley, who was born in this county August 28, 1867, a daughter of William and Cornelia H. (Gauge) Drackley. William Drackley was born in England May 22, 1835, and his wife in Schenectady county, New York, January 17, 1837, and are the parents of four children,—three sons and one daughter,—all of whom are living. Mrs. States was reared on her father's farm near

Seneca, LaSalle county, receiving a common-school education, and prior to her marriage was engaged in teaching school.

Politically Mr. States is a Republican and at present a member of the school board of his district.

BART SIEGLER.

Bart Siegler, agent for the United States and American Express Companies at LaSalle, Illinois, was born in Sublette, LaSalle county, this state, December 12, 1864, a son of Bartholomew and Helen (Heltenberg) Siegler, both natives of Germany. When he was five years old his parents moved to LaSalle, and here he was reared and educated, having the benefit of the public schools. At the age of fifteen he left school and began hustling for himself. First his attention was directed to the tinner's trade, at which he worked about six years. Next he became driver for the United States Express Company and two years later was given the position of express messenger for the same company, with the run out of Peoria. Later he was made night agent at the depot at Peoria, which position he filled one year, then being given day service. In July, 1894, he was sent back to LaSalle, as agent for the company. In November, 1897, when the American and United States Express Companies combined their business, he was retained in the service, doing the business for both, and this position he still fills. Mr. Siegler is an enterprising young business man, prompt and faithful in the discharge of his duties, and that his efficient services are appreciated by his employers is evidenced by his long continuance with them.

In 1892 Mr. Siegler married Miss Katie Berghardt, and they have one child, Helen. He and his wife are members of the Roman Catholic church, and politically he is a Democrat, not, however, taking an active part in politics.

HOSMER C. CHAPMAN.

The Chapmans are a family that have long been identified with LaSalle county, Illinois, and occupying a representative place among them is the subject of this sketch, Hosmer C. Chapman, who is engaged in farming in Miller township, Marseilles being his post-office address.

Hiram W. Chapman, the father of Hosmer C., was one of the pioneer settlers of the county. He was born in East Bloomfield, Ontario county, New York, January 16, 1824, son of Amasa Chapman and his wife, whose

maiden name was Emily D. Cooley. She was born in Canandaigua, New York, July 4, 1799, and he in Hancock, Massachusetts, September 29, 1793. He died April 27, 1836, and she passed away April 30, 1842.

Hiram W. Chapman grew to manhood in New York and was there married, January 23, 1849, the lady of his choice being Miss Ann E. Davis, daughter of Cornelius Davis. Mrs. Chapman was born and reared in Victor, Ontario county, New York, and was a woman of great strength of character.

In 1854 she accompanied her husband to Illinois and the following year they purchased a farm in LaSalle county, its location being in Miller township, and here they reared their family and passed the rest of their lives. She died at the homestead in February, 1882, at the age of fifty-three years, and he survived her until March 1, 1898, when he died at the age of seventy-four. Politically he was a Republican, interested in public affairs, and for a number of years served as a member of the school board and also filled other local offices. Mrs. Chapman was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. They reared to maturity five children, four sons and one daughter, namely: George H., Hosmer C., Della Lucina, Frank O. and Otis L. The daughter died in 1880, at the age of twenty-two years.

Hosmer C. Chapman was born March 16, 1853, and was eighteen months old when his parents moved to Miller township, and consequently has never known any other home than this. He was reared on his father's farm, receiving his education in the schools of the district, and since he reached adult years he has carried on farming operations on his own account. He has lived on his present farm nine years. This farm, known to many as the "Jesse Mick Farm," is well improved with modern residence and other good farm buildings, and its cultivated fields and general appearance at once indicate that a prosperous, energetic man is at the head of its operations.

Mr. Chapman was married February 14, 1878, to Miss Clara M. Snyder, of Manlius township, LaSalle county, daughter of John and Sarah (Petefish) Snyder, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively. To Mr. and Mrs. Chapman were born two children,—Mabel June, born May 24, 1882, and Arthur Jay, born November 29, 1887.

Mr. and Mrs. Snyder came to LaSalle county, Illinois, in 1854, and here spent the rest of their lives and died, his death occurring when he was sixty-four years of age; hers at seventy-four. Both were members of the Christian church. They were the parents of nine children, five of whom are now living, namely: Samuel, a veteran of the civil war, is now a resident of Springfield, Missouri; Mrs. Francis Battles, of Perry, Iowa; Maggie,

wife of G. A. Willmarth, of Miller township, LaSalle county; Clara M., wife of our subject; and John N., of Farnam, Dawson county, Nebraska.

The deceased members of the family were: William, who was a soldier in the civil war, and who died in Dallas county, Iowa; Tabitha, who was the wife of C. N. Rolph, of Miller township; Sarah E., who was the wife of W. A. Harris, of Perry, Iowa; and Emma E., who was the wife of F. O. Chapman of Miller township.

Mr. Chapman gives his support to the Republican party, and is now serving as a member of the school board. He is fraternally identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, having membership in Chapter No. 258, of Marseilles.

OTIS L. CHAPMAN.

Otis L. Chapman, whose farm is located on section 33, Miller township, LaSalle county, Illinois, is a native of the township in which he lives and is ranked with its respected and influential citizens.

Mr. Chapman's father, Hiram Chapman, deceased, was a native of East Bloomfield, Ontario county, New York, where he was born January 16, 1824, the son of Amasa Chapman, a native of Hancock, Massachusetts. The latter was born September 29, 1793, and died April 27, 1836. His wife, who was before marriage Miss Emily D. Cooley, was born July 4, 1799, and died April 30, 1842. They both lived and died in New York state.

Their son Hiram grew to manhood in New York, and was there married, on January 23, 1849, the lady of his choice being Miss Ann E. Davis, daughter of Cornelius Davis, a native of New England. In 1854 the young married couple came west to Illinois and the following year settled in Miller township, LaSalle county, where they resided until death. She died at the age of fifty-three years and his age at death was seventy-four.

They were the parents of seven children, and of these four sons and a daughter grew to maturity, namely: George H., of Odell, Illinois; Hosmer C., of Miller township, LaSalle county; Della Lucina, who died in 1880, at the age of twenty-two years; Frank O., of Miller township; and Otis L.

Otis L. Chapman was born, October 29, 1863, on his father's farm, and received his education in the public schools of the district. While at home he always found plenty to do, assisting in the farm work and the care of stock, his father having one of the largest stock farms in the county, and thus young Chapman early became so familiar with every detail of

the work that he was fitted to take charge of a farm of his own. He now has a large stock farm and is conducting his operations successfully.

Mr. Chapman was married January 15, 1890, to Miss Martha Jane Hohenshell, daughter of Daniel and Catherine (Waltz) Hohenshell, of Grundy county, Illinois. They have three children,—William Henry, born March 11, 1891; Hiram Wesley, born February 23, 1892; and Della Catherine, born April 8, 1895.

Mr. Chapman is a Republican, and is at present serving as a member of the school board.

JOHN D. HARBER.

John D. Harber, an ex-soldier and prominent farmer of LaSalle county, Illinois, is a resident of Otter Creek township. He was born June 19, 1847, in Champaign county, Ohio, and is a son of Elijah and Francis (Waller) Harber. The grandfather, Elisha Harber, Sr., resided in the state of Ohio, where the father of our subject was born and grew to manhood. Elisha, the grandfather, fought in the war of 1812, and died at the age of eighty years. The lady whom he married was formerly Miss Francis Waller, a native of Logan county, Ohio. They had three sons and two daughters, John D., our subject, being the eldest. Franklyn, Mary Anne and Amandy Jane, the youngest child, are deceased. Elisha resides at Fort Madison, Iowa, Mary Anne Fordery in the state of Missouri, and Willard at Fort Madison. The father was a Democrat. He died in Indiana, at the age of sixty-seven years and his wife at the age of fifty-five.

John D. Harber was educated in Indiana, about twenty-five miles from Fort Wayne, where he remained until the breaking out of the rebellion. Although but sixteen years of age he at once enlisted in Company D, Captain McDonald, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Indiana Volunteers, under Colonel Case, and for eighteen months saw active service, taking part in some sharp battles, among which were the battles of Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Jonesboro, all in Georgia, and Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee. He received a severe wound in the hip and was honorably discharged in 1865, when he returned to his old home in Indiana. He has a kindly interest in the "boys in blue" who took part in that struggle, and they are sure of meeting a hearty welcome from him. Post No. 68, G. A. R., of Streator, Illinois, claims him as an honored member.

He was married in 1867, in Whitley county, Indiana, to Miss Marilla Pimlot, a daughter of Joseph Pimlot. Five children have blessed their union, viz.: Wallace, who married Miss Hattie Hillison and resides in

this township; and Arthur, who married Miss Ida Cooper and resides also in this township; Emma, the wife of Richard Hilgert, also of this township; and Anna and Ralph. Mr. Harber is a staunch Republican and takes a prominent part in the politics of his county. He was the efficient road commissioner of Otter Creek township, for three years, and has done creditable work in improving the highways in a permanent manner; and he is the deputy sheriff of LaSalle county. He is quiet and retiring in disposition rather than aggressive, and his many excellent traits of character have caused him to be highly esteemed.

Joseph Pimlot was born in Chesterfield, England, and enlisted in the English army and was captured on Lake Erie, September 10, 1813, by Commodore Perry. After he was released as prisoner he moved to Akron, Ohio, where he was married, and to this union five children were born,—three sons and two daughters: The oldest son, Clark, and Stanton are deceased; Cary is now residing in Kansas; Melissa and Orpha, both deceased. By his marriage to Louisa Lockwood there have been three children,—Meralda and Martha, deceased, and Greeley, who resides in Oklahoma.

CHARLES STRUEVER.

It is a fact freely conceded that America has no better citizens than those sons of the Fatherland who have cast in their lot with the people of this country, becoming thoroughly identified with every institution, upholding our laws and working for the good of the community in which their home is made. Such a valued citizen is Charles Struever, a member of the firm of Struever & Son, of Peru, LaSalle county.

Born in Gottingen, province of Hanover, Germany, July 15, 1816, our subject is a son of George and Dorothea (Biel) Struever, both of whom were natives of the province of Hanover, Germany, where they passed their entire lives. The father was a forester by occupation, and for half a century was in the employ of a wealthy landholder, von Bodenhausen, whose extensive forests he looked after. He was honest, industrious and faithful to the interests of his employer, and was respected by all who were associated with him in any manner. He and his wife were members of the Lutheran church and reared their children in that faith. The father died about 1886, when at an advanced age, and the mother departed this life in 1871. Of their four sons and four daughters but two are now living,—Charles and William,—the latter being a resident of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Those who have passed away are Augusta, who died unmarried; George, who died in the war of the



Charles Streuver

rebellion; Sophia, who became the wife of Mr. Schimmelpfennig; Betty, who married a Mr. Scheidermann; Louis, whose widow still lives in Strasburg; and Jeannetta, who married a man named Annaker.

Charles Struever obtained a liberal education in the common schools of his native land, and later received private instruction in special lines of study, and spent two years in Gottingen University. When he had arrived at his majority he was called home in order to draw cuts that it might be determined whether or not he was to serve for a period in the regular army, the result being that he was absolved. For six years he held a responsible position as overseer of a farm in Mecklenburg, after which he acted in a similar capacity for Minister von Trott. While there he became acquainted with the late Mr. von Baumbach, of Milwaukee, who induced the young man to accompany him to the United States, in 1849. Von Baumbach purchased a farm in the vicinity of Elyria, Ohio, in Lorain county, and his son, aided by Mr. Struever, attended to the cultivation of the place. At the end of two years our subject removed to Wisconsin, where he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Winnebago county, not far from Oshkosh. Subsequently he added another quarter section of land to his original farm, on which he made material improvements. In 1854 he sold the property to Mr. von Baumbach, and soon afterward he came to Peru, where he has dwelt ever since, engaged in various enterprises. At first he carried on a grocery for a couple of years. Becoming local agent for the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, in the purchase of coal lands, he bargained for several farms, and thus was initiated into his present line of business. For many years he has been one of the leading real-estate men of this section of the state, and he also represents most of the first-class insurance companies.

Almost half a century ago Mr. Struever was united in marriage with Miss Mary Minthorn, who is still sharing his joys and sorrows. Their marriage was celebrated at Elyria, Ohio, September 17, 1851, and they became the parents of two children, Doretta and Rudolph F. The daughter wedded Charles Bolster and lived on a farm at Sugar Grove, near Aurora, Illinois. She died, leaving a little son, who was taken to the home of our subject, but when he was about two years and a half old he was called away to the better land. Rudolph F. has been associated with his father in business for the past eleven years, and is an able young man. He married Miss Mary Huntoon, and they have one child, Charles, named in honor of his grandfather.

A few months after his coming to Peru Mr. Struever bought a house on Fifth avenue, and, since remodeling it, has now made it his home for about forty-five years. He is active as a Republican; was one of the first city marshals of Peru, and for four years served the public as county coroner.

Socially he has been a member of Mokena Lodge, No. 34, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, for many years. Though Lutherans in religious faith, Mr. and Mrs. Struever have not identified themselves with any church. They enjoy the friendship of all who know them, and few are better known in Peru. Mrs. Struever was born in Torrington, Litchfield county, Connecticut, February 15, 1828. Her parents were Hiram and Hulda (Cowles) Minthorn; father born in Torrington, Connecticut, of Holland ancestors, and her mother was born in Litchfield, same state, of English descent. When eight years of age her parents removed to Elyria, Ohio, where she was married. Mrs. Struever was a school teacher in early life, in Ohio for a time and in Peru five years.

JOHN J. VOHS.

John J. Vohs, who occupies the position of bookkeeper in the state department of the Mattheissen & Hegeler Zinc Company, of LaSalle, Illinois, was born in Mineral Point, Wisconsin, May 1, 1868, and is a son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Linz) Vohs, both natives of Germany and now residents of Galena, Illinois. J. J. Vohs left his parental home in 1884, coming to LaSalle, Illinois, where he entered the employ of the M. & H. Zinc Company. He was married in 1893, and had three children, two now living.

GEORGE A. BENNETT.

The history of Utica township would be incomplete should the name which begins this article be omitted, since for more than thirty years he has been actively engaged in agricultural pursuits here, and has been foremost in all movements tending toward the general prosperity of this locality.

The father of our subject was William Bennett, who was born in Kent, Litchfield county, Connecticut, in 1809, a son of Stephen and Diana Bennett. The former also was a native of Litchfield county, and was of Scotch-English extraction. William Bennett chose for a wife Sarah, a daughter of Hiram Bronson. She was born in the same county, in the village of Warren, in 1813, and lived to the advanced age of eighty-six years, her death taking place in 1899.

In 1852 William Bennett came with his family to LaSalle county and made a settlement in Deer Park township, upon a farm of eighty acres which he had purchased the preceding year. Later he bought one hundred

and forty acres in Farm Ridge township. He was accounted one of the most progressive and prosperous farmers of Deer Park township, where he continued his residence till he died. His sterling qualities of heart and mind won for him the admiration and good will of his neighbors, and his death, March 22, 1868, was deeply mourned in the community and felt to be a public loss. His widow survived him more than thirty years, as previously stated, and she continued to dwell upon the old homestead up to thirteen years previous to her death, during which latter period she lived with her daughter in Normal, Illinois. Ten children were born to this worthy couple. Those besides our subject were: Diana C., who married the Rev. A. S. Calkins, of Normal; Isaac H., of Deer Park; George A., of Utica; Henry F., a farmer of Deer Park township; Charles F., a resident of California; Edgar, of Mendota, Illinois; Edwin, of Iowa; Nelson G., of Livingston county, this state; and Emma, who died aged four years.

The birth of George A. Bennett occurred in the town where his father and grandfather before him had been born. The date of this event was May 25, 1837, and in his native town the lad acquired his elementary education. In 1852 he accompanied the family to this county, and until he arrived at his majority he continued to dwell at his parental home. After coming here he attended a district school at Bunker Hill for a period, and by private study and reading has kept abreast of the times. In his early manhood he was very industrious, methodical and economical, and thus made his first steps toward an independent fortune. In 1868 he bought one hundred and twenty-eight acres of land on section 4, Utica township, and later he purchased forty acres more, thus making his homestead a full quarter section in extent. During the years which have since rolled away he has made substantial improvements, and now is the possessor of a model farm, with excellent buildings and conveniences in keeping with the progressive spirit of the age.

In 1861 Mr. Bennett married Miss Semantha E. Shaver, of Rutland township, LaSalle county. She is a daughter of Ephraim and Mary Ellen (Mortin) Shaver. Ephraim Shaver was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, in 1812, and was a son of George and Hannah (Sites) Shaver, of German extraction. When a young man he went from his native state to Indiana, where he was married. In January, 1839, he came to LaSalle county and settled in Rutland township, where he died in 1888. His wife was a daughter of William and Mary (West) Mortin. She died in 1896, aged seventy-six years. Ephraim Shaver and wife had the following children: Semantha E., George W., Mary L., Margert H., Sybella N., Isadore E., Delsena V., Levi Peter and Emily G. Mrs. Bennett was born in Rutland, Illinois, in 1839, and prior to her marriage she was successfully en-

gaged in teaching school for about nine years. Emma L., the only daughter of our subject and wife, is the wife of George Sargent, of Deer Park, and their three children are Wilbur Henry, Jetta Naomi and King George. Dee A., the only son of Mr. Bennett, married Nancy Aiken and is an enterprising farmer.

In his political creed Mr. Bennett is a staunch Democrat, and fraternally he is a member of Waltham Lodge, No. 384, F. & A. M. For eight years he was the president of the Home Mutual Insurance Company, of which organization he was a charter member.

THOMAS WILSON.

Thomas Wilson, deceased, was born in Earl township, LaSalle county, Illinois, August 10, 1839, and died here January 17, 1885, at the age of forty-five years. He was a son of Osman John and Sarah Caroline (Thorn-ton) Wilson. Reared on his father's farm in Earl township, he chose the occupation of farming and followed it through life, meeting with success in his operations and being recognized as one of the leading agriculturists of his locality. After his marriage he moved to his own farm, one hundred acres, on section 9, Earl township, having built a home previous to his marriage, and there he passed the rest of his life and died. At the time of his death he and his wife together owned two hundred and fifty acres. Mr. Wilson was a man well known and highly respected in his community. For a number of years he served his township as road commissioner. He was a Republican and a member of the G. A. R.—McCullough Post, No. 59. During the civil war he enlisted, September 23, 1861, for a term of three years, as a private in Company I, Fourth Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, and was in the service nine months, at the end of that time being discharged, April 28, 1862, on account of physical disability. Among the engagements in which he participated was the battle of Pittsburg Landing.

February 25, 1869, was consummated his marriage to Miss Mary Catherine Wood, daughter of Nicholas and Catherine Maria (Race) Wood, natives of New York state, he of English descent and she of Dutch. Their happy union was blessed in the birth of two sons and five daughters, namely: Cora Ann, Carrie Gertrude, Sarah Adaline, Charley Thomas, John Henry, Mary, and one that died in infancy. Carrie Gertrude is the wife of Edward R. Emory and resides near Baraboo, Wisconsin, and has one child, Orlou Viola. Sarah Adaline married Wilford S. Flinn, and they also live near Baraboo. Mr. and Mrs. Flinn have one child,—Edith Mildred. Mrs. Wilson and her other children reside at the home farm.

Mrs. Wilson was one of six children,—four sons and two daughters,—of whom four are now living, viz.: Isaac N., of Earlville, Illinois; Mrs. Mary C. Wilson; Eliza, wife of John W. Stall; and Gordon Wood, of Nevada, Iowa. Their father, Nicholas Wood, was a farmer. He came to Illinois in the spring of 1863, landing in LaSalle county on the 17th of April, and shortly after his arrival purchased one hundred and fifty acres of land two miles and a half northeast of Earlville, where he spent the rest of his life, and died in 1871, at the age of fifty-five years. His widow survives him, is now in the eighty-first year of her age, and resides in Earlville. She is a devoted member of the Baptist church, as also was her husband. Mrs. Wilson's grandfather, David Wood, died on the Conklin farm in LaSalle county, in 1843, well advanced in years. He had a large family. He was twice married and was the father of three children by his first wife and fifteen by his second wife. Grandfather Race, Mrs. Wilson's grandfather on her mother's side, was a soldier in the war of 1812. He was a native of New York state. Grandmother Race lived to the remarkable age of one hundred and one years, her death occurring in 1894. They were the parents of six children, all of whom are living.

JAMES W. PARRISH.

James William Parrish, one of the most extensive farmers of the township of Dimmick, LaSalle county, Illinois, is of Virginia birth and is descended from a line of farmers, his father and grandfather having been farmers in the Old Dominion. Great-grandfather Parrish was an English emigrant to this country. Josiah Parrish, the father of James W., was born in Virginia in 1822, and died in Christian county, Illinois, in February, 1896. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary Slonaker, died in Virginia. In 1869 he came with his family to Illinois and settled in Dimmick township, LaSalle county, and three years later they removed to Christian county, where his younger children were reared. His family comprised the following named members: Sarah, wife of Charles Vest, of Keyser, West Virginia; Mollie, the wife of John Bailey, of Mineral county, West Virginia; Margaret, wife of Ed. Witcraft, of Iowa; Benjamin, of Christian county, Illinois; Frank, a resident of Mineral county, West Virginia; George, of Christian county, Illinois; and James W., whose name introduces this sketch.

James W. Parrish dates his birth in Mineral county, West Virginia, September 30, 1853, and was sixteen years old at the time of their removal to Illinois. Here at the age of twenty he started to make his own way in

the world, engaging as a farm hand for Arthur Long at a salary of twenty dollars per month. Afterward he worked for several of the large farmers of the township and finally settled down with C. R. Brown, probably the most wealthy and influential farmer of the township, and during his experience as a wage earner laid by each month a little sum. When he began farming independently he was in a measure prepared for it. He remained with Mr. Brown and undertook the management of his large estate. With the exception of a period spent on his own farm, a half section of land in Nebraska, he has been a resident of the neighborhood where he married and made his first start.

Mr. Parrish married Miss Clara Brown, only child of C. R. Brown. The children of this marriage are Arthur, Rollin and Gertie.

JOHN E. MILLER.

John E. Miller, one of the honored pioneers of Illinois, was born in Windham, Wilmington township, Vermont, and is the only survivor of a family which once numbered eleven members, six of the children being sons and three daughters. The parents, who were highly respected citizens, were Isaac and Lucy (Conant) Miller, natives of Massachusetts. They removed to the Green Mountain state, where they were interested in the management of a farm for many years. The father died on his homestead there when about three-score and ten years of age. He was born January 28, 1782, and died May 29, 1850, aged sixty-eight years; and his wife, born February 15, 1787, preceded him to the silent land August 30, 1848, sixty-one years of age. They were Universalists in religious faith, and were noted for all of the qualities of the true Christian.

The birth of John E. Miller took place December 7, 1826, and in his boyhood he attended the district schools of Wilmington township. He early mastered the details of agriculture and laid the foundations for a successful business career. He worked for neighbors for several years after attaining his majority, and at last concluded that he would try his fortunes in the west, about whose vast resources so much was then being said. Accordingly, in September, 1851, he came to Illinois, and while looking around for a permanent location engaged in working for the pioneers. He was thus occupied for about a year, in the meantime buying one hundred and eighty acres of land in Clarion township, Bureau county. He then returned to Vermont on a visit, and remained there for a little over a year. In the spring of 1853 he again came west and began cultivating and improving his homestead, continuing to dwell there until 1865. That

year he sold the farm and came to this county, where he invested his means in a quarter section of land in Mendota township. In 1874 he erected a handsome house here, at a cost of six thousand dollars, and in 1895 it was destroyed by fire. The same year, however, he built another residence,—a large, modern brick house, one of the most attractive homes in the county. Substantial barns, granaries and other farm buildings provide abundance of accommodations for stock and the products of the farm, and everything about the place is kept up neatly and in a manner denoting thrift. About 1893 Mr. Miller bought an eighty-acre farm adjoining his homestead, and now owns and cultivates two hundred and forty acres.

The marriage of Mr. Miller and Miss Elmina D. Ballou was solemnized February 28, 1856, and after more than two-score years of happiness together the devoted wife and mother was summoned to the better land. She died August 1, 1897, at the age of sixty-three years and ten months. Her loss is deeply felt in this community, and her noble example, and loving, womanly sympathy and helpfulness is remembered by her friends, who were innumerable. She, as well as Mr. Miller, has long been identified with the Universalist faith, her parents, Asahel and Diantha (Fox) Ballou, have been deceased many years.

To the union of our subject and wife four sons and a daughter were born: Martha E., whose birth occurred October 1, 1857, died July 28, 1861; Loren C., born March 30, 1860, died March 13, 1863; Frank H., born March 21, 1862, married Alma R. Clark, by whom three children were born,—Lee, Grace and Frank; the father died in August, 1889; Dana E., born June 26, 1864, first wedded Sarah Taylor, and after her death Anna Taylor became his wife; they have one little daughter, Helen; and Eddie A., born in Mendota, March 27, 1866, resides upon the eighty-acre farm adjoining his father's homestead. His wife was Miss May Lambert prior to their marriage.

Politically J. E. Miller is a stalwart advocate of the Republican party platform and principles. He has served in the capacity of school director two terms. During a long period he was the treasurer and a director in the Farmers' Mutual Fire and Lightning Insurance Company, and other local concerns received his aid and influence.

CLAUDE DISIER.

The man who by industry and perseverance provides liberally for his family and in addition lays by a sufficient store upon which to subsist when the frost of age shall have whitened his brow, is considered to be a person entitled to our admiration, and the public hasten to do him honor. This is

perfectly right, as it is refreshing to see a man who is not discouraged by every ill wind, who stands bravely to the front in the many battles with fortune, and is ever ready with his cry of "Onward" when others falter and fall back. Such a man is Claude Disier, whom we are proud to call a citizen of our commonwealth.

Like his ancestors for generations, he is a farmer and has made of the vocation something more than the mere drudgery that characterizes so many of the so-called farmers who appear to have no ambition beyond a mere hand-to-mouth existence. Mr. Disier was born in the agricultural districts of sunny France in November, 1827, was there educated and trained to farm work, his father and grandfather both being farmers in that country. He was a son of Francis and Catherine (Enteria) Disier. In 1856 he took passage at Havre on a sailing vessel bound for New York. Six weeks was consumed by the voyage across, the ship being the American vessel, *Happin*. He spent a year in the city of New York and the following summer farmed at Cape Vincent. In November, 1857, he came to Ottawa, where he worked in the machine shops for a time and then purchased eighty acres of land in Waltham township. It was his endeavor to make this farm first-class in every respect, and so to cultivate it that it would yield him the greatest possible returns. Having started without means, he understood the value of good management and well directed energy and applied both to the work before him. He now owns two good farms, containing two hundred and eighty acres, within two miles of Ottawa. These farms are well improved and furnished with good houses, barns, and other necessary buildings, while the fertility of the soil has been so carefully looked after that they are among the most productive in the state.

Mr. Disier has been twice married, his first wife being Miss Georgiana, daughter of George Sulzerberger. Four children were born to them,—Fanny, Emma, Sophia and George Ganiere. His second marriage was contracted February 27, 1865, and by this there was one son, Edouard, who died in 1895, leaving one child, Claude Disier. Mr. Disier has been an upright, honorable citizen, and is highly esteemed by his neighbors.

WALLACE B. CORNISH.

Wallace Bruce Cornish, night foreman in the rolling mills of the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, LaSalle, is a native of the Empire state, born in Westkill, Greene county, January 22, 1843, a son of James Monroe Cornish and Henrietta (Bennett) Cornish, both natives of New York. Both his grandfathers were Englishmen and were among the early

settlers of Greene county. Grandfather Cornish was Democratic in his political views, but his son James M. was a Republican, as also is Wallace B. By trade James M. was a watchmaker. He lived and died in Greene county, New York, and some time after his death his widow moved to Chicago, where she is still living.

Wallace B. Cornish was reared in Westkill and received a common-school education there. At the age of fifteen years he was thrown upon his own resources. He began the battle of life as a farm hand, working by the month, and this form of employment he followed for five or six years. In New York he married Asenath Schermehorne, and shortly after his marriage came west, locating in LaSalle, Illinois, in 1865, and at that time accepting a position as a clerk in a dry-goods store. He clerked for about six years, after which he entered the employ of the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, as a bookkeeper. After filling the position of bookkeeper for about a year and a half, he was made night foreman of the rolling mills, and has continued in this position ever since. His long continuance in the employ of the zinc company is ample evidence that his service has been appreciated. All that he is and has accomplished in life has been achieved by diligent and persistent effort on his own part.

Mr. Cornish holds a membership in the Ancient Order of United Workmen of America.

PAUL WASZKOWIAK.

Paul Waszkowiak, a merchant of LaSalle, Illinois, is of Polish birth and early education. He was born in Poland, Germany, January 15, 1858, and is a son of John and Anna (Candeika) Waszkowiak. His father died in Poland in 1866, at the age of fifty-two years, and his mother is still living, a resident of this country. To them were born the following children: John, Frank, Joe, Paul, Mary and Anton. Their son John came to this country and to LaSalle in 1870, the following year Frank came, and in 1873 their widowed mother, with three of her children,—Paul, Mary and Anton,—also came to LaSalle. The mother, now seventy-four years of age, is still living in LaSalle. At the time of her coming to America her son Joe was in the German army. He joined the other members of the family here in 1875, and at this writing all of them, except Frank, reside in LaSalle.

Paul, the subject of this sketch, was fifteen years old when he landed on American soil. He had gained a fair education in his native language, but after coming to this country never went to school. However, he has learned to read and write as well as speak the English language. Immediately after he came to LaSalle he obtained employment as a horse driver in

the yards of the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, at a salary of one dollar and ten cents per day. Afterward he was given work in the furnace department of the zinc works, at better wages, and for several years held a position with the company. He saved his earnings and was thereby enabled to go into business for himself. This he did in the year 1894. He engaged in the grocery and saloon business, in which he has continued, achieving success, building up a good trade, and gaining for himself a splendid reputation as a business man.

In 1879 Mr. Waszkowiak was united in marriage to Miss Bozalija Siekieska, and to them have been born five sons and one daughter. He and his family are members of the Polish Catholic church, and he belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters.

SILAS W. WILLIAMS.

The gentleman here named is a retired paper manufacturer and a prominent citizen of Streater. He was born in Albany, Vermont, on March 22, 1841, a direct descendant of Roger Williams, of colonial fame, to wit: Roger Williams, Joseph, John, Nathaniel, James, James R., Cyril, Silas W. The grandfather, James R., served in the Revolutionary war, and Darius, an uncle, was a soldier in the war of 1812.

Cyril Williams was born in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1801, and was taken by his father, in change of residence, to Vermont in 1807. At the same time his grandfather emigrated to that state with them. Cyril Williams married Catherine Wetherbee, of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, a daughter of Caleb Wetherbee and a granddaughter of Nathan Wetherbee and Elizabeth Dunton, also of the Bay state. Nathan Wetherbee was a minute man of the Revolution. Mrs. Williams attained the remarkable age of ninety-three years.

Silas W. Williams was educated in the public schools of Caledonia county, Vermont, and the Orleans Liberal Institute, of that state. In 1869 he came to Ottawa, Illinois, and engaged in the manufacture of straw-board and straw wrapping paper. He afterward owned paper mills at Dayton, Marseilles and Streater, all in this county. In 1893 he sold out his paper-mill interests to the Columbia Straw Paper Company and retired from the manufacturing business, engaging in banking and real estate. He was a director of the City National bank, and was the president for some years of the Young Men's Christian Association. He has also filled the position of president of the board of education since 1896. He is an active member of the Streater Social Service Club, and also of the Streater Social Club, and



J. W. Williams

in his religious relations a member of the Park Presbyterian church, in which he was for a number of years the president of the board of trustees. In politics he is a Democrat, with no ambitions for political office. He has the broadness of character to vote for a Republican if he thinks that the public welfare will be best promoted thereby.

In 1873 he married Catherine E. Worthingham, a daughter of Morrison and Sarah Angeline (Barker) Worthingham. Her father was a lieutenant in the One Hundredth Illinois Regiment in the civil war, and was killed at the battle of Stone River near Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He was but nine years old when brought to Canada by his father in his emigration from England, his native land. Shortly after their arrival in America his father returned to England on business, and died there. Later the son came into the United States. Mrs. Williams' grandfather, Benjamin Barker, was in the war of 1812, and her great-grandfather, Zenas Barker, served in the war of the Revolution. Her brother, Charles, served in our late war with Spain. Her grandmother was Catherine Goodrich, of Roxbury, Connecticut. The American Goodriches settled in Wethersfield, Connecticut, about 1643. The family in England can be traced to an ancestor who fought and fell in Harold's army at Hastings in 1066.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams have two children,—Alice Amelia and Blanche Catherine.

WILLIAM H. NORTON.

William H. Norton, the superintendent and engineer of the Earlville water-works, was born in New Portland, Somerset county, Maine, October 17, 1831, a son of William G. and Elmira (Parker) Norton, both natives of the Pine Tree state.

The Norton family is of English origin and was represented in New England at an early period in the history of this country. The Parkers are of Scotch-Irish extraction. Both families were represented in the early wars of this country, Grandfather Norton serving in the war of 1812 and Grandfather Parker in the Revolutionary war.

William G. Norton and wife were the parents of the following named children: William H., the immediate subject of this review; John P., deceased; Ruth P., deceased, was the first wife of W. R. Haight, of Earlville, Illinois; Octava E., a widow residing in Jacksonville, Illinois; and Sybel, wife of F. H. Hall, the superintendent of the Blind Asylum at Jacksonville, Illinois. William G. Norton left Maine in the fall of 1849 and brought his family to Illinois, locating in Boone county, where they resided until the spring of 1851, when they removed to Freedom, LaSalle county.

In 1852 they came to Earlville, and here the parents spent the closing years of their lives and died.

In his youth William H. Norton obtained a fair academical education, and when a young man engaged in teaching. He taught his first school in the winter of 1851-2, and for four or five years thereafter spent his time in the school-room as teacher. After his marriage, in 1854, Mr. Norton settled in Earlville, where he has since continuously resided, with the exception of four years, 1873 to 1877, when he lived in Aurora, Illinois. The first five years after his marriage he was engaged in farming, and from that turned his attention to the grain business, in which he was occupied at the time the civil war came on. He enlisted April 22, 1861, in Company D, Twenty-third Illinois Infantry, as a private. This regiment was captured in September, 1861, at Lexington, Missouri, was paroled three days later and was discharged by the United States government. When it was afterward reorganized Mr. Norton did not enter it. He re-enlisted in August, 1862, as a private in Company A, One Hundred and Fourth Illinois Infantry, and served until November, 1864, when he was discharged on account of ill health. Prominent among the engagements in which he participated were the battles of Hartsville, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge and the Atlanta campaign; and, like most veterans of the Union army, he now maintains a membership in the Grand Army of the Republic, being identified with McCulloch Post, No. 475.

For two years after his return from the army Mr. Norton was in such poor health that he was not in any business. When he recovered he was for several years engaged in the manufacture of shoes, and for several years following that was in the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, being engaged in railroading while in Aurora. In 1877 we find him dealing in agricultural implements, which he continued for seven years. In 1889 he was appointed the postmaster of Earlville, under President Harrison's administration, and served as such four years and seven months, until a change of administration caused his successor to be appointed. In early life he learned the business of stationary engineering, and has followed that, at intervals, when not otherwise occupied. Since May, 1896, he has held the position of superintendent and engineer of the Earlville water-works. Mr. Norton is an ardent Republican, and besides the office above referred to he has been honored with other official positions. He has served as alderman, town clerk, town assessor, township trustee of schools and justice of the peace. He was elected to the last named office in 1898.

Mr. Norton was first married, in 1854, to Miss Harriet A. Smith. She died in 1874, leaving four children,—Lawrence J., Finette, Harriet and

Maud. In 1878 he wedded Elizabeth Cook, his present companion. Their union has been blessed in the birth of two children,—Vere and Blanch. The latter was drowned at the age of six years!

JOHN B. PARK.

John B. Park, a farmer and stock-raiser of Earl township, LaSalle county, was born in Greencamp, Marion county, Ohio, October 26, 1834, and is a son of Ira and Matilda (McNeal) Park. His father was a son of John Park and was born in the state of Massachusetts, but at the age of four or five years death robbed him of both parents and he was sent to Ohio, where he grew to man's estate and was married to Matilda McNeal. She was born in Ireland and was brought over to this country with her parents when she was a child of four and one-half years and was also reared in Ohio. Their marriage resulted in the birth of six children, namely, Elizabeth, John B., Sarah, Caroline, Levi W. and George F.,—all of whom are now dead but John B. and George F. They left Ohio during the year 1837 and stopped one year in Holderman's Grove, Illinois, thence went to Paw Paw, this state, and two years later to Shabbona, DeKalb county. Here they took up their residence on the wild prairie lands of Illinois and made their home for many years, moving to Leland, Adams township, this county, in 1862. Here he kept a hotel for four years, and then bought a farm and began farming, residing in Leland two more years. He then removed to Shabbona and remained there about two years. Securing land in Earl township, LaSalle county, he was next engaged for six years in farming in this township. A few years later he retired from the farm, and removed to Earlville, where he now resides. His wife died in 1893.

John B. Park spent his early life in DeKalb county, where he received his education in the public schools and assisted his father on the farm. He continued to be his father's right-hand man for many years and remained in that county until 1870, when he came to LaSalle county and settled in Earl township on the 14th of February of that year, on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in section 14. He was an industrious, hard-working man, and his success in agriculture has been the result of energy and a well disciplined mind. Thinking to find a better price for the product of his farm he began raising stock, to which he fed his grain and hay, putting them on the market when in prime condition and realizing from their sale a much larger profit than would have been received from the raw material. Since then he has dealt largely in stock, finding that instead of impoverished land and ordinary crops he has a farm that yields a bountiful harvest and a

neat income from the sleek herds always ready for the butcher. He is among the best agriculturists in this county and his ideas have been largely adopted by many of his neighbors.

In 1858 he was joined in marriage to Miss Rosetta Marks, by whom he had the following children, viz.: Linton W., who married Gertrude Labee, a daughter of Richard Labee, of this township; he is a farmer here; Ira died at the age of two years; George died when two and one-half summers had passed over his head; the fourth child died in infancy, as did Jennie E.; and the youngest was Eva M. Mrs. Park was born in Nauvoo and was a daughter of LaFayette and Martha E. (Frost) Marks, who were among the early settlers of DeKalb county, where they lived for many years. The father was born in the state of New York and the mother in Maine.

Mr. Park is a Democrat and for a time served as the deputy sheriff and tax collector of DeKalb county. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Masonic fraternity, and is a man who has won the respect and esteem of all by his upright, honorable bearing. His children were educated in Earlville and occupy a prominent place in the social circles of their home.

SAMUEL E. JONES.

Samuel Edward Jones, agent at Earlville, Illinois, for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Company, has held this position since October 1, 1895. He has been in the employ of this company since September, 1887, when, at the age of twenty, he began his railroad career. His first service was as a bill clerk in the freight office at Aurora, Illinois, a position he held from September, 1887, to July, 1888. He was then transferred to North Aurora, as agent, and was there for a period of six months, after which he was made relief agent and as such was on the road for about a year and a half, relieving other agents at various stations. Next he was day operator at Western Avenue Station, Chicago, six months, following which he became station agent at Grand Ridge, Illinois, a position he filled for seven years, and from there being sent to his present place at Earlville. The fact that he has remained constantly for so long a period in the employ of the same railroad is ample evidence of his ability as station agent and operator.

Mr. Jones was born in New Salem, Pennsylvania, January 16, 1867, only son and one of a family of three children of William M. and Mary J. (Harn) Jones, natives of Pennsylvania. In 1884 Mr. Jones brought his family west, seeking a change of location on account of the ill health of our subject, the family home being established at Grand Ridge, Illinois. Being of a delicate constitution in his boyhood, Samuel E. was kept away

from school much of the time, and thus his educational advantages were limited. He is practically a self-made man.

At Grand Ridge, in 1890, Mr. Jones married Miss Anna E. Lewis, who was born near that place. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Jones' parents still reside at Grand Ridge, Illinois. His father was a Union soldier in the civil war, serving as a private in Company C, One Hundred and Fourth Illinois Infantry, and while engaged in battle at Missionary Ridge lost his left arm.

STEPHEN J. MADDEN.

A worthy representative of the honored pioneer families of LaSalle county, Mr. Madden was born in Mendota, April 3, 1864. He spent his boyhood days here, and having laid the foundation for a successful business career by acquiring a practical education he learned the machinist's trade in his father's machine shops and became a skilled workman. For a number of years he was in the employ of others, but in 1896 he opened a plumbing establishment of his own in Mendota and has since done a large business in this line, making a specialty of all kinds of steam and hot-water heating appliances and outfitting. He also takes contracts for plumbing, sewer and water works, and has succeeded in building up an excellent business. Soon after his father's death he succeeded to his father's interest in the firm of Donohue & Madden, proprietors of the foundry and machine shops of Mendota. The firm name was unchanged, and now to the two branches of the business Mr. Madden, of this review, devotes all the time and attention which he cares to give to business. Inherited ability doubtless partially accounts for the success which he has won, and a better example than that afforded him by his honored father could not be found; but his own close application, his keen discernment and his untiring industry are unmistakable elements in his prosperity, without which inherited ability would have been of no avail.

The marriage of Stephen J. Madden and Miss Maggie Naughtin was celebrated on the 3d of September, 1890. Four children have blessed their union, namely: Paul, John, Mabel and Stella. Mr. Madden and his family are communicants of the Catholic church, and fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Independent Order of Foresters and the Commercial Club. He has followed in his father's political footsteps and is a stalwart Democrat. His fellow townsmen have elected him to the position of alderman and in that office he labored earnestly to

secure needed improvements and to produce material advancement in Mendota. He supported measures toward securing good sidewalks, sewers, water-works and other good and substantial improvements, and at all times has labored to benefit the city in progressive lines.

HOSEA FOOTE.

Hosea Foote, one of the enterprising business men of Earlville, LaSalle county, is one of the honored pioneers of this state, his arrival in Illinois dating back fifty-five years. A witness of almost the entire development of the county, he has contributed his share toward its welfare, and is well and favorably known throughout this section.

The parents of our subject were Nicholas Floyd and Catherine (Beagle) Foote, who were natives of New York state. The former was one of the five children of Isaac Foote, of English extraction, likewise born in the Empire state, and a farmer and lumberman by occupation. His latter years were spent in Illinois, and his death took place upon the homestead of a son, south of Earlville, when he was in his eighty-sixth year. Mrs. Catherine (Beagle) Foote, who died in 1839, was a daughter of John Beagle, a farmer, whose birthplace was in New York state, and who was of Dutch ancestry. In 1833 Nicholas F. Foote and family removed to Steuben county, Pennsylvania, and eleven years later came to Illinois. For two and a half years they dwelt upon a farm situated about three miles from Aurora, and then, coming to LaSalle county, they resided upon a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, in Earl township, three miles from Earlville. A few years prior to his death, Mr. Foote retired from active labor and made his home in Earlville, where he departed this life in July, 1893, in his eighty-ninth year. His second wife bore the maiden name of Mary Miner, and of the sons and daughters born to them four survive: Nancy, Lucinda, Martha and Almira. To the first marriage of Mr. Foote three sons and two daughters were born, but only Floyd and Hosea survive.

Hosea Foote was born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, January 15, 1832. Thus he was twelve years of age when the family came to this prairie state, and in the district schools he completed his education. After leaving home upon attaining his majority, he worked for farmers by the month for a period, after which he was employed for a number of years on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, as a foreman of construction of the road-bed, part of the time doing contract work. In 1858 he took charge of a sawmill near Freedom, and operated it for the proprietor for about three years. Afterward he was employed by Sutmán & Lighthall,

of Earlville, for several years, and finally, in 1892, he purchased the sawmill here which was owned by Frank Atherton, and has managed it successfully ever since, also running a feed mill in connection. A public-spirited citizen, he takes a loyal interest in local enterprises. For two terms he served in the capacity of alderman, being elected on the Democratic ticket.

On the 17th of March, 1855, Mr. Foote married Miss Isabel, daughter of Thomas and Isabel (Beggs) Holgate, and after about a quarter of a century of happy wedded life she was called to the home beyond. She was then forty-six years of age, a devoted member of the Methodist church. Of their five children, Charles H. died at the age of six months, and Mabel, who was the wife of Robert Horr, of Mendota, died when her baby girl, Mabel, was a week old. Etta is the wife of William Buck, of Earlville; and Alice, Mrs. Joseph Schrecengost, also of this town, has five children: May, Bert, Carl, Ione and Ada. Floyd H., unmarried, is in the employ of his father. On the 7th of August, 1885, Hosea Foote wedded Mrs. Mary Bosard, widow of George L. Bosard and daughter of Cornelius and Fannie (Hammond) Beagle. The latter were natives of New York and Pennsylvania, respectively, the father, of Dutch extraction, having been born and reared in Broome county, and the mother in Tioga county. Both died when in their fiftieth year, on the old farm in Tioga county, where they had commenced keeping house, death separating them little more than a year. In religious faith he was a Baptist, while she was a Presbyterian, but they were liberal enough to allow each other perfect freedom of opinion. His father, John Beagle, was a native of New York state, a farmer, and his death occurred when he was still in the prime of manhood. David Hammond, father of Mrs. Fannie Beagle, was a hero of the war for independence. He was born in Connecticut, followed farming as a means of livelihood and lived to pass the three-score and ten years spoken of by the Psalmist. Mrs. Foote is one of eight children, of whom seven survive. Kate is the wife of George Buckbee; Elsie is Mrs. John Brimmer; Lizzie is unmarried; Fannie is the widow of Frank Dodge; Jennie is the wife of John Houck; and John Beagle is the only brother living. Mr. and Mrs. Foote are consistent members of the Methodist church and in their daily lives they strive to mirror the noble principles which they profess and in which they earnestly believe.

MANLEY H. HORTON.

Manley H. Horton, Earlville, Illinois, was born in Savoy, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, February 10, 1843, a son of Ansel and Hannah (Thompson) Horton. His ancestors were among the early settlers of

New England, the Hortons being of Scotch descent and the Thompsons of English, and both his father and mother were born, lived and died in Massachusetts. Their family was composed of eight sons and three daughters.

His father a carpenter and builder, Manley H. in his youth learned that trade, working under his father. At the age of nineteen, laying down the hammer and the saw, he enlisted, September 1, 1862, as a private in Company A, Forty-ninth Massachusetts Infantry, for a term of nine months, and was honorably discharged September 1, 1863, having served three months more than his term of enlistment. Among the engagements in which he participated were the siege of Port Hudson and the battles of Hudson Plains and Donaldsonville.

At the close of his army service young Horton returned to his home in Massachusetts and resumed work at his trade. In 1876 he came west to Illinois and located in Earlville, where he followed his trade five years, at the end of that time moving to a farm in Lee county, this state, where he was engaged in agricultural pursuits ten years, and at the same time did some contract work in building. In 1891 he moved to Marathon, Iowa, where he invested in land, buying a quarter section, which he improved and subsequently sold at a good profit. He also invested in other lands there and bought a drug store in the town of Marathon, which is conducted by his son-in-law. Mr. Horton made his home in Marathon until 1896. March 1st of that year he returned to Earlville and has since resided here. The pleasant and attractive home he now occupies he erected in 1898. Recently he met with an accident which crippled his knee and he is now unable to do active work.

Mr. Horton was married, in 1865, in Massachusetts, to Miss Emaline Carpenter, a native of the same town in which he was born and a representative of one of the old families of the place. She died in 1873, leaving three children,—Edna, Herbert, and Etta. In 1874 he married Mary A. Blood, a native of Cheshire, Massachusetts, and they have four children,—Howard, LeRoy, Imogene and Harry.

Mr. Horton is politically a Republican and fraternally a Mason.

JOHN C. MADDEN.

John C. Madden, deceased, was a pioneer citizen and highly respected business man of Mendota, Illinois. He was born in Bandon, County Cork, Ireland, June 17, 1830, and was a son of Stephen and Hannorah (Hurley) Madden. The father was a native of county Meath, Ireland, born in the

last year of the eighteenth century, and his death occurred in Mendota about 1876. The subject of this review accompanied his parents on their emigration to America when about four years old, the family locating in Taunton, Massachusetts, where he passed his boyhood days, acquiring a good common-school education. He also served an apprenticeship to the trades of carpenter and pattern-maker, thus thoroughly equipping himself for a successful business career. He was reared under the parental roof and early taught the importance of industry and perseverance in the affairs of life. The surviving children of his father's family are: Mrs. Peter Donohue, of Mendota; and Mrs. Chester Stevens, of Wichita, Kansas.

Realizing that the broad prairies of Illinois would prove an advantageous field of labor for ambitious young men Mr. Madden came to La-Salle county in 1852 and for several months devoted himself to the work of carpentering and building. In the spring of 1853 he returned to Taunton, Massachusetts, and on the 4th of April of the same year was united in marriage, in St. Mary's Catholic church, of that city, to Miss Mary Sullivan, who shared with him the joys and sorrows of life until he was called to the home beyond. Immediately after their marriage the young couple, accompanied by his parents, came to Illinois, taking up their residence upon a farm about four miles north of Mendota.

There Mr. Madden remained until 1855, when he removed to the city and became associated with others in the organization of the Eagle Manufacturing Company formed for the purpose of manufacturing gang plows. The company was succeeded by another in which the leading stockholders were Mr. Madden, Peter Donohue, Warren Clark and William Rockford. In 1860 this company sold its interests to the firm of Donohue & Madden, the latter gentlemen establishing a foundry and machine shop, in which they engaged in the manufacture of wagons and agricultural implements. The partnership was continued uninterruptedly and most harmoniously up to the time of Mr. Madden's death, and the business was one of marked success, for years being numbered among the substantial enterprises of the city. The firm of Donohue & Madden underwent no change after Mr. Madden's death, save that his son Stephen J. succeeded to his interest in the business.

Unto our subject and his wife, who was a native of Ireland, nine children were born, one of whom, Charles T. Madden, died recently. He served as postmaster of Mendota, and was well and favorably known. The surviving children are: George H., of the Germania Bank of Mendota; Stephen J., his father's successor in business; John F., an attorney at law; Edward T., a bank cashier; Mary, wife of A. H. Egan, of Evansville; and Emma. Mrs. Madden also survives her husband, and is one of the most estimable

ladies in the city, having a large circle of warm friends in the community where she has so long resided.

Mr. Madden passed away March 16, 1897, and his death was the cause of much sorrow in Mendota, as he was universally respected and liked here. In the management of his financial affairs he was very enterprising and successful, and his course was marked by the highest integrity. His employes and associates in business had for him warm regard, and his genial and cheery manner and his strong and hearty sympathy with those in trouble won him lasting friends. He was a public-spirited citizen, always ready to assist in promoting laudable enterprises, and was a man of worth to the community. He served as alderman and as school trustee and in those official capacities sought to advance the welfare of the people whom he represented. His integrity was ever above question, and his memory will ever be cherished by those who enjoyed his friendship.

"His life was noble and the elements
So mixed in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world, 'This was a man.'"

NORMAN J. CARY.

Not often does it fall to the lot of a man, years before he has reached his prime, to occupy such responsible positions of trust as Norman J. Cary has held; but he has proved eminently worthy and capable of meeting every requirement of his difficult offices. Ambitious to succeed, he was ready for advancement when the opportunity presented itself, had faith in himself, and by faithful, persistent labor has managed to carry out the plans of his early manhood.

Norman J. Cary is proud of the fact that he is a native son of Illinois, and that the major portion of his life has been spent in LaSalle county, to whose interests his own are wedded. A son of Charles A. and Mary J. (Blakeslee) Cary, our subject was born in LaSalle, Illinois, June 2, 1855. In 1868 he removed to Chicago with his parents, and attended the schools of that city, his education being completed in Bryant & Stratton's Business College. In 1872 he accepted a position in the office of James Clark, then at the head of what was known as the Utica Cement Association, in Chicago, and continued with that firm for a period of five years, establishing his value, his fidelity and interest in his employer's affairs. In 1878 he yielded to the advice of some of his friends and entered the wholesale house of Marshall Field, of Chicago, remaining there but a year, however, and then returning, in 1879, to the employ of Mr. Clark in Utica. In 1883,



R. J. Lang

when the Utica Hydraulic Cement Company was organized, Mr. Cary became one of the stockholders and was chosen as secretary and treasurer of the new concern. In 1898 he was given similar positions in the Utica Cement Manufacturing Company, and in both of these now flourishing enterprises he retains his original offices. In 1888, when the (James) Clark's bank, of Utica, came into existence, Mr. Cary was chosen to serve as its cashier, and is still acting in that capacity, Mrs. M. J. Clark being president of the institution, as well as occupying the same office in the Utica Hydraulic Cement Company, and also the Utica Manufacturing Company. Mr. Cary is one of the directors in the bank, and to his judicious management must be attributed a large share of the success which has attended it from the first.

An important event in the life of our subject was his marriage, March 24, 1885, to Miss Manda M. Collins, a daughter of Cassius A. and Mary J. (Sanger) Collins, of Utica. The elder child of Mr. and Mrs. Cary is Clarence C., born December 22, 1886, and now attending the University of Notre Dame at South Bend, Indiana. The younger son, Clark B., born April 19, 1890, is a pupil in the public schools of Utica.

Though not a politician in the sense of seeking or desiring public office, Mr. Cary takes a lively interest in local and national affairs, and uses his ballot and influence in favor of the Republican party. In the fraternities he ranks deservedly high. In the Masonic order he has taken the thirty-second degree, and is active in Acacia Lodge, No. 67, A. F. and A. M.; Peru Chapter, No. 60, R. A. M.; Peru Council, No. 12, R. and S. M., and St. John's Commandery, No. 26, K. T., of Peru; and in 1893 was admitted to the Oriental Consistory, at Chicago. He is also a member of Medina Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., also of Chicago. In these various organizations he has occupied many of the important offices; was conductor of the council from 1892 to 1893; and is at present thrice illustrious master of the council; was the worshipful master of Acacia Lodge from 1895 to 1897; and was the eminent commander of St. John's Commandery from 1897 to 1898 inclusive. In all of his relations with his fellow men, whether in business, society or the home circle, Mr. Cary is upright, true and just, winning the esteem and admiration of all who know him.

ARTHUR J. HERRCKE.

Arthur J. Herrcke, bookkeeper in charge of the purchasing and disbursing department of the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, LaSalle, Illinois, was born in Prussia, Germany, May 6, 1861.

He is a son of Ernest and Henrietta (Von Wellatovski) Herrcke, both

natives of Danzig, Prussia, Germany. The father had in his veins a mixture of German and French blood, his paternal ancestors being purely German while on the maternal side they were French, some members of the family having gone from France to Germany in the time of the reign of Napoleon the Great. On his mother's side the immediate subject of this sketch is of Polish origin, his great-grandfather having been Graf Von Wellatovski. Arthur J. is the second of a family of four children, the others being Charles, Robert and Max, all natives of Germany. The mother with her children came to America in the year 1867, and joined the father in Janesville, Wisconsin, he having come to this country the previous year. His original intention was to go to South America, but on arriving at Cuba he changed his plans and came to the United States, locating first in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. From there he went to Janesville and came thence to LaSalle, Illinois, in the year 1869. He came to LaSalle to take charge of the sales department of the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, a position he held up to the time of his death, in May, 1885, at the age of fifty-one years. His widow is still a resident of LaSalle.

Arthur J. Herrcke was six years old when he was brought to America. He was reared in LaSalle, Illinois, and educated in its public schools. At the age of fourteen he entered the employ of the same company with which his father was connected, the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, and as messenger boy began his service in this establishment. During the years he served as messenger boy he attended night sessions in a business college and thus learned practical bookkeeping. That was from 1878 to 1880. At the same time he had charge of the company's printing office. He was transferred from the messenger position to one in the sales department, and was promoted to his present position, that of bookkeeper in charge of the purchasing and disbursing department, in 1886. His entire service with the company has been characterized by promptness and fidelity, and that his faithfulness has been appreciated is evidenced by his promotion and continuance with the same concern.

Mr. Herrcke was married in LaSalle, in 1888, to Miss Adela Moeller, daughter of Frederick and Bertha Moeller. Her father was born in Saxony, Germany, and when fourteen years of age was brought to this country by his parents who located in Mineral Point, Wisconsin, whence they subsequently came to LaSalle, Illinois. Mr. Moeller was a brother of Mrs. F. W. Matthiessen, of LaSalle. Mrs. Herrcke's grandparents resided many years in LaSalle and her grandfather was an ore purchaser for the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company. Mrs. Herrcke's mother was born in Pennsylvania, of German parentage, and is the mother of eight children, two of whom are deceased; and she now resides in LaSalle. Mrs. Herrcke's father

died in 1892. Her maternal grandfather, Fredrick Ehemann, went west during the gold excitement of 1849, prospered, returned home, and then went west again and was never heard from. It is believed he was murdered for his money, for he had a large sum. Mr. and Mrs. Herreke have five children—Ernest, Otto, Hildagard, Ralph and Florence. Mr. Herreke is a Republican.

JAMES WOOL LARABEE.

With particular pleasure we trace the history of this gallant hero of the great civil war, who gave some of the best years of his early manhood to his country and to the preservation of that Union which is now indissolubly united in aims, ambitions and spirit. Success and wealth have come to him in later years as the just reward of honest toil and duties well performed, but the crown of his manhood ever has been his loyalty to his country in peace and war.

The Larabees are of French extraction, and our subject's paternal grandfather, Willett Larabee, was a native of Vermont, in which state he lived and was engaged in farming until his death, which event occurred when he was but forty years of age. Of his seven children, all but one of whom were sons, Willett, born two years prior to the close of last century, became the father of James Wool Larabee. He followed agriculture, and at an early day removed to New York state, where he died in 1853. His first wife was a Miss Rachel Winton, by whom he had two children: Willett, now a resident of Nebraska, and Rachel, who married Daniel Vandercarr and is deceased. The second wife bore the maiden name of Mary Wool, she being a daughter of James Wool, a native of New York state and a hero of the war for independence. He was a successful farmer and a man of influence in his community, every one calling him "Uncle Jimmie." He lived to attain the advanced age of ninety-six years, his death taking place in the Empire state. Mrs. Mary (Wool) Larabee was born in New York, and died in 1864, when in her sixty-sixth year. She was the mother of two children: James W., of this sketch, and Mary, who became the wife of Timothy Carpenter and has passed to the silent land. Willett Larabee, Sr., was a member of the Methodist church, while his wife, who was a Baptist in creed, was identified with the Presbyterian church for some years.

The birth of James W. Larabee occurred in Rensselaer county, New York, December 5, 1838. He learned farming in its varied forms, and in 1855 came to LaSalle county, where he believed that he would find greater opportunities for making his own way in the world. His half-brother,

Willett, was living here, and the young man entered his employ, and continued to work by the month for several years for him. Having accumulated a small amount of money by the time that the civil war broke out, he invested a part of it in a team and had negotiated for the renting of a tract of land preparatory to farming. The firing upon Fort Sumter awakened all of his patriotic ardor and indignation, and, abandoning all of his personal plans, he promptly responded to the president's first call for volunteers to check the rebellion. Enlisting in the three-months service, in Company H, Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, he returned home at the expiration of his term, only to sell his team, adjust a few items in his affairs, and then to re-enlist in the Fifty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which regiment he continued until the spring of 1864. He then veteranized and resumed his place in the ranks of the Fifty-fifth, serving until the close of the war, and being honorably discharged in August, 1865, after four years and five months of actual army life. He participated in many of the memorable and important campaigns of the war, taking part in the following named battles, among others: Shiloh, Corinth, Iuka, Memphis, Hernando, Grand Gulf, Arkansas Post, Haines' Bluff, Champion Hills, Black River and the famous siege of Vicksburg. He was wounded at Shiloh, in the right arm, and was again wounded at Vicksburg. In the last named engagement he was one of the sixty brave soldiers who volunteered to storm the fort, and thirty-one of whom were killed in making the heroic attempt. For this valorous feat he was presented with a medal by the government, it bearing the simple but impressive sentence, "for conspicuous gallantry in action at Vicksburg, Mississippi, May 22, 1863." During his service he was promoted from the ranks to the posts of corporal and sergeant.

Upon returning from the southern battle-fields, Mr. Larabee resumed his interrupted labors as a farmer, and on the 9th of the following November, 1865, was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Haight, who has been a faithful helpmate. She is a daughter of S. J. and Lura (Miller) Haight. Seven children were born to our subject and wife, namely: Samuel John Haight, James W., Jr., Willett Ralph, Louis Benjamin, Mary E., Charles D. and one who died in infancy. S. J. H. Larabee married Miss Emma Lawrence, and is engaged in the practice of law in Chicago. J. W., Jr., married Almira Howard and has four children, namely: Goldie, Emma, Jimmie and Samuel. Willett R. married Ethel Barrett and has a son, Willett R. J. W., Jr., and Willett R. are both living in Lee county, and the younger children of our subject are yet at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Larabee rented a farm of ninety acres, and aided by his young wife proceeded to win a competence. At the end of

two years he was able to buy two hundred acres of his present farm, on section 4, Meriden township, which he has since increased in extent to three hundred and twenty acres. His wife owns two hundred and eighty acres and thus their united possessions are six hundred acres. He raises good stock, horses, cattle and hogs, and is one of the successful farmers of this region.

Politically Mr. Larabee has never allied himself to any party, as he prefers to be entirely independent. Both he and his wife are devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and of late years he has given his ballot to the Prohibition party candidates in national elections, as he believes that the liquor traffic is the paramount issue of the present day. Fraternally he is a member of the W. H. Thompson Post, G. A. R., of Paw Paw, Illinois.

WILLIAM T. MCKINNEY.

William T. McKinney, a dry-goods merchant and one of the leading business men of the town of Earlville, Illinois, has been identified with the interests of this place for the past thirty-three years. He is a native of the Keystone state, born in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, April 28, 1833, a son of William and Anna (McKitt) McKinney, who were born, lived and died in that county. The father was twice married and by his first wife had eleven children, of whom the subject of our sketch is one; by his second marriage there were four children. In his native county, near the town of Lewistown, William T. was reared, and in the common schools of the neighborhood he received his early education. This was supplemented by three years and a half in a newspaper office, where he served an apprenticeship, which was equal to a schooling to him. Afterward he went to Philadelphia, where for over twelve years he was a compositor on a newspaper. He remained in Philadelphia until 1866, that year coming west and taking up his abode in Earlville.

In the meantime, about 1853, a brother of our subject, H. T. McKinney, familiarly known as Hank McKinney, had come to Illinois and obtained a clerkship at Earlville. Not long afterward he engaged in the general merchandise business on his own account, and for several years, until the fall of 1872, he conducted a successful business here. Since that date he has been a resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

When William T. McKinney came to Earlville, March 4, 1866, it was to accept a position as a bookkeeper and clerk in his brother's store. Afterward he clerked for A. B. Breese, and after the death of Mr. Breese, in the spring of 1892, Mr. McKinney became a partner in the business

with Mrs. Breese, widow of his former employer, and since April 25th of that year has had charge of the store.

Mr. McKinney is a man of many estimable traits of character and during his long residence in Earlville has gained the confidence and esteem of all who have in any way been associated with him.

FRANCIS CORLEY.

Francis Corley, the first engineer of the LaSalle city water works and electric light plant, was born in Bureau county, Illinois, November 18, 1852, and is a son of Martin and Sarah (Bigelow) Corley. His father was a farmer who emigrated from the old country to America, coming by stage from Chicago, in 1841, to Bureau county, and locating near Arlington. At that time there was but one house between Arlington and Peru, and the nearest market was Chicago, to which place the grain was hauled by wagon. Doves of deer were a common sight on the prairies, and often the table of the frontiersman was graced by a dish of venison, a luxury unknown at this time. Martin Corley was industrious and frugal, and soon became prominent and well-to-do. At the time of his death, in 1873, he was sixty-seven years of age, and owned five hundred and twenty acres of land. The country began to be more thickly settled about this time and he was chosen as a highway commissioner, and in the early days was a tax collector. His wife was Sarah Bigelow, who was a native of Vermont and whose ancestors were soldiers in the colonial and Revolutionary wars. One of her brothers, John Bigelow, a native of St. Albans, Vermont, was a large land-owner and died suddenly in Sacramento, California, in middle life, during his candidacy for the governorship of that state.

Francis Corley was reared on his father's farm in Bureau county, and received such educational advantages as were to be derived from the district schools at that time. He remained at home, helping with the work until he was grown to manhood. In 1890 he came to LaSalle to accept the position of engineer in the City Electric Railway. December 27, 1887, he was married to Miss Mary I. McGann, a daughter of Thomas and Mary McGann. They have three children: Vivian, Louisa and Thomas. Mr. and Mrs. Corley are members of the Roman Catholic church. He is a strong Democrat in his political beliefs and takes an active interest in the success of that party. Fraternally he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. His residence is at the intersection of Eleventh and Marquette streets, LaSalle, where he has a comfortable home. Of his

ten brothers and sisters, eight are still living, three brothers having served through the Rebellion. They are: Daniel, a member of the First Illinois Artillery, now a resident of Fremont, Nebraska; John, who served in the Second Missouri Artillery, and now is a citizen of Peru; Stephen, of the Ninety-third Illinois Infantry, is now a Montana ranchman; Francis, the subject of this biography; Emma, wife of W. W. Grimes, of Denver, Colorado; Agnes, wife of Clinton Cassidy, of Arlington, Illinois; Miriam, wife of H. W. Loehr, of Hinsdale, this state; and Mary, wife of Thomas McDonald, a resident of Corley, a town in Iowa, Shelby county, named in honor of the family.

E. J. LENZEN.

Professor Aegidius Joseph Lenzen is the well known music dealer and able instructor in vocal and instrumental music, located at No. 1917 Fourth street, Peru, LaSalle county, Illinois. He is a native of the beautiful Rhine country, having first seen the light of day in Linz, Germany, May 31, 1846. He was one of seven children, four of whom are living, born to John C. and Anna Barbara (Nelles) Lenzen. These children are: Aegidius Joseph, our subject; Theressa, wife of Robert Mossbach; Aloysius C. and Henry. The father was a cooper by vocation and plied his trade in his native country, having learned it of his father, Henry Lenzen, who was also a cooper and died in Linz in 1802, leaving four sons and one daughter. He was married to Anna B. Nelles, whose father was born on the opposite side of the Rhine, in France, and fought in the battle of Waterloo and was a private under the great Napoleon. Although he resided in the town of Koenigsfeldt, he owned considerable land and was well off. In 1857, John C. Lenzen came with his family to America and located in Peru, where he worked at his trade. In 1888 the wife and mother died, aged about sixty-two years. The following year he returned to the fatherland, where he died in 1895, at the age of seventy-one years. Both were members of the Catholic church and esteemed by every one who knew them.

Professor Lenzen was a lad of eleven years when the family sought a home in this country. His primary education was received in the schools of Germany, noted for their excellence. After coming here he attended the public schools of Peru and later took private instructions under Professor Rheinhardt. He first learned the cooper's trade, working at it until he was twenty-one. In 1869 he went with his parents on a farm and followed the life of an agriculturist for eight years more. This work, however,

was not congenial to his taste and he returned to town and turned his attention to music, for which he was peculiarly adapted. He taught voice culture and also gave instruction on the cornet and all kinds of instruments, making a specialty of bands. He also furnishes musical supplies and instruments to those wishing to purchase, and carries a nice line of these goods.

He was united in marriage to Miss Teresa Kilduff, who has borne him six children—four sons and two daughters. These are Anna Lucile, Liszt Joseph, Verdi, Kent Anthony, Helen Teresa and Aloysius. The professor and his wife are members of the Catholic church, and he is a Republican politically. He has lived in Peru since 1857, or in the vicinity, and has made many friends here. Three years ago he purchased the pleasant home which he now occupies and where the casual visitor is sure of spending a delightful hour.

ADOLPH F. HERZIG.

Adolph F. Herzig, foreman in the machinists' department of the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Works, LaSalle, is, like many of the employes of that establishment, a native of Oberhausen, Germany, born September 3, 1858, a son of Adolph and Mary (Kottenbach) Herzig, and one of a family of four children, whose names in order of birth are as follows: Adolph F.; Otto, a machinist of Chicago; Ida, married and living in Chicago; and Ewald, also a machinist of Chicago.

Adolph F. was reared in his native land, receiving there the rudiments of an education and learning the trade of machinist. For a time he was employed in a large steel works and later in the shipyard at Wilhelm's Haven. When a young man he left Germany, in order to avoid the army service required by law in that country, and came to America, landing in Baltimore, Maryland, February 22, 1879. From that city he immediately came west to Missouri and secured employment on a cattle ranch near Kansas City. He landed in this country without means and with but little education, knowing not a word of English, but during the year he spent in Missouri he learned to speak English and has since learned to read and write it; and while his advantages for schooling were limited he has in the broad school of experience picked up a fund of useful information.

Mr. Herzig's brother Otto came to the United States in 1880 and secured employment in the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Works in LaSalle, Illinois, and the same year Adolph F. joined him here and also entered the employ of this concern. Working together and saving their money,

the brothers soon accumulated money enough to send for their parents, which they did in 1881. They came and settled in LaSalle, but soon afterward removed to Chicago and there the father died, in 1885, at the age of fifty-three years. The mother then returned to LaSalle, where she now resides.

Adolph F. Herzig has been continuously in the employ of the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company since he came here with the exception of two years, 1885 to 1887, during which time he ran a machine shop of his own in LaSalle. At the end of the two years, on resuming work with the company, he was made foreman, which position he has since filled. He has an excellent reputation both as a skilled machinist and as a trusted employe, and it may be added that his success in life is due to his own efforts.

October 18, 1881, Mr. Herzig married Miss Kunigunda Seiwert, of German birth and a native of his own town, and they have six children, viz.: Helena, Jacob, William, Adela, Adolph and Ferdinand.

The family belong to the Roman Catholic church and Mr. Herzig is a pronounced Republican in politics.

LEOPOLD C. JANZ.

America can boast of no better or more patriotic citizens than those which Germany has furnished her, and in every community throughout the length and breadth of this great land the sons of the fatherland are aiding materially in the working out of the problems of our nation and are contributing loyally to her prosperity. One of the leading German-American citizens of Peru, LaSalle county, is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch.

Born in Prussia, Germany, not far from the city of Jastrof, on the 17th of May, 1854, Leopold C. Janz is a son of Charles and Charlotte (Stark) Janz. Both were natives of the same locality as our subject, and it was not until 1892 that they came to the United States, here to pass their declining years. The father was a carpenter by trade and followed that occupation until he was well along in years, and now is living retired, having amassed a competence. He came from a representative family, and his brother Martin held the responsible position of mayor of the town of Osofge. Both of the grandfathers of our subject lived and died in Germany.

In his boyhood Leopold C. Janz obtained an excellent education in the public schools of his native land. When he was about fifteen years

of age he began learning the shoemaker's trade, which he has followed ever since. In 1873, when in his twentieth year, he sailed westward to found a home and to dwell among the people of this great republic. Coming to Peru, he found employment at his trade, and worked for others until 1882, when he embarked in business on his own account, and has since carried on a flourishing trade, as a boot and shoe merchant. He uses his ballot in behalf of the Republican party and belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America.

On the 22d of January, 1888, the marriage of Mr. Janz and Miss Josephine Schubeker, a daughter of Joseph Schubeker, of Peru, was solemnized. They have three children—Charley, Joseph and Clara. Their comfortable home, which is situated on St. Louis street, is owned by the estimable couple. In religious belief Mr. Janz is a Lutheran, while his wife is a Catholic.

CHARLES BRUNNER.

There is a lesson to ambitious and struggling young men in the story of the endeavors and triumphs of a leading manufacturer like Charles Brunner, of Peru, Illinois, who has made his way to a high position in the business world from a position of comparative helplessness and against formidable obstacles.

Charles Brunner was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, March 5, 1841, a son of August and Johanna (Roth) Brunner, who had three children, one of whom, Amelia, is dead, and another of whom, Hermann, is a well known brewer of Peru, Illinois. The elder Brunner, who was a machinist and foundryman, had the management of an extensive manufacturing establishment in Germany and never came to America. Charles left school at the age of fourteen and was employed by a mercantile establishment three years, and in 1858 came to America and spent a few months in and near New York city. Then, in the spring of 1859, he came west and located in Peru. He began his career in Peru as a dry-goods clerk for about three years. Then, in partnership with William Rauch, he engaged in the grocery trade, in which he continued successfully about three years and a half. He disposed of his interest in this business, and in 1868, with others, under the name of Foote, Brunner & Company, established a machine shop, foundry and boiler works in Peru. In 1874 Mr. Foote, one of his partners, died, and Mr. Norman Snow acquired an interest in the business and the style of the firm was changed to Brunner & Snow. In 1878 Mr. Snow sold his interest to Mr. Brunner and retired from the firm, which has since been known by Mr. Brunner's name alone. Mr. Brunner has enlarged his



Charles Brunner

plant from time to time as demands for increased manufacturing facilities have dictated, and his establishment is not only the only foundry and machine shop in Peru but is also one of the largest of its kind in the west. It comprises a foundry, machine shop and boiler works, fitted up for the manufacture of specialties, of which Mr. Brunner is patentee, including the Brunner gas and gasoline engines, pulleys, clutches, shafting, boxings, hangers, pumping jacks, power pumps and all kinds of elevator machinery, and the Acme and Brunner scales, of which Mr. Brunner is the inventor.

Mr. Brunner was married in 1861 to Elizabeth Rausch, a native of Peru, and they have five children: Amelia, Sidonia, Lillie, Jennie and Fannie. He is an influential Republican and has been five times elected as alderman of Peru, a sufficient indication of his personal popularity, and has served in that capacity ten years with an eye single to the public interests. He is a member of the German Lutheran church. He was made a Mason nearly thirty years ago and has advanced to the degree of Knight Templar and is a Mystic Shriner. He is identified also with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and with the order of Modern Woodmen of the World. He is a director in the company controlling the Peru Plow Works and in the LaSalle Pressed Brick Company, and is interested more or less intimately in other important industrial enterprises.

MARTIN L. GRIFFITH.

One of the prominent representatives of the journalistic profession in this section of the state is the gentleman whose name heads this brief notice, the well-known editor of *The Gazette-Express*, of Earlville, Illinois. He is numbered among the native sons of this state, his birth having occurred April 10, 1860, at Farmer City (then Mount Pleasant), De Witt county, Illinois. His father, John Griffith, a veteran of the civil war, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, and in early manhood married Miss Malinda E. Clearwater, a native of Mount Pleasant, already mentioned, and a daughter of Nathan and Mary M. Clearwater, who came to this state from Indiana and were one of the first four white families to settle in that neighborhood.

In 1879 Martin L. Griffith commenced learning the printer's trade in the office of *The Public Reaper*, at Farmer City, and in 1885 purchased the plant, which he moved to Dana, Indiana, but sold it two years later. He went to North Dakota in 1889 and was there engaged in newspaper work for himself two years, and for the same length of time worked in the state printing-office at Bismarck. He returned to Illinois in 1893

and the same year purchased *The Gazette* published at Earlville. Two years later the paper was consolidated with the *Leland Express*, owned by A. L. Hall, and the firm of Hall & Griffith conducted the paper known as the *LaSalle County Gazette-Express*; but on the 4th of February, 1899, Mr. Hall's interest was purchased by M. L. Griffith & Company, the company being Dr. D. M. Vosburgh. The paper is now published by that firm, and is one of the leading journals of the county and a staunch supporter of Republican principles in politics.

Mr. Griffith is an able newspaper man, is a good writer and has a thorough comprehension of every department of the work, so that he is conducting the paper with consummate skill and ability. He is unmarried. His mother, four brothers and one sister are still living.

GEORGE HAFFELE.

No one is more deserving of success than is the man who begins the battle of life empty-handed and by honest toil, continued through a long period, accumulates a competence. Such a task, with the additional care and responsibility of rearing several children to maturity, fitting them to take part in the struggle for a livelihood, is no light undertaking; and the one who has successfully performed these duties is worthy of sincere respect, as in the case of the subject of this article.

George Haffele, now living retired from business cares, in Peru, is a native of Alsace-Lorraine, his birth having occurred in April, 1836. He is a grandson of John Haffele, who was a carpenter by trade and lived and died in Germany. The parents of our subject were John and Katherine (Harmesser) Haffele, both natives of Alsace-Lorraine. The mother was a daughter of Anton Harmesser. (She had a brother whose death was caused by the falling of a tree upon him.) Mrs. Haffele was one of six children, and by her marriage she became the mother of eight children, two of whom died in childhood, leaving two sons and four daughters. Our subject is the only survivor. The father, who did farming upon a small scale, died in Germany, in 1872, when sixty years of age. His wife departed this life some two years previously.

After he had gained a fair general education and had mastered the various branches of farming, George Haffele decided to try his fortune in America. Crossing the ocean in 1866 he took up his residence in Henry county, Illinois, where he found employment with farmers. He was industrious and economical, and the result was that he soon had a little capital which he invested in ten acres of land. To this he afterward added

another ten-acre tract, then twenty acres more, and by this time he was prospering, and spurred on to fresh efforts. As the years rolled by he was enabled to buy forty acres at one time, a farm of like size some time later, and finally eighty-five acres, thus making his possessions amount to over two hundred acres. On this homestead he reared his children and passed the prime of his life, winning the respect of his neighbors and acquaintances by his manly, upright conduct. He still owns the old place in Henry county, it being cultivated and managed by his son-in-law, Robert Clemens. While living there he did not neglect his duties as a citizen, and for fifteen years served in the capacity of school director. Until recently he has been firm in his allegiance to the principles of the Democratic party, but since the issues of the last presidential campaign came up for the consideration of the people he has been independent of party lines.

In October, 1869, Mr. Haffele and Mary Clemens, a daughter of George Clemens, were united in marriage. Lizzie, their eldest-born, is the wife of George Rhode, and resides in Mendota, Illinois. Alice is the wife of Robert Clemens and is living at the home of her childhood. They have two sons and a daughter, namely, Harry, George and Mary Magdalene. In 1889 Mrs. Mary C. Haffele, who was a devout Catholic, died at her home in Henry county, aged forty-six years. In 1892 Mr. Haffele married Mrs. Dora Meyerhoff, widow of John Meyerhoff, and she died the following year. October 18, 1894, Mr. Haffele and Mrs. Magdalene Siler were united in marriage. She was the widow of George Siler, and their two children, Mary and Clara, are both deceased. Mrs. Haffele is a daughter of Sebastian and Maria Magdalene (Dole) Gebhart, who died in Germany in 1858 and 1855, respectively. She continued to reside in the Fatherland until 1870, when the attractions of America led her to seek a home upon these hospitable shores. Following in the faith of his ancestors, Mr. Haffele is a Catholic, as is also his wife.

CORNELIUS C. DWYER.

Cornelius C. Dwyer, the genial and affable proprietor of the First Street butcher shop, at LaSalle, Illinois, was born at Arlington, Bureau county, this state, in 1863, a son of James and Mary (Murphy) Dwyer and a grandson of Cornelius Dwyer. His parents were natives of Ireland. His father was a farmer in the Emerald Isle and came to America about forty-five years ago, settling first in Ohio and later moving to Arlington, where they still reside. They are both devout members of the Catholic church,

and are highly respected citizens, the father holding a number of township offices. Thirteen children were born to them, of whom ten are living: Cornelius C., Frank, James, John, Augustus, Dennis, Mary, Adelia, Catharine and Tessie.

Cornelius C. Dwyer attended the district school and remained on his father's farm until he was eighteen years old, when he began life for himself. He began by learning the butcher business in Arlington, and in 1886 came to LaSalle, where he worked in the butcher shop of P. Stuart until 1892, when he and his brother Augustus bought the business and continued together two years. In 1894 Cornelius purchased his brother's interest and has since conducted the business alone. He has built up a large trade, his customers knowing that he is giving them meat from the best grade of cattle to be procured.

He was married June 28, 1893, to Miss Mary Morrissy, daughter of Larey and Mary Morrissy. This union resulted in the birth of two children: Marion, who died at the age of ten months; and Dorothy. Mrs. Dwyer died March 9, 1897, a sincere member of the Catholic church, as is also Mr. Dwyer. He is also an honored member of the Modern Woodmen and of the Court of Honor. He coincides with the Democratic party and takes an active interest in its prosperity.

OTTO KIESELBACH.

Otto Kieselbach, attorney at law and editor and proprietor of the Reporter and the German Post, Mendota, Illinois, is one of the leading spirits of the town in which he lives.

Mr. Kieselbach is a German by birth and early association, and an American by adoption. He was born at Treptow on the Rega, Prussia, June 19, 1854, a son of Carl and Caroline (Jeske) Kieselbach and one of a family of nine children, four of whom lived to maturity, namely: August, of Koenigsberg, Germany; Otto, whose name graces this sketch; Hermine, wife of William Reiff, of Stettin, Germany; and Louis, who lives near Stettin. Carl Kieselbach, the father, was a soldier with the Cuirassiers from 1836 to 1839. By occupation he was a contractor and builder, as also was his father before him. The latter, Gottfried Kieselbach, was in all the Napoleonic wars. He died in Germany at the age of forty-seven years. In his family were five children who lived to adult age. The maternal grandfather of Otto Kieselbach was William Jeske, who was a soldier under Napoleon, by occupation a farmer, and died in middle life, leaving six children. Carl Kieselbach died in 1896, at the age of seventy-

nine years; his widow is still living, making her home with her children and is now nearly eighty-four years of age.

Otto Kieselbach lived in his native land until he was nearly seventeen years old, and received in his youth the advantage of a college education. Emigrating to America in June, 1871, he first located at Winona, Minnesota. In March, 1877, he came to Mendota, Illinois, and accepted a position as teacher of German in the city schools, which place he filled until 1881. In the meantime he took up the study of law, subsequently pursued his studies for a while at the Union College of Law, and in 1883 was admitted to the bar. The same year he formed a partnership with L. S. Seaman, both in law and the publishing business. This association lasted until November, 1887, when Mr. Seaman left Mendota. Mr. Kieselbach has since conducted the Reporter and the German Post alone, also engaging to a certain extent in the practice of law. He has been a Democrat since 1872. Always interested in educational matters and using his influence to promote the growth and prosperity of the schools of his town, he is an important factor on the school board, of which he has served as a member for the past nine years.

Mr. Kieselbach belongs to Alemannia Lodge, I. O. O. F., of which he is past noble grand, and he is also identified with Mendota Camp, Modern Woodmen of America, and the Germania Society.

He was married to Ottilie Volk at Mendota, January 8, 1885. Her untimely death occurred July 17, 1891, and he was left with two children—Oswald and Clara. July 4, 1895, at Koenigsberg, Prussia, he wedded Elise Henschel, his present companion.

ADAM SCHMITT.

Adam Schmitt, of the clothing firm of Schmitt & Eickoff, of Peru, Illinois, was born in that city, March 13, 1862, and is a son of Joseph and Apallonia (Jacobs) Schmitt, natives of Germany, where the grandparents of our subject died. Joseph Schmitt came to this country with his family in 1861, and at first worked at whatever came to hand, and at length located in Peru and accepted position as a clerk in a grocery store, remaining with the firm for seventeen years. This line of business appealing strongly to him, he opened a store of his own on Fourth street, which he still conducts, most successfully. In religion he is a Catholic, as is his wife.

Adam Schmitt is, essentially, a product of Peru, having lived all his life here and received his education in her public and parochial schools. He

was enterprising and ambitious as a youth, and at the age of fifteen he entered commercial life by securing a clerkship in a dry-goods store. This was afterward changed for a situation in a clothing store, where his engaging manner and polite attention assured his success. In 1887 he opened a clothing business, and has had the satisfaction of seeing it prosper year by year under his skillful management, until to-day its prosperity and stability is second to none. In October, 1899, E. G. Eickoff bought an interest in the store and the style of the firm became Schmitt & Eickoff. He is a fine example of what can be accomplished by industry and perseverance, honesty and integrity. He was married October 28, 1890, to Miss Josephine Hebel, daughter of Andréw and Caroline (Repp) Hebel. In anticipation of this event he had built a snug home on the corner of Fifth and Pike streets, to which he took his bride and where they still make their residence. Their family circle has been increased by the birth of two children, Joseph and Apallonia. Mr. and Mrs. Schmitt are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church, and he also is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters and St. Joseph's Benevolent Society. He is independent in politics, preferring to give his vote to the best man.

PATRICK HANLEY.

Patrick Hanley, for many years justice of the peace of LaSalle, is Irish by birth and American from long residence and adoption. He was born in the county of Roscommon, Ireland, December 20, 1844, to Martin and Ellen (Igo) Hanley, and with them came to this country when a child of three years. He is one of a family of thirteen children, of whom three are living. The family settled in LaSalle in January, 1848, and Mr. Hanley has since considered that city his home, although for a few years his business called him away. It was here he received his education, attending the parochial and public schools, and learned the trade of tinsmith and plumber. At the age of fifteen he began to work for himself, engaged in a grocery store previous to learning his trade. He plied his craft many years, ten of them in St. Louis and other southern points. In 1873 he returned to this city and followed the business here until 1885, conducting a store of his own. He has also been engaged in the feed and grain business, and at one time had a clothing store.

Mr. Hanley was married in 1877, to Miss Eliza Hoar, of this city. Ten children have blessed their home and are being reared in accordance with the teachings of the Roman Catholic church, of which the parents are devout members. Mr. Hanley has always been an advocate of Demo-

cratic principles and gives that party his earnest support. He was fire marshal of LaSalle for two years, and in 1885 was elected to the office of justice of the peace. So well has he discharged the duties imposed upon him that he has been continued in that position ever since. It has always been his aim to temper justice with mercy to the end that the offender might be induced to forsake his evil ways and become an honorable citizen. In addition to his other duties, he is now deputy clerk of the county, and in this, as in his office of justice, receives only commendation.

FRANZ MEISENBACH.

Franz Meisenbach was born on the Rhine, near Cologne, Germany, February 19, 1826. His parents never emigrated to this country. His father, also named Franz, was a tanner by trade, which art was learned also by him. At the age of twenty-three years our subject emigrated to the United States. He spent the first two years in St. Louis, Missouri, engaged in the trade of tanner and currier. In 1851 he came to Peru, followed his trade there two years, then came to Mendota, just as this place was starting into existence, on the completion of the two great railroads to this point. He was therefore a pioneer here and one of the fathers of the city.

The previous year, 1852, in Peru, he married Miss Helen Reck, who was born in Germany and died in Mendota in 1876, aged forty-two years. She was brought to America by her parents when she was about eleven years of age. On his arrival here in Mendota Mr. Meisenbach opened a hotel on what is now Main street and boarded the railroad men employed in the construction of the tracks. Later he entered mercantile business, in the lines of groceries, boots and shoes, clothing, dry goods, etc., and for a short time also conducted a tannery, and in all was successful. He had meanwhile great ambition for the growth of the new town, and did much to enhance the value of property here. For the last twenty years of his life he was retired from active business. He established the first German newspaper in Mendota, or in LaSalle county—a paper by the name of the Mendota Democrat, in the columns of which the doctrines of the great statesman Stephen A. Douglas were ably advocated. He continued to edit this paper to the time of his death, which occurred February 16, 1889. He was a very charitable man, a zealous friend of the church, though not a member, contributed to the erection of church buildings and was an exemplary citizen in all respects. His religious predilections were in favor of the German Lutheran church. He was not an aspirant for office, though he served for

three years as alderman in Mendota. Being a great reader, he was a well informed man.

He had eleven children, namely: Helen, the first child born in Mendota, who is probably the oldest continuous resident of the city; Frank and Charles, twins, the former of whom died at the age of twenty-eight years and the latter at the age of thirty-eight; Laura, deceased; Emma, the wife of John Schmitz; Bertha; Emil, a resident of Mendota; Mathilda, the widow of R. S. Knouer; Louise, the wife of Robert Wylie; and Otto and Henrietta, both of whom died in infancy. Frank married Minnie Grancow and died leaving three children; and Charles was never married.

ANTON BIRKENBEUEL.

Peru has been extremely fortunate in possessing citizens of high patriotism and fine business ability, and among those whom she has honored by electing to positions of public trust and responsibility none have been better or more favorably known than the worthy German-American whose name appears at the beginning of this sketch of his career.

Born near the village of Eitorf, Prussia, Germany, December 18, 1819, Anton Birkenbeuel was one of the thirteen children of Peter William and Sophia (Heimann) Birkenbeuel. His father was a mason and contractor in his native land, and died on the ocean while on his way to the United States, in 1854, when about fifty-six years of age. He was a man of good education, and, being a fine penman, his services were in great demand in various local offices where a recorder's work was necessary. His father, who bore the Christian name of Matthias, was a farmer, and lived and died in Germany, his age at the time of his death being sixty-six years. Peter William and Sophia Birkenbeuel were connected with the Catholic church. She died in 1848, when in the fiftieth year of her age. Her father, Anton Heimann, a farmer and a man of influence in his own community, died in Germany when he had reached the age of three-score and ten years. One brother and three sisters of our subject are still living, namely: Frederick, of Peru; Mary, widow of Andrew Traeger, of this place; Elizabeth, widow of August Tuxhorn, of Inman, Kansas; and Louisa, wife of Joseph Kuss, of Peoria. Another sister, Mrs. Anton Kellenbach, recently died at her home in Peru.

Reared to hard and honest toil, Anton Birkenbeuel aided his father as a mason when he was a youth, and, with his brother Peter, served the required time in the army. In 1847 he determined to seek his fortune in America. He came direct to Peru, where he lived all his after life save

three years spent on a farm near Wenona, Illinois. For years Mr. Birkenbeuel was a successful contractor.

He early allied himself with the Republican party, to whose wise policy he attributed much of the prosperity which this country has enjoyed since the civil war. More than twenty years ago he was honored with the offices of township and city assessor, in which capacity he served faithfully until his death. For two terms he officiated as township and city collector, and at one time was a member of the city council. A man of broad information and extended reading, he had no narrow view of life, its responsibilities and meaning, and in his earnest search for truth he cast aside the dogmas and theories with which his mind was formerly enthralled. He was a member of a German reading society, and found much pleasure in the companionship of men who read and thought for themselves. Fraternally he was identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for many years.

On the 5th of June, 1849, was consummated the marriage of Anton Birkenbeuel and Mary Katherine Hoss. This worthy couple, who trod the highway of life together for almost half a century, were among the oldest citizens of Peru, and few had more sincere friends. Four children blessed their home, but two of their little sons soon passed away, Frank dying when but three months old, and Arthur when in his fifth year. Mary, who is unmarried, resides on the old homestead in Peru and cared for her parents in their declining years. William E. is engaged in the jewelry business in LaSalle and is prominent in business and political affairs.

The parents of Mrs. Anton Birkenbeuel were Peter and Margaret (Kurenbach) Hoss. The former died in Germany, in 1830, when he was eighty years old, his life having been devoted to agriculture. His widow came to America, with her son Theodore and daughter Mary Katherina, in 1846, and joined her two sons, William and Adolph, who had preceded them. She lived in the country, near Peru, for three years, and after her removal into the town, in 1849, she received the summons of the death angel, she then being in her sixty-ninth year. One of her daughters, Christina, died in Germany, and another, Elizabeth, widow of John Bellinghausen, has long resided in Peru. The brothers of Mrs. Birkenbeuel have passed away, one by one, the last to go being William, who died at Troy Grove, this county, January 24, 1899, aged eighty-four years. Mrs. Birkenbeuel died February 6, 1899, and Mr. Birkenbeuel lived not long thereafter, his death occurring October 26, 1899.

The lives of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Birkenbeuel were quiet and comparatively uneventful, but they endeavored to perform their duties faithfully, and in so doing they were free from regret and won the approval of their

own consciences as well as the esteem of their associates. They left an honored and unsullied name to their posterity, and tender memories in the hearts of innumerable friends.

GOTTLOB GMELICH.

Gottlob Gmelich, late treasurer of LaSalle county and a man well known and universally respected, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, February 13, 1843, and when nine years of age accompanied his parents on their emigration to this country. They landed in LaSalle county, Illinois, in 1852, and from that time until his death, April 21, 1898, he made his home in Peru. His parents were Jacob and Barbara (Walter) Gmelich, and in their family were four daughters and two sons.

Mr. Gmelich had but limited advantages for obtaining an education, the most of his schooling being before his tenth year. At fourteen he became an apprentice to a tinsmith, and thus was at work in the shop when he should have been in school. However, the broad school of experience was open to him and in it he obtained a large fund of useful information as the years went by, being quick to observe and possessing a good memory, and he never failed to put his knowledge to the best use in his business life. Books and papers were a never failing source of interest to him. He worked at his trade until the outbreak of civil war, when he tendered his services in support of the Union. He enrolled his name on the volunteer list August 1, 1861; rendezvoused at Camp Ellsworth, Chicago, Illinois, and was mustered into Company A, Forty-fourth Illinois Infantry, August 13, 1861, and went to the front. To give a detailed account of his army life would be to write a history of much of the civil war. Suffice it to say in this connection that he followed the fortunes of his command, participating in the various actions in which it was engaged, until the battle of Resaca, where he was wounded in the knee by a rebel bullet. He was then placed in hospital at Jefferson and later at Quincy, Illinois, and altogether was in hospital about three months. During this time his three-years term of enlistment expired and he was honorably discharged, being mustered out September 15, 1864. He entered the army as a private and came out with the rank of corporal.

Immediately after leaving the army, Mr. Gmelich returned to Peru and resumed work at his trade, which he continued until 1866. That year he engaged in business on his own account, dealing in tinware and stoves. He conducted a successful business for a number of years, until he was elected to the office of county treasurer in 1894, when he sold out in order



G. Gmelich

to give his whole time and attention to the duties of his office. It was while he was the incumbent of the treasurer's office that he died.

Mr. Gmelich was a staunch Republican, active and interested in the success of his party and in the general welfare of his community. He filled other important official positions besides that of county treasurer. For six years he represented his ward as city alderman. In 1890 and again in 1891 he was elected mayor of Peru, a position which for two terms he filled most acceptably. He was prominently identified with a number of fraternal organizations. He was a member of the G. A. R. and was the commander of his post; in the I. O. O. F. he filled all the chairs, and on several occasions as delegate represented his lodge in the state conventions of that order; was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America; and served as president of the Peru Turnverein.

Mr. Gmelich was married, in Peru, in 1867, to Miss Josephine Schmidt, a daughter of Albin and Caroline (Conrod) Schmidt, natives of Germany. Mr. Schmidt was a baker and confectioner. Mrs. Gmelich was a child when she came with her parents to this country, their first location being at Louisville, Kentucky, and from there in 1853 they came to Peru, Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Gmelich were born four children,—Lula, Jacob, Robert and Fred. Lula is the wife of Charles Penning, a clothier of Peru; Jacob, the eldest son, is with an uncle engaged in the confectionery business in Detroit, Michigan; and Robert is holding a clerical position in Peru. Mr. Gmelich, the father, was formerly a member of the German Lutheran Evangelical church, and Mrs. Gmelich was reared in the Catholic faith. Their children are members of the Congregational church.

THOMAS W. WATTS.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was Edward L. Watts, a native of England, who, coming to the United States in 1850, purchased a farm of about twenty-five acres in LaSalle county. There his wife died, many years ago, and in 1877 he removed to Peru, where he built a house and continued to reside until his death, in 1879, when he was in his eightieth year.

One of the three children of this worthy couple was Edward W., born in London, England, in 1833. He learned the carpenter's trade and obtained a fair education in his youth, and was but seventeen when he sailed for America. Coming to this state, he worked in the town of Lamoille, Bureau county, for some time, after which he was employed upon a farm. Next he rented land for six or seven years, and by economy and well applied

energy was enabled to buy a homestead of one hundred and ninety acres in Dimmick township, LaSalle county. To this he later added twenty-five acres, but ultimately sold ten acres to the LaSalle & Bureau County Belt Line Railroad. He is still living upon his place, keeps everything in fine condition, and is considered one of the most enterprising farmers of his community. He is interested in the cause of education, being a member of the district school board, and in political matters is an unflinching Republican.

Edward W. Watts married Ann Raycraft, whose birth had occurred in Ireland, January 22, 1838. Her father, John Raycraft, came to this country from the Emerald Isle about 1856, and, after residing for a period in Wisconsin, lived with his children in Bureau, Lee and LaSalle counties, Illinois. Both he and his wife lived to advanced years, and their numerous children are to be found in widely separated states of this Union. Of the six sons and six daughters born to Edward W. and Ann Watts three are deceased; Edward, who died from the effect of severe burns, when a child; and two other boys, who died in infancy. Martha is the widow of John Thompson, of LaSalle; Thomas W. is the subject of this sketch; Anna is the wife of John Bangert, of Chicago; Lida is the wife of Gus. Jackley, of Penoca, Iowa; Frances married Walter Spanswick, of Ottawa, Illinois; George, Alfred, Nellie and Mabel are still living at home.

The birth of Thomas W. Watts took place near the present town of Ladd, Bureau county, Illinois, March 1, 1861. When he was six years old he was taken by his parents to their new home in Dimmick township, LaSalle county. He received a district-school education, and after he had reached man's estate he had charge of the old homestead for about two years. Later he rented a farm in the vicinity, though he continued to live at home, and was prospering when all of his ambitious plans were overturned. He was run over by a team and so seriously injured that he was practically an invalid for the next two years. When able to engage in active life again he became the agent for wire fencing, and in December, 1894, came to Peru, where he purchased the livery business of George Snyder, on Water street. He built up a paying business, and in May, 1898, erected a new livery stable on Fifth street. This he equipped with various kinds of vehicles, carriages, broughams and light road-carts, and is doing a good business.

On the 22d of January, 1896, Mr. Watts married Rebecca M., daughter of Fred and Mona (Cox) Daft. The young couple have an attractive home on Fifth street near his livery, and two little ones—Cecil E. and Rebecca—brighten their home with their presence. In political matters Mr. Watts is a Republican, and before he left the township in which he was reared he

served for three terms as a school director. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias, the Odd Fellows, and the Mystic Workers of the World. Upright and just in all his dealings, he commands the respect and sincere regard of all with whom he is associated.

EMERSON L. WHITNEY.

Mr. Whitney is the manager in charge of the publication known as "Our Hope and Life in Christ," issued by the Western Advent Christian Publication Association, of Mendota. This periodical was brought from Minneapolis to Mendota in 1892, and Mr. Whitney has held his present position in connection with the concern ever since August, 1894.

Mr. Whitney was born at Vanorin, Bureau county, this state, March 18, 1862. His parents, Lysander and Roxanna (Viner) Whitney, were natives of Massachusetts, of Berkshire county, and both were of old New England families from old England. After marriage they came west, about 1854, locating upon a farm in Bureau county, where Mrs. Whitney died in 1882, aged sixty-two years, and Mr. Whitney died in Mendota, in 1897, at the age of seventy-six years. Both were Advent Christians, and in politics he was a Republican.

Emerson L. Whitney was reared to farm life and given a fair education in the country schools and at Bryant & Stratton's Business College in Chicago. In local office he has served for several years as a member of the educational board of Mendota College. In 1887 he was united in marriage with Miss Anna Moore, of Brodhead, Wisconsin, and they have two interesting children.

ADOLPH HOSS.

Adolph Hoss, who for the past eight years has been connected with the Peru State Bank and is now serving in the responsible position of cashier of that well and favorably known institution of LaSalle county, is one of the native sons of Peru, his birth having occurred October 17, 1861.

His parents, Adolph and Margaret (Wunder) Hoss, were natives of Bonn, Prussia, and the kingdom of Bavaria, respectively, and their marriage took place in the United States. The paternal grandfather of our subject died in Germany, at an advanced age, and the maternal grandfather, Michael Wunder, who followed the trade of shoemaker in his native land, came to this country in 1840. Locating in LaSalle county at first, he later bought land in Bureau county, Illinois, and there was successfully occupied in

agricultural pursuits for a long time. He reached the extreme age of ninety-one years. Mrs. Margaret Hoss, who was one of the three children of this patriarch, was married, in her early womanhood, to a Mr. Teichmann, and they became the parents of three children, all of whom have passed away. Adolph Hoss, Sr., born in the year 1818, was one of five children, and spent his early years in Prussia, whence he sailed for the United States in 1845. The succeeding year found him located in Peru, where he worked at his trade as a tailor, and for a period carried on a boarding-house and saloon. At the time of the great excitement over the discovery of gold on the Pacific coast, he walked the entire distance across the plains, and after passing a couple of years in the west returned home. When the war of the Rebellion broke out, he enlisted as a private in Company A, Forty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and took part in the battles of Pea Ridge, Murfreesboro and many other important engagements. At the end of almost two years of gallant service on behalf of his adopted country, he was honorably discharged, owing to physical disability, his papers being dated in April, 1863. He died in 1882, and his widow in 1885 married John Weber, of Leonore, Illinois, where her death occurred in 1892, in her seventy-first year.

The subject of this article, Adolph Hoss, only child of Adolph and Margaret Hoss, has lived in Peru nearly the whole of his life. After completing his common-school education here he entered the LaSalle Business College, and there learned the principles of commerce. For several years thereafter he was employed as a clerk in the dry-goods house of A. D. Murray, and later assumed the management of his father's business. Having been made a justice of the peace, he conducted the duties of that office and carried on a general insurance business. In 1891 he became assistant cashier of the Peru State Bank, and upon the 21st of January, 1899, was promoted to the cashiership. He is a member of the firm of Hoss & Loekle, insurance agents, and is secretary of the board of education. Politically he is independent, and fraternally he belongs to the Sons of Veterans. Gifted with an unusual talent for music, Mr. Hoss was the leader of the famous Northwestern Light Guard Band of Peru for a number of years.

The attractive home of Adolph Hoss is situated at the corner of First and Putnam streets. His first marriage took place October 25, 1882, at Mendota, Illinois, Miss Anna M., daughter of John Huelzer, becoming his bride. She died in 1885, aged twenty-four years, a member of the Catholic church. Two sons were born to this marriage—Gustav Adolph and William Henry, the latter dying in infancy. September 9, 1890, Mr. Hoss married at Secor, Illinois, Miss Emma M. Harseim, a daughter of Rudolph Harseim, and one child blesses their union, Alberta Mildred. Mrs. Hoss is

identified with the German Evangelical church and is a well educated, cultured lady, who has many friends in this community. Mr. Hoss also is very popular, and possesses marked talent as a financier and as a musician.

JOHN J. LARKIN, D. D. S.

Undoubtedly more serious attention is being paid to the proper care and preservation of the teeth to-day than ever before; and whereas the science of dental surgery as practiced a few years ago was extremely crude and inadequate, it is making rapid strides towards perfection, and great things are already accomplished by it. The successful dentist must be an indefatigable student, keeping posted upon the methods of treatment used by the great specialists in the profession, and sparing himself no work or research which may redound to the good of his patients.

Dr. John J. Larkin, who is specially qualified in the art of modern dentistry and is now engaged in practice in LaSalle, is a native of Streator, his birth having occurred May 27, 1870. His grandfathers were both natives of Ireland. His father's father, Edward Larkin, came to America many years ago, and his last years were spent in the vicinity of Streator, on his son's farm. He reared a number of children, and lived to attain the extreme age of ninety years. Jeffrey Conness, the maternal grandfather of the Doctor, was an early settler in the neighborhood of Streator, and was occupied in farming until his death, when about seventy-five years old. Some thirty-five or forty years ago the father of our subject, Thomas Larkin, came to the United States from his birthplace in the Emerald Isle, and made a permanent location near Streator. He occupied various township offices and has been justly respected among his neighbors and acquaintances. He and his faithful wife are members of the Catholic church, and in that faith reared their children. The mother, whose maiden name was Delia Conness, is a native of Illinois. Of their six sons and four daughters, seven are now living, namely: Mrs. E. L. Cavanaugh, of Chicago; Edwin J., of San Antonio; Thomas W., of Chicago; Mrs. T. P. Halligan, of Chicago; Dr. John J., of LaSalle; Delia L. and Robert E., of Streator.

The usual routine of work and play which falls to the lot of the farmer's boy was the experience of Dr. Larkin in his early years. The foundations of his education were gained in the district, common and high schools, supplemented by a course at St. Bede College. In 1896 he was graduated in the Northwestern University, of Evanston and Chicago, Illinois, where he had spent three years in the study of dentistry. (The dental

department is conducted in the city of Chicago.) Coming to LaSalle, he opened an office and has since been successfully engaged in practice. When about twenty years of age he took a course in bookkeeping, which knowledge is not to be wasted, as he is thereby fitted to keep his accounts and transact business in a systematic manner. His office, situated at the corner of First and Gooding streets, is centrally located, and is equipped with all of the necessary appliances of modern dentistry.

On the 5th of November, 1898, Dr. Larkin married Miss Isabella M. Duncan, daughter of Hon. and Mrs. James Walter Duncan, whose home is chiefly in Chicago. Mr. Duncan at one time was a member of the Illinois senate. On November 1st, 1899, a son, Walter Duncan Larkin, was born.

In the fraternities, the Doctor belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, the Mystic Workers of the World and the Catholic Order of Foresters. Politically he is affiliated with the Democratic party. Both himself and wife are identified with the Catholic church. They have a pretty home at the corner of Third and Joliet streets, in a pleasant residence section of the city.

GEORGE A. ELLIOTT.

Among the earlier merchants who contributed largely to the growth and prosperity of LaSalle, Illinois, is George A. Elliott, a retired citizen of that thriving little city. He was born in the northern part of Ireland, near the city of Dublin, on July 27, 1832. His parents were George and Fanny (Bourne) Elliott, who came to America in 1851. The father was a farmer by occupation in his native country, although he held a number of offices under the English government, serving at one time as deputy sheriff of the county of Louth, Ireland, and later as assessor and tax collector. After bringing his family to this country he did not engage in business, but lived in retirement at LaSalle until his death in the fall of 1870, after having reached his seventy-second year. His wife was sixty-eight years of age at the time of her death, which occurred in 1868. They were both members of the church of England, and were worthy Christian people. Their family consisted of thirteen children, of whom nine reached adult years and six are still living. These are as follows: Fanny, a resident of Ireland; Eliza, widow of F. I. Foote, of this city; George A., our subject; Harriet, wife of Jacob P. Bixler, of Augusta, Kansas; Joseph I., of Manitoba; and Charlotte, wife of Thomas Heathcote, who resides three miles north of LaSalle. Both the paternal and maternal grandparents were lifelong residents of Ireland, the latter being a wealthy resident of Dublin, where he spent the evening of his life.

George A. Elliott was reared on his father's farm and given an education in the schools of Dublin. When he was nineteen he came to America with his parents and has since been a resident of LaSalle, living here more than forty-eight years. He was industrious and energetic, always finding employment of some kind by which to earn his living. When the discovery was made that coal was to be had here for the digging, he was placed in the management of the mines at Hog's Back, the mining village three miles north of LaSalle. This he managed most successfully and then turned his attention to other business. He engaged in selling agricultural implements, in 1862, at the corner of First and Joliet streets, and continued in that line of business for twenty-one years. In connection with this line of goods he handled feed and flour, finding these very profitable articles of commerce. He handled his affairs with success, but on account of failing health had to retire from active work in 1883, since when he has resided at No. 1118 Creve Coeur street, LaSalle, in retirement from active business cares.

On the 28th day of November, 1865, Mr. Elliott led to the altar Miss Jennett, daughter of Aaron and Nancy (Winters) Gunn. The parents of Mrs. Elliott were among the earliest settlers in this county. Her father was born in Massachusetts and her mother was a native of Ohio. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Elliott, three of whom have been spared to bless the lives of their parents, while two were taken in their infancy, to "blossom in the garden of the Lord." The surviving children are: Francis B., a carpenter; Jessie B., who resides with her parents; and Harriet Elizabeth, a bookkeeper who has been for several years employed in the office of the Electric Street Railway Company. Mr. Elliott affiliates with the Republican party, and shows an intelligent interest in both municipal and national affairs, but has never allowed himself to be drawn into the whirlpool of politics. In religion both he and his estimable wife are devout members of the Baptist church.

SAMUEL G. DUDGEON.

Just forty-five years ago Samuel Grant Dudgeon arrived in Mendota, where he has since been numbered among the most enterprising and public-spirited citizens. The best years of his manhood have been devoted to the upbuilding of this place. When it has prospered he has prospered, when it has suffered financial depression he has shared the burden, and at all times he has sought earnestly to perform his full duty toward the community with whose interests his own are linked.

Mr. Dudgeon comes of the sturdy Protestant Scotch-Irish stock, which

is one of the best of the old-world race types, its strong traits being of especial value in this democratic country. His paternal grandfather, Richard Dudgeon, was a native of Scotland, and for many years prior to his death he resided in the northern part of Ireland. He attained a ripe age, and died respected and mourned by all. One of his eight sons was Gail Grant Dudgeon, the father of our subject, born in county Donegal, Ireland. He learned the shoemaker's trade, which he followed for some years after his arrival in America. His first location here was in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, whence he removed to Ohio and carried on the manufacture of boots and shoes in Wintersville. Later he executed a contract for a wagon road and then resided in Cadiz and Moorefield, Ohio. In 1857 he came to Mendota, where he was employed at his trade until his death in 1861, in his sixty-fourth year. He had married, in Ohio, Miss Annis McConnell, a daughter of Samuel McConnell, a farmer, who though born in the Emerald Isle was of Scotch lineage. He died at his home in the Buckeye state when well along in years. Mrs. Dudgeon departed this life in 1865, at the age of sixty-five years. Both herself and husband were faithful members of the Methodist church.

Samuel G. Dudgeon was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, January 29, 1831, one of six children, four of whom were girls, and he now is the only survivor of the family. He passed his boyhood chiefly in the town of Moorefield, Harrison county, Ohio. Having learned the carpenter's trade by the time he was twenty, he proceeded to take up the burdens of life, and has since been actively occupied in various kinds of building and contracting. On the 11th of May, 1854, he landed in Mendota, and, being favorably impressed with the place, he decided to locate here. He found plenty of employment, and as the years rolled by specimens of his skill were to be seen upon every hand. In 1889 he opened a lumber-yard, which he is still successfully carrying on. Many of the substantial business blocks and houses of this town and vicinity were constructed by Mr. Dudgeon, whose work has been thoroughly satisfactory to all concerned. Honorable and exact in the fulfillment of his contracts, prompt and reliable in every respect, he enjoys the esteem of his fellow citizens. Great changes have come to pass in the town during his residence here, as may be judged when it is stated that the first railroad through the place was not completed until some time after his arrival.

Prior to the organization of the Republican party Mr. Dudgeon was allied with the Whigs, and of later years has given his allegiance to the first-named party. In 1890 his fellow townsmen honored him by electing him to the mayoralty, where he served acceptably for two years. During a period of nine years he officiated as one of the city fathers, using his

influence in the council for progress and advancement in all lines. He was the assessor and collector, also, acting for one year in each position. Fraternally he is a master Mason.

In September, 1856, Mr. Dudgeon married Miss Mary Finley, a daughter of Alvin and Hannah Finley, and after nearly sixteen years had elapsed she was summoned to the silent land, in August, 1872. She was a member of the Methodist church, and possessed many admirable traits of disposition which endeared her to all. Of the six children born to this worthy couple, John A. married Mayme Wallace, and has two sons and a daughter,—Carrie, Samuel and John. Francis Grant married Annie Thelo, and has two children,—Oran and Pearl. Alice J. became the wife of Emil Otto, and their three sons are Edgar, Walter and Samuel. Charles W. wedded Vie Freeland, by whom he has two children,—Gladys and Grant. Samuel O. married Sarah Lawrence and their little son is named Harold. Miss Carrie Belle, the youngest daughter of Mr. Dudgeon, is living at home. He was united in marriage with Mrs. Augusta C. Baumbach in April, 1880. Mrs. Dudgeon, who is a daughter of Jacob and Augusta Stahl, was the wife of Dr. Baumbach in her early womanhood, and the only child of that union, Tillie, is now Mrs. W. P. Butler, of Bloomington. Mrs. Dudgeon is identified with the Methodist denomination. In 1896 the beautiful residence of the family at the corner of Indiana and Jefferson streets was erected by our subject, and here, surrounded with the comforts which his own industry has provided, he passes his happiest hours.

GEORGE W. LEE.

Thirty-six years ago, on the 21st of February, 1864, George W. Lee was born in Utica township, and in this immediate vicinity his industrious, peaceful life has thus far been spent. His father, Dwight F. Lee, was a native of Connecticut, and after residing in LaSalle county for many years he was called to his reward, in June, 1883, at the age of sixty years. The wife and mother, whose maiden name was Isabella Piercy, was born in England, April 7, 1829, and when twelve years of age came to the United States with her parents, James and Jane Piercy, who located upon a farm in Utica township, and there Mrs. Lee continued to dwell until her marriage.

George W. Lee is one of six children, his three brothers being: Gilbert, now a citizen of Harvey, Illinois; Walter, of McHenry county, this state; and John, of Utica. A sister, Nettie, became the wife of Edward Allin, of Marseilles, Illinois, and Nellie, the youngest of the family, resides in Utica.

Reared to agricultural pursuits, George W. Lee decided to continue in the pathway marked out for him, and surely has no occasion to regret his decision. He received a liberal public school education, and has increased his fund of knowledge by observation, experience and reading. Upon arriving at his eighteenth year, he started out to make his own independent way in the world, and at present is cultivating a snug little farm of twenty-seven acres, conveniently situated near the corporate limits of Utica. Mr. Lee rents a considerable amount of farm lands and carries on farming extensively, being one of the most successful farmers of Utica township. In 1896 Mr. Lee was elected to serve as a highway commissioner, and in 1899 was again called to occupy this important office. Fraternally he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America.

In 1887 Mr. Lee wedded Miss Achsa Leech, a daughter of Joseph and Prudence (Brown) Leech, of Utica. Mrs. Lee died November 26, 1889, and left two sons, Warren and Du Fae, to mourn her loss.

ARCHIBALD MEANS.

Archibald Means, deceased, a distinguished citizen of Peru, LaSalle county, for many years past, will long be remembered with gratitude and affection by the people of this community as a friend of the working man and the promoter of institutions which tended to elevate and upbuild the municipality. Shrewd and sagacious, he was at once an excellent financier and a kind employer, gaining the earnest support and co-operation of those in his employ to advance the interest of the institution for which he labored.

He was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, March 31, 1833, and traced his ancestry back to county Tyrone, Ireland, where his grandfather was born, in 1750. In 1787 the attractions of the New World enticed him to America, causing him to settle in the state of Pennsylvania, where the father, William Means, was born September 15, 1803. William Means removed to Steubenville, Ohio, in 1836, and was engaged in the foundry business at that place for fourteen years. Abandoning that employment he gave his attention to agriculture until his death, which occurred in his sixty-eighth year. He was married in Allegheny county to Miss Nancy Dawson, February 11, 1832, and through her Mr. Means traced his family tree as far back as 1656, when one Garret von Swearingen, a native of Holland, emigrated to America and located in New Castle, Delaware, and in 1664 moved to Maryland. Nancy Dawson was the immediate descendant of Nicholas and Verlinda (Blackmore) Dawson, her grandfather, Samuel



Archibald Means

Blackmore, Jr., having come from his native land, England, and settled on a tract of land in Maryland which had been granted to his father by Lord Baltimore. This tract included the grounds on which stands the national capitol at Washington. The lives of these early settlers were filled with toil and privation; and the suffering and hardships endured by them in the wild, unbroken country, as they labored perseveringly in the wilderness to build their rude log huts and rear their families to lives of independence and industry, made possible the grand heritage of a free and independent nation,—America.

To such antecedents Archibald Means owed his origin, and it is but natural that he should have inherited many of the predominant traits of their character. We will take a brief glance at his life from childhood. When a child of three years his parents moved to Steubenville, Ohio, where he grew to man's estate. He was given an academic education, but close application to study had undermined his health, never robust, and it was deemed advisable to try country air to perfect a cure. At the age of eighteen he engaged in farm work and continued it three years, until he reached his twenty-first birthday. He then went to Ashland, Kentucky, in 1854, remaining there until 1861, employed in the bank of Thomas W. Means. This gentleman, although of the same name, was in no way related to our subject.

His first presidential vote was cast for the Democratic candidate, James Buchanan, but his sympathies were soon enlisted in the cause of freedom and he became a strong supporter of the Republican party. He was one of five men in the precinct, and of eleven in his county, who cast their vote in 1860 for Abraham Lincoln. During those troublous times it was dangerous for a man to express his allegiance to the federal government, as many of the southern states, among them Kentucky, counted it basest treason; and an opposition to slavery was often expressed at the expense of the life of the bold speaker. Mr. Means was known as a man who had the courage to fearlessly stand by any view he considered right, and he was a strong opposer of the laws of slavery, expressing himself freely on the subject. As soon as hostilities began Mr. Means tendered his services to the cause of the nation, and in June, 1861, began to recruit a company of Union soldiers from his district, which was known as Company E, Fourteenth Kentucky Infantry. Of this company he was elected, and afterward commissioned, captain, and at once he went with it to the front, where he served under General, then Colonel, Garfield against Humphrey Marshall, on the Big Sandy river, in January, 1862. His company was one of a number which formed the nucleus of what afterward became the East Tennessee troops, and consisted of seven regiments. While actively en-

gaged in service at the battle of Cumberland Gap, Captain Means was taken seriously ill, granted a furlough and sent home to die, as his friends regretfully believed. However, under the tender nursing of a devoted mother he slowly recuperated and was able to return to the front of battle, where he was assigned to the staff of General A. J. Smith and given charge of the pontoon bridge at Cincinnati. His health again failing, with much regret he was obliged to tender his resignation, in October, 1862.

After restoring his shattered health in some degree, Captain Means moved to Pittsburg, where he engaged in the iron business and later in the pottery manufacture in Manchester, Ohio. In 1871 he came to Peru in order to close out the zinc works here in the interest of the stockholders. The plant was then a small affair, which had never been conducted on a paying basis, and it had been thought useless to try to continue it. After looking it over Mr. Means decided that it could be made a paying investment and at once set about putting his plans in operation. The Illinois Zinc Company was formed and Mr. Means, one of the stockholders, was made vice-president and manager. He at once began to add improvements, doing this in a cautious manner, and increased the works, having the supreme satisfaction of seeing his plans materialize in financial success for the investors. This plant has assumed large proportions and is one which contributes in no small way to the prosperity of Peru, giving employment, as it does, to hundreds of workmen. As the promoter and successful manipulator of the scheme, Mr. Means proved himself a benefactor to the entire community, while his general bearing and conduct since he became a resident of the city placed him in an enviable position among the business men and he was universally esteemed.

Captain Means was married three times, his first matrimonial alliance being with Isabella, daughter of Thomas W. Means, who was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, and moved to Ashland, Kentucky. This marriage was contracted June 2, 1858, and five years later, on January 20, she died without issue. Three years passed when, on April 26, 1866, he led to the altar Sarah Jane, daughter of William Ellison, near Hanging Rock, Ohio. This union resulted in the birth of five children: Annie, who died in childhood; William E.; Archibald L., who died in August, 1898; Robert W., who was drowned; and Sara. January 24, 1880, the mother of these children was called to her reward and Captain Means was once more left a widower. August 16, 1881, he joined his lot with Miss Jennie Schleich, a daughter of General Newton S. Schleich of Lancaster, Ohio, and to them one child was born, Alan Hay Means.

Our subject was an active worker in the E. N. Kirk Post, G. A. R., and served as commander of the same, and was also a member of the Illinois

Commandery Military Order of the Loyal Legion. While president of the school board he made many opportunities to advance the cause of education, and indeed was always interested in the growth and welfare of the city. Although a Presbyterian in faith, he contributed to the support of the Congregational denomination in a most liberal manner, there being no Presbyterian church in Peru. He was benevolent when a worthy object was presented to his notice, although intolerant of shams. Industrious and progressive, with keen, sound judgment, and alert to wise suggestions, he was a rare acquisition to the commercial circles and a strong addition to what was best in society; and it is no wonder that his death, which occurred in Chicago May 22, 1898, while there for medical treatment, was felt a great loss by the community and by an endearing family.

CHARLES K. HALVERSON.

America can boast of no better or more patriotic citizens than those which Norway has furnished, and LaSalle county had no more worthy, industrious, honorable pioneer than the father of the subject of this narrative, who, with all of his sons, have been ready to do all within their power for this land, the land of their love and pride.

Born near Christiania, Norway, in 1813, Knute Halverson continued to dwell in his native land until 1838, when he sailed for the west, believing that greater opportunities awaited him here. Landing in the harbor of New York, after a long, weary journey on the old-style sailing vessel of the period, he went to Chicago by way of the great lakes, and from that place, then a tiny hamlet comprised of a few rude cabins, he pursued his way on foot to LaSalle county. Beginning at the bottom rounds of the ladder leading to success, he worked at whatever he could find to do whereby he might earn an honest dollar, and frequently—for money was scarce among the settlers—had to accept farm produce or provisions in lieu of other payment. In 1840 he married Elizabeth Olson and settled upon a little farm. Years rolled by and in 1858 he was enabled to purchase the fine place known as the Halverson farm, in Adams township. Here he spent the remaining years of his life, respected by all who knew him, and at his death he left a valuable estate, accumulated solely by his thrift and good business talents. He was a true-blue Republican, and voted for every presidential candidate of his party from William H. Harrison to William McKinley. One of the organizers of the Lutheran church in his community, he held the office of deacon and contributed liberally to the support of religious enterprises.

Charles K. Halverson is one of ten children, all but three of whom have entered the silent land. His brother Nels is a resident of this county; and the only surviving sister, Betsy, is the wife of S. M. Sanderson. Two brothers were heroes of the civil war, and their lives were sacrificed to their country. They were both members of Company I, Eighty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which saw hard service in some of the important campaigns of the great civil conflict. Halver died of typhoid fever in the south, and Ole was killed during one the Virginia campaigns.

The birth of Charles K. Halverson occurred May 28, 1854. He received good public-school advantages in his youth, and during the greater part of his life he has pursued the calling of his forefathers, agriculture. However, he was engaged in business in the town of Lee, Illinois, for a period of twelve years, in the meantime serving as a justice of the peace and a police magistrate. In 1894 he sold out his interests in the store which he had conducted at Lee, and returned to the old homestead in Adams township, where he had been born and reared to maturity. By the exercise of the talents with which he was endowed by nature, he long ago placed himself above the need of anxiety respecting his financial affairs, and with faith in himself and the kindly Providence which has watched over his welfare he is quietly pursuing the even tenor of his way.

On the 30th of September, 1875, Mr. Halverson wedded Martha, daughter of Sander H. Sanderson, of De Kalb county, Illinois. They have several children, namely: Curtis, whose education was recently finished at Steinman's College, in Dixon, Illinois; Mabel, Clara, Sander, Leslie, Walter and Edith.

Following in the political footsteps of his father, Mr. Halverson is a loyal Republican. He and his wife and elder children are members of the Lutheran church, and active in its various departments of usefulness.

IRA W. GOODELL.

About a quarter of a century has elapsed since Ira W. Goodell first engaged in railroading, and since 1882 he has been closely associated with the local railroad interests of Peru. He is of English descent, his paternal grandfather, John Goodell, being a farmer of Oneida county, New York, subsequent to his arrival in this country, in 1835. He died there in 1883, at the extreme age of ninety-two years; and his wife also attained about the same age. They had three sons and six daughters. The maternal grandfather of our subject, Walter Olmstead, was a native of the Empire state, owned a paper-mill at Walesville for a number of years, and passed

his entire life in that section of the United States, his death occurring when he was four-score years old.

William Goodell, the father of our subject, was born in Lancastershire, England, and came to the United States when a child of seven or eight years. He lived in Oneida county, New York, until 1862, when he removed to Hillsdale county, Michigan. About 1870 he settled near Fremont, Steuben county, Indiana, where he lived until his death, in July, 1888, when he was sixty-three years of age. His chief occupation was agriculture, though in connection with this he was engaged in teaming for a few years. He was not a member of the church, but led an upright, moral life, and was a thorough, practical believer in the Bible and the truths of Christianity.

For a wife William Goodell chose Miss Fidelia Olmstead, whose birth-place was Walesville, New York. She was one of three children, and, as the only daughter of a well-to-do mill-owner, she received good advantages. To William and Fidelia Goodell four sons and a daughter were born: two sons are deceased; Ella is the wife of Elroy J. Carpenter, of Angola, Indiana; Ray is a citizen of LaSalle, Illinois, and Ira W. completes the list. The mother, who is a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church, has made her home in LaSalle for the past nine years. While yet a very young girl she was honored by being made postmistress at Walesville, New York, which position she retained for several years.

Ira W. Goodell was born in Walesville, New York, October 13, 1858, and accompanied the family in its various removals, working for his father on the farm until he was sixteen years of age. He managed to gain a fair education in the district and public schools of Michigan and Indiana, and in 1874 obtained employment in the freight office of the Fort Wayne & Jackson Railway Company at Fremont, remaining there for three years. Then, going to Pleasant Lake, he worked for the same company, and in 1882 came to Peru. Here he found employment in the service of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company, being in charge of their local coal shutes for about three years. Then, going to LaSalle, he served for the same company as car clerk, following which he was their cashier for two years. Since 1889 he has been located in Peru as chief clerk in the freight department of the same corporation. He is considered one of the most efficient and faithful of its employees, for he carefully consults the best interests of the company in all that he does.

Socially Mr. Goodell belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and to the Mystic Workers of the World. In his political belief he is a stanch Republican, as was his father before him. In 1889 Mr. Goodell built a comfortable modern house at No. 625 Creve Coeur street, LaSalle,

and makes his home there, although much of his time is necessarily spent in Peru. In both places he is very well known and stands high in the esteem of their citizens, being popular among his associates in railroad circles at the same time. June 16, 1886, a marriage ceremony was performed by which Miss Harriet Turner became the wife of our subject, and two children bless their union, namely: Cecil and Hazel. Mrs. Goodell's father, Henry Turner, was born in Germany, but her mother, Mrs. Isabel (Chapin) Turner, is a native of Illinois.

ABRAM COTTEW.

Numbered among the well-to-do farmers and successful business men of Adams township, LaSalle county, is he of whom this biography is penned. He is one of the five children of John and Sarah (Young) Cottew, respected pioneers of this county. The father was a native of Kent county, England, born August 2, 1814, and his long, useful life was brought to a close August 29, 1892. His parents were poor, and he found it exceedingly difficult to make a good living in his native isle, and for that reason he decided to try his fortunes in the land of promise, America. It was in 1844 that he carried out this resolution, coming the entire distance to Chicago by the water route, from New York city by way of the canals and great lakes. In the Garden City, as Chicago has since been known, he hired a teamster to convey himself and family to LaSalle county. Here he bargained for a small tract of land, procured a yoke of oxen, and for some time provided for his loved ones by breaking prairie and other arduous work for the settlers of the neighborhood. Industry and earnest effort always bring their reward, and in the course of time this worthy man became one of the substantial farmers of Adams township. During the early years of his residence here he gave his ballot to the Democratic party; but when the great contest over the slavery question came on he transferred his allegiance to the Republican party, which he thenceforth supported. His wife was summoned first to the better land, her death occurring December 30, 1887. Their eldest son, William, enlisted in the Union army in the civil war, and died after the battle of Shiloh, in which he was actively engaged. The three daughters survive, namely: Harriet, wife of Walter Partridge, of Iowa; Mary Ann, wife of Henry Shulz, of Otoe county, Nebraska; and Sarah A., Mrs. Edwin Moore, of Dawson county, Nebraska.

Abram Cottew, born July 1, 1848, has passed his entire life at his birthplace, the old farm in Adams township. Such education as he pos-

sessees was acquired in the district schools, and from his boyhood he has been familiar with farming, in its various departments. Success has attended his efforts, and his farm, comprising two hundred and fifty-two acres, in the southeastern corner of Adams township, is considered one of the most desirable in this locality. Following in the political footsteps of his father, he cast his first presidential ballot for Hayes, and is loyal to the principles which the Republican party maintains.

The married life of Mr. Cottew was of brief duration. On the 22d of February, 1882, he wedded Emma Lett, whose death occurred March 16, 1884, and their only child, Ethel, passed into the silent land October 10, 1883. Mrs. Cottew was a daughter of Robert Lett, who was a native of Ireland but for some time after coming to America resided in Canada and spent his last years in this county.

JEROME C. KOONS.

Probably no citizen of Peru is better known or more popular with the general public than is Jerome C. Koons, whose position as agent for the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad brings him into contact with multitudes daily. Moreover, he is one of the native sons of the town, and has passed his whole life here, winning the esteem of every one, both as boy and man.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was of German descent. Born in Pennsylvania, he was reared in Ohio, and was a farmer by occupation. He reared a large family, and was a worthy, upright man. William Hicks, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was of English extraction and was a painter by trade. He removed from New York to Ohio, and finally came to Peru, where he died about 1855, at the age of seventy-two years.

Joseph Koons, father of Jerome C., was born in the Buckeye state. About half a century ago he became a resident of Peru, where he was engaged in the jewelry business until 1895, thus being one of the oldest business men of the place in years of active enterprise. He was a staunch Republican, and served as an alderman for one term. Death summoned him to his reward, when he was in his seventy-third year, July 14, 1898. His widow, who survives him, is still making her home in Peru. She was a native of New York state, and bore the name of Harriet Hicks in her girlhood. Of her four children—three sons and a daughter—one is deceased, and the others are Jerome C., Edward and Carrie.

Jerome C. Koons was born March 10, 1854, and after completing his public-school education he began learning telegraphy, with the railroad he

is now employed by, and his first station was at Princeton, Missouri, where he remained for eight months. Then, returning to Peru, he was appointed operator here and has filled the responsible position ever since. In 1887 he was made ticket agent also, and is still serving as such.

On the 9th of June, 1886, Mr. Koons married Helen M. Gardner. Mr. and Mrs. Koons occupy a comfortable home on Fourth street, it having been erected by Mr. Koons some six years ago. Mrs. Koons, who is a lady of good education and attainments, is a member of the Christian church, and is identified with the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Koons likewise belongs to the order mentioned, is a Mason in high standing, being a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 13, A. F. & A. M.; Peru Chapter, No. 60, R. A. M.; and Peru Council, No. 12, R. & S. M.; and he is also connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a stalwart Republican in his political views, and uses his ballot in favor of all measures which he deems worthy of support.

JAMES CLARK.

The specific history of the west was made by the pioneers; it was emblazoned on the forest trees by the strength of sturdy arms and gleaming ax, and written on the surface of the earth by the track of a primitive plow. These were strong men and true who came to found the empire of the west—these hardy settlers who builded their rude domiciles, grappled with the giants of the forest and from the sylvan wilds evolved the fertile and productive fields which have these many years been furrowed and refurrowed by the plowshare. The red man, in his motley garb, stalked through the dim, woody avenues, and the wild beasts disputed his dominion. The trackless prairie was made to yield its tribute under the effective endeavors of the pioneer, and slowly but surely were laid the steadfast foundations upon which has been builded the magnificent superstructure of an opulent and enlightened commonwealth. To establish a home amid such surroundings, and to cope with the many privations and hardships which were the inevitable concomitants, demanded an invincible courage and fortitude, strong hearts and willing hands. All these were characteristics of the pioneers, whose names and deeds should be held in perpetual reverence by those who enjoy the fruits of their toil.

People of the present end-of-the-century period can scarce realize the struggles and dangers which attended the early settlers; the heroism and self-sacrifice of lives passed upon the borders of civilization; the hardships endured, the difficulties overcome. These tales of the early days read al-

most like a romance to those who have known only the modern prosperity and convenience. To the pioneer of the early days, far removed from the privileges and conveniences of city or town, the struggle for existence was a stern and hard one, and these men and women must have possessed wisdom, immutable energies and sterling worth of character as well as marked physical courage, when they thus voluntarily selected such a life and successfully fought its battles under such circumstances as prevailed in the west.

The pioneers were not unaccustomed to more pleasing environments and to one who, like the subject of this memoir, came higher from the older civilization and the more perfectly developed and more consistent manners of life of an old English town, the radical change was one which must have been endured only by one who had the courage of his convictions and who, looking to the ultimate results, was willing to sow that others might reap, was willing to be an organizer, a builder and an institutor. To James Clark is there particular congruity in directing attention in this connection, for he was one who lived and labored to goodly ends and who gained not only a position of distinctive prominence in the state which he had aided to develop, but who stood "four-square to every wind that blows" and held the respect and esteem which is never denied to a man whose integrity and honor are beyond question.

James Clark was born in Ashburnham parish, Sussex county, England, on the 9th of September, 1811, being the son of James and Ann (Weston) Clark, the former of whom was a prosperous liveryman. Our subject was reared in his native country, and was eventually apprenticed to learn the coach-maker's trade. He was a young man of alert mentality and ambitious nature, and his ambition soon began to strain at its fetters as he began to outline his plans for a career of usefulness and success. He became convinced that in America were offered better opportunities for advancement and for securing due returns from individual effort, and accordingly in 1830 he set sail from the land of his nativity and was soon en route to the United States. His voyage was uneventful, being marked by but one notable incident—the time made in crossing the ocean being sixteen days and the boat being a sailing vessel. This lowered the time record of the day in a very considerable degree. He landed in New York city on the 16th of April, 1830, with only one shilling in his pocket, and realizing his somewhat precarious situation as a stranger in a strange land he immediately cast about for employment, having in the meantime pawned his overcoat in order to secure food and lodging. In a few days he secured a situation, receiving in recompense for his services his board and lodging, but at the end of one month he had proved himself of sufficient value to his

employer to insure him the additional pay of seventy-five cents per diem.

The extent to which accident or circumstances may shape a man's career was soon given exemplification in the life of our subject. A Mrs. Luellum and two nieces came to New York from England, the eldest of the ladies having known Mr. Clark in his native parish. Upon her arrival here she made a successful effort to find him, and thereupon prevailed upon him to accompany her to the west, where she wished to purchase a farm, having four hundred dollars which she desired to invest in this way. She agreed to pay Mr. Clark ten dollars per month and his expenses if he would go with her and advise her in regard to pre-empting a farm and assist her in its cultivation. The overtures were accepted by Mr. Clark, and, in company with Mrs. Luellum and one of her nieces, he started for that section of the Union which was to figure as the scene of his earnest and successful endeavors. The other niece remained in New York, where she had secured a situation. The three made their way westward to Grafton, Lorain county, Ohio, and in the immediate vicinity Mrs. Luellum pre-empted one hundred and sixty acres of land. Mr. Clark staked out the claim and cut logs to build the primitive cabin which should serve as a home and shelter for the little party. While this work was being accomplished the ladies slept in their wagon and our subject took the "lower berth," that is, he made his bed beneath the wagon. After securing her farm Mrs. Luellum had only sufficient funds left to purchase a yoke of oxen, a cow, a pig and the most primitive farming implements. Under these conditions was instituted the work of clearing and cultivating the pioneer farm; but ill fortune attended the efforts of the members of the little household. Their stock was lost through an epidemic of scurvy, and they were reduced eventually to the direst financial extremity. Nothing daunted by the unpropitious outlook, young Clark proved himself a master of expedients. He cut down ten acres of timber, burned it into charcoal and for this produce found a ready sale, thus recuperating the resources of the family of which he was a member. During this time Mrs. Luellum had been unable to pay Clark his wages, and finally she offered to settle with him by transferring to him her right, title and interest in her pre-emption claim; and after receiving this he sold it for thirty dollars. After this he covered their wagon with unbleached cotton and they prepared to utilize the same for continuing their journey further west.

In September, 1830, Mr. Clark had been united in marriage to Mrs. Luellum's niece, Charlotte Sargent, and now, with his wife, two children, and Mrs. Luellum he started for Illinois. On the way he traded his oxen for a good team of horses, and with this superior equipment the party continued their way to Peoria, Illinois, where Mr. Clark left his family, and

proceeded thence on horseback, to Utica township, where he paid a man named Croisar the sum of ten dollars to advise him as to eligible location where he might "squat" on government land, the result being that he located on section 4, Utica township. He then brought his family from Peoria and settled down to pioneer life. He operated a private stage line between Peoria and Utica and later from Utica to Chicago, and as this was the only method of transportation in the early days he made money through this enterprise.

At the land sales in 1835 he effected the purchase of two hundred and forty acres, and from time to time added to the area of his possessions until he was the owner of two thousand four hundred acres of the most productive land in this section of the state. His first home in LaSalle county was a log house. In 1837 Mr. Clark took a contract on the construction of the Illinois & Michigan canal, his contract providing for the extending of the canal through two miles of solid rock. The work was completed in 1848. In 1845 he had erected a substantial and handsome residence, and this is still pointed out as one of the finest in this section of the state.

A man of marked ability, indefatigable industry and utmost probity, it was but natural that Mr. Clark should soon become a man of distinctive prominence and influence in the community. He was the first postmaster of Utica, and was the incumbent in this office for the long period of fourteen years. There had been established in Utica an enterprise for the manufacture of cement to be used in the construction of the locks of the canal, the projectors of this undertaking having been George Steele and Hiram Norton, who had come hither from Canada but had conducted operations upon a very moderate scale. Mr. Clark purchased the cement works and in 1845 began the manufacture of hydraulic cement. The investment proved a profitable one and constituted the nucleus of a large fortune which our subject acquired. The great industry, which he founded so many years ago, has grown to be one of the most extensive of the sort in the Union, from three to five hundred thousand barrels of cement being turned out each year. His wisdom and mature judgment were shown not alone in the establishing of this enterprise, but also in conducting its affairs continuously toward the maximum of success, his business and executive ability having been of the most pronounced type. In 1883 Mr. Clark decided that it was expedient to expand the business facilities by the organization of a joint-stock company; and this was effected. He became president of the company and N. J. Cary secretary and treasurer. The business was pushed forward with increased vigor and became, and still is, one of the most important industries of the state.

Mr. Clark was the first agent of the Rock Island Railroad at Utica, and this position he retained until the time of his death. He was a member of the board of supervisors of the county for eleven years. During the war he was a member of the county committee, and in 1870 was granted distinguished honor and preferment in the gift of the people of LaSalle county, being elected to membership in the lower house of the state legislature. In this body he served as a member of the committee on canals and on three others of equal importance, bringing to bear in this capacity the same practical business ability and sturdy common sense which had characterized his career in private life, and he thus was a power in insuring wise legislation, gaining the hearty endorsement of his constituents, having been a stanch supporter of the Democratic party, while in his fraternal relation he was prominently identified with the Masonic order.

His wife, after having shared with him the trials and vicissitudes of pioneer life, and having seen her children well settled, was summoned into eternal rest on the 12th of August, 1877. She left two children to mourn her loss. In 1877 was consummated the marriage of Mr. Clark to Mary J. Cary, widow of Charles A. Cary. She was born in Jefferson county, New York, on Christmas day, 1833, and in 1843 she accompanied her father, a clergyman of the Latter Day Saints' church, to Illinois, and while living in Batavia was united in marriage to Mr. Cary, the date of this ceremonial having been in 1850. They became the parents of two children—Norman J. and Charles A. Cary. Mr. Clark's second marriage proved a wise one in all that makes the marriage state beautiful and happy. His wife was a true helpmeet in every sense of the term, and by her tender solicitude and ministrations made his declining days happy and serene. His death occurred on the 2d of July, 1888, after a long life of prominence and uninterrupted progress. His pathway was ever upward, both in a spiritual and temporal sense. As this review shows, he was distinctively a self-made man, one of nature's noblemen whom no force of circumstances could prostrate or draw into obscurity. His friends were many, and on the list were numbered many of the representative men of the state, and his demise was the cause of widespread regret, while a community mourned the loss of one of its truest and best citizens. After liberally providing for his children he left the major portion of his large fortune to his widow.

Mary Cary Clark is a remarkably gifted woman. She is a poetess of marked ability, and is also the author of prose works of a high standard of excellence. She possesses a brilliant intellectuality and a charming personality, being a woman of great spirituality and one who has made deep researches into the great truths of life. Such a woman could not but be an able and devoted helpmeet for even the most exalted of mankind.

and the affection existing between Mr. and Mrs. Clark was a deep and abiding one.

Mrs. Clark is an excellent business woman, as well as a brilliant writer, and during her husband's life she was his confidential adviser and helper in all his complicated business affairs, and he held her judgment and opinions in the highest estimation. Since his death she has ably carried on the business of the Utica Cement Works and has also worthily used the large fortune left her by her devoted husband. She still retains her abode in the beautiful Clark homestead, which is picturesquely located upon the bluff overlooking the town of Utica. The home is a most attractive one and is a landmark for the surrounding country. Mrs. Clark enjoys the respect and admiration of the people of Utica and worthily bears the honors of an honored name.

JOHN J. CASSIDY.

The office of police magistrate is one requiring peculiar talents and close attention to details almost innumerable. It requires an intimate knowledge of human nature and a knowledge of the law that applies to police cases combined with the ability to decide quickly and with due regard for the just claims of all conflicting interests. There are some model police justices in the west and Police Magistrate Cassidy, of LaSalle, is one of them. LaSalle is his native town, and he was born November 29, 1855, a son of Thomas and Rose (McGuire) Cassidy, who were descended from historic Irish families. Thomas Cassidy was born in New York, a son of Francis Cassidy, a native of Ireland. At an early day in the history of LaSalle, Francis Cassidy, with his family, took up his residence there. He lived there many years, and died there at a ripe old age. His son Thomas, father of John J. Cassidy, has spent most of his life at LaSalle and is still living there, aged about eighty. He was formerly well and favorably known as a bridge builder and general building contractor. His wife, Rose McGuire, was born in Ireland. She bore him the following named children, who survive her: John J., Thomas, James, Maggie and Minnie—the latter the wife of Nelse Nelson.

John J. Cassidy was reared in LaSalle and educated there at a Catholic institution called the Christian Brothers' School and favorably known for the excellent character of its educational work. At this institution he was graduated in 1871. His first experience in the business world was as a dry-goods clerk. In subsequent years his business experience was varied. He was at the head of a hotel enterprise at LaSalle longer than he devoted himself to any other one interest.

In politics Mr. Cassidy is a Democrat and is in all ways active in the support of the principles and measures of his party. In local elections in LaSalle party lines are not closely drawn and it is only in national politics that strong partisanship is developed. In 1888 Mr. Cassidy was elected police magistrate of the city. He was re-elected to the same office in 1892 and again in 1896, and is filling it at the present time in such a manner that his continuance in it is not even slightly problematical if he should consent to another re-election. He is one of LaSalle's public-spirited citizens, zealous in all good works for the town and devoted to the best interests of its people.

WILLIAM E. MEANS.

William E. Means, assistant general manager of the Illinois Zinc Company at Peru, is a son of Archibald Means, elsewhere mentioned in this volume, and was born in Manchester, Adams county, Ohio, May 21, 1868. When he was but three years old he was brought by his parents to Peru, Illinois, where he was reared and has spent most of his life. He is a graduate of the high school of this place and was for two years a student in the State University of Illinois. After leaving college he went to Chicago, where he spent one year in a wholesale hardware establishment. The next two years he was in the Merchants' National Bank of Chicago. Then, on June 1, 1890, he accepted a position in the employ of the Illinois Zinc Company of Peru, and as assistant general manager of the same continues in the service of this concern.

Mr. Means was married June 29, 1892, to Jessie Waugh, daughter of Samuel Waugh, and to them have been born two children, one of whom, Marjorie, is living, the other having died in infancy.

Politically, Mr. Means is a Republican, active and enthusiastic, and took a prominent part in the campaign of 1896. He is a thirty-second degree Mason and is identified with the Illinois Commandery of the Military Order of Loyal Legion.

HENRY T. MOSEY.

Henry T. Mosey, Freedom, Illinois, is a son of Thomas T. Mosey and a nephew of Barto Thompson, two of the well known and most highly respected pioneers of the town of Freedom. He is one of a family of eight children, all enumerated in the sketch of Thomas T. Mosey. His only brother, Charles T. Mosey, is a member of the firm of Klove & Mosey, hardware and implement dealers of Leland, Illinois.



W. E. Sears

Henry T. was born in the town of Freedom, Illinois, May 11, 1858. He received his early training on the farm and in the district school. After reaching his majority he assumed the role of farmer independent of parental assistance, which occupation he still follows and in which he finds contentment and a reasonable degree of prosperity. He resides on and owns the farm upon which he was born, ranks with the representative men of his township, and has the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

Mr. Mosey was married January 17, 1888, to Miss Emma Quam, a sister of John A. Quam, of Sheridan, Illinois. Their union has been blessed in the birth of four children, namely: Earling, Omer, Ruth and Blanche.

Mr. Mosey is a Republican. He cast his first presidential vote for the lamented Garfield, and has supported every candidate of his party since. He has served as a town collector and has just concluded a seven-years service as town assessor, and is serving his fifth year as surveyor for the Independent Farmers' Aid Company for Freedom township.

BENJAMIN M. ETZLER, D. D. S.

Nearly a quarter of a century ago Dr. Etzler began the practice of dentistry, and few, if any, are his superiors in this profession. During this period greater progress has been made in dental science than, perhaps, in any other field of professional endeavor, and the public has not been slow in demanding nothing but the best and most skilled work at the hands of the dentist. Desiring to keep thoroughly abreast of the times, Dr. Etzler has neglected no study or effort that would advance him in his chosen vocation, and has thus succeeded where many of his colleagues have failed.

A native of Snyder county, Pennsylvania, born September 21, 1853, Benjamin M. Etzler is a son of Frank and Mary (Hartman) Etzler, whose five children included William W.; Sarah, Mrs. Wagner; Howard; and Jane, wife of Calvin Fryberger. The parents likewise were natives of the Keystone state, and there the mother departed this life in 1856. The following year the father came to Illinois, and settled on a farm in the vicinity of Freeport, Stephenson county, where he died in 1858, aged about thirty-eight years. Both he and his wife were valued members of the German Reformed church. His father, Benjamin Etzler, was born in Pennsylvania and passed his entire life in that state, his occupation being that of agriculture. The father of Mrs. Mary Etzler was Michael Hartman, likewise a native of the Keystone state, and a shoemaker by trade. At an

early day he came to Illinois and located upon a farm in Stephenson county, in which county he died when over seventy years of age.

Dr. Etzler resided in Stephenson county until he reached his majority, obtaining a good education in the public schools. Later he took up the study of dentistry in Freeport, under the tutelage of Dr. Samuel Garber, and after having mastered the business he came to Peru in 1876, and opened an office. After practicing here for two years he went to LaSalle, where he passed three years. Then, going to Chicago, he remained in that city for seven years.

Thus, by extended practice in every variety of dentistry he gained invaluable experience, and has steadily progressed. In 1889 he returned to LaSalle; thence he went to Freeport and in 1895 he resumed his interrupted practice in Peru. In all local affairs of the place in which he makes his home he takes an interested part, doing his duty as a citizen and voter. His political preference is for the principles and nominees of the Republican party.

The marriage of Dr. Etzler and Miss Jennie Corwin was celebrated in 1894, at the home of the bride's father, H. S. Corwin, of Peru. Mrs. Etzler is a lady of pleasing mental and social qualities, and she presides over her cozy home with grace and dignity.

FRANK B. ZWICK.

An enterprising, wide-awake young business man of LaSalle, Frank B. Zwick may be justly termed self-made and self-educated. Starting into business here a few years ago, he has steadily advanced financially and in every way, winning the respect and high esteem of all with whom he has been associated or had dealings.

A native of Germany, our subject is a son of Casimer and Anna (Loerke) Zwick, of the same country. The father emigrated to the United States in 1871 and in the spring of the following year sent for his family, who arrived in LaSalle April 22. The eldest daughter, Rosa, with her husband, John Waszkowiak, had located in this place in 1870, and it was largely through her influence that the others concluded to cast in their fortunes with the citizens of this state. Pauline, the second daughter, is now deceased, as are Anton and one who was born in this county and died when young. Augusta is married, Wynoa. Casimer is a merchant in this city, and Anna is married and lives in Chicago. The parents are still living here, the father being seventy-six years of age and the mother in her sixty-seventh year.

When he was but eleven years of age, Frank B. Zwick was obliged to leave school, which he had attended but three years, and from that time to the present he has been one of the world's busy workers. He was fourteen and a half years old when the family came to the United States, and though he obtained a position in a general store in LaSalle soon after his arrival here he had no knowledge of English and had a very difficult experience in being initiated into the language and customs of our people. He was bright and ambitious, and ere long had acquired familiarity with these necessary things. He now speaks, reads and writes English well, and is well posted in general affairs. For three years he worked in a grocery, after which he was employed in a cement works for two years. Then, for six months he was with the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, and subsequently with the Illinois Zinc Works. At length, in November, 1883, he embarked in business for himself, opening a dry-goods and gentlemen's furnishing goods store. His capital was small at first, but his ambitious undertaking has been very successful, and he has branched out quite extensively, keeping a well selected stock of goods and meriting the large patronage he enjoys.

On the 12th of June, 1887, Mr. Zwick wrote his first fire-insurance policy, and since that time has been the local agent for about all of the leading fire-insurance companies in this country. He is active in the support of the Democratic party. For a time he served as deputy county clerk; in 1890 he was made a notary public; the following year he was elected to the office of justice of the peace, and at the expiration of his term he was re-elected, and again, in 1897, was honored with the position. His marriage to Miss Julia Mathys was celebrated January 29, 1894. They belong to St. Hyacinth's Polish church, and, as both have musical talent, they give their services to the congregation, he leading the choir and his wife acting as organist.

HARLEY G. HUPP.

Among the younger class of farmers whose honest, earnest efforts are counting for the advancement of the agricultural interests of Northville township, LaSalle county, is the subject of this sketch, Harley G. Hupp, son of George C. Hupp, a highly respected citizen of this county, whose biographical sketch appears in this work.

Harley G. Hupp was born in Serena township, this county, December 25, 1867, and was reared on his father's farm, having the advantage of a liberal education. After completing his studies in the district school he was for a time a student in the Normal School at Geneseo, Illinois, and

later took a commercial course in Bryant & Stratton's Business College at Chicago. Since leaving school he has been successfully engaged in farming in Northville township and is classed with the prosperous young farmers of his vicinity. Like his father, Mr. Hupp is a Republican.

Mr. Hupp was married February 12, 1896, to Miss Effie M. Nichols, a native of Niagara county, New York. To them two children have been born—Russel N. (deceased) and Earl Wesley.

GEORGE C. HUPP.

The substantial and respected farmer whose name introduces this sketch—George C. Hupp—has been identified with LaSalle county all his life and for nearly three decades has made his home on his present farm in Northville township. The record of his life, which includes honorable war service, is herewith presented:

George C. Hupp was born in Serena township, LaSalle county, Illinois, June 9, 1836. His parents, John and Mary (De Bolt) Hupp, were natives of Virginia and Ohio, respectively, and were married in the latter state. Early in the year 1836 they came to Illinois and first made a settlement in the township of Serena, LaSalle county, where their son George was born, as already stated, and where they lived one year. The next year they removed to Adams township. John Hupp went to California in 1850, and as no news was received from him after 1853 it is believed that he died there about that time. His wife died in February, 1892, at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. Their family comprised the following named members: Sedrick W., Wilson, Havila S., A. Jane, Samantha, Stephen, George C., Riley E. and Louisa B. Wilson went west with his father and was drowned.

George C., the direct subject of this article, was reared on a farm and has followed farming all his life, with the exception of time spent in the Union army during the civil war. He enlisted in September, 1861, in Company K, Eighth Illinois Cavalry, in 1863 re-enlisted for the rest of the period of the war, and accordingly his service lasted until the conflict was ended and peace restored. During the first three years of his service he held the rank of sergeant, was then promoted to the position of second lieutenant and later to that of first lieutenant, which rank he held at the time he was honorably discharged, July 17, 1865. He participated in a number of prominent engagements, always bravely ready for duty, prompt to obey or command, and at the end of the war came home with a record of which he may justly ever be proud. For a number of years he was a

member of the G. A. R., but on account of his hearing failing him he withdrew his membership.

At the close of the war Mr. Hupp returned home and resumed farming. Since 1871 he has resided on his present farm of two hundred and ninety-seven acres, in Northville township. In addition to this farm he has another tract of one hundred and twenty acres, making four hundred and seventeen in all, and has also given land to his children, assisting them to get a start in life. He gives his political support to the Republican party.

Mr. Hupp was married in February, 1866, to Miss Mary Jane Callagan, who was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, August 3, 1842, a daughter of William and Jane (Flemming) Callagan, both natives of the north of Ireland. William Callagan was born September 9, 1817, and died in Adams township, LaSalle county, Illinois, February 17, 1896. His wife, born February 2, 1813, is still living, making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Hupp. They were married in Ireland and in 1839 came to the United States, settling first in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where they resided until 1845, that year removing to Adams township, LaSalle county, Illinois. Their family comprised the following named children: Mary, Mary Jane, Anna, William, Samuel and Martha. All of this number are deceased except Mary Jane and William. Mr. and Mrs. Hupp's children are as follows: Clara I., Harley G., William E. (deceased), Eureka M., Fred E. and Arthur C.

WILLIS C. FARLEY.

This popular merchant of Leland was born in the township of Adams, LaSalle county, May 13, 1866, a son of Christopher and Helen (Sanderson) Farley, natives of Norway. His father was born May 15, 1832, a son of Christopher and Julia Farley, who emigrated to America in 1842, settling in Muskego, Wisconsin. There the senior Christopher Farley died, and his wife, with her son Christopher (the father of our subject), in 1844 moved to LaSalle county, locating in Adams township. Here the junior Christopher followed farming, four years as a farm hand at four dollars a month, until he was enabled to make better arrangements. He married and continued in agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred August 11, 1895. In politics he was a Republican. His widow is still living, in Leland. Their children were Esther, deceased; Matilda, also deceased; Willis C., our subject; Hannah; Frank, living on the old homestead; Edward and Alfred, who have been grocers in Leland ever since 1897.

Willis C. was reared on a farm and educated at the country schools.

He left the farm in 1891 and entered the butchering business in Leland. Afterward selling out he entered the clothing business, in partnership with an uncle, under the firm name of Sanderson & Farley. His interest in this he sold out in the fall of 1894; but on January 26 following he purchased the business of his uncle and has ever since conducted it alone. His stock embraces everything in the line of clothing, boots and shoes and gents' furnishing goods, and he has a nice stock and a large business.

He was married in 1894 to Nettie Baker, a daughter of Ole Baker, of Pawpaw township, DeKalb county, this state, and they have two children, —Fremont and Okley,—the latter of whom is deceased. Mr. Farley is a Lutheran and a Republican.

THOMAS CULLEN.

Numbered among the pioneers of LaSalle county is Thomas Cullen, of Adams township, now arrived at the venerable age of eighty-four years. He is the eldest child of James Cullen, who emigrated to the United States from Ireland in 1835, reaching New Orleans on the 1st of June of that year. He was accompanied by his family, and had no definite place of location decided upon, and therefore stopped at different points on his way northward, up the valley of the Mississippi, working at his trade, that of blacksmith. It was not until 1846 that he finally arrived in LaSalle county, thenceforth to be his permanent place of abode. Buying the farm, in Adams township, now owned by Ernest Suppes, he improved it and spent the rest of his active life there, his death occurring in 1879, when he was in his eighty-fourth year. One of his sons is the Hon. William Cullen, ex-congressman, of Ottawa, Illinois, and the second son, James Fleming Cullen, is deceased. The daughters were Catherine, the wife of James McNeal, of Redding, California; Margaret, wife of John Reed, both deceased; and Eliza, widow of Byron Braden.

Born in the parish of Invers, county Donegal, Ireland, February 4, 1816, Thomas Cullen was reared to young manhood in his native land. He was remarkably apt as a student and prided himself upon his memory. He was instructed in the catechism and was a very small boy when he was able to repeat as many as twelve chapters of the Bible, missing only a few words of the whole. It was a joke in the family that his mother hid an old dictionary which they possessed, in the fear that he would commit that to memory, also! The love for study and books which he then formed has never left him, and has been a source of great pleasure to him in all the past years. Very few of the really valuable works of history and fiction



Dr Cullen

have been neglected by him, and many of the classics as well, have possessed deep interest for him. Religious and theological works were much read by him prior to his conversion to Christianity, and Clarke's Commentaries on Ecclesiastical History and the works of William Paley, D. D., had a great influence in forming his religious opinions.

In Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, Mr. Cullen learned the business of building locomotives, and followed that calling for a quarter of a century. About 1837 he became convinced that he ought to devote some of his time to the spreading of the gospel of Christ, and for ten years thereafter he traveled through Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia and Illinois, preaching and doing whatever good he could. In 1847 he returned to Adams township, where he has since resided, secure in the love and genuine esteem of neighbors and associates. In his political faith he has always adhered to the Democratic party, and strongly believes in the Jeffersonian principles. He is unalterably opposed to any form of aristocracy, and views with deep concern the concentration of wealth in the hands of the few.

On the 1st of April, 1855, Mr. Cullen wedded Mary Lindsay, a daughter of Samuel Lindsay, who was of Scotch descent, and whose wife, Annie (Barnes) Lindsay, was a native of Steubenville, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Cullen have three children, namely: Benjamin, who married a Miss Guir and is managing the home farm; Jennie, who became the wife of William Smith; and William, a railroad engineer, of Chicago. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cullen are members of the Protestant Methodist church, and this venerable couple have long enjoyed the highest esteem and confidence of a wide acquaintance. Richest blessings of health, prosperity and happiness have been granted them, for which, with grateful hearts, they give thanks and praise to God. Devout Christians, their lives have been largely devoted to work in behalf of the Master,—Jesus Christ. Many happy years have been allotted them in this life, through the declining years of which they journey with unshaken faith in the hand of God to strengthen them in life, care for them in death and reward them with happiness, peace and rest in the great beyond.

JOHN HILLIARD.

This honored veteran of the great civil war and prominent citizen of Ottawa, LaSalle county, was born at Plattsburg, Clinton county, New York, November 2, 1838. His paternal grandfather, Joshua Hilliard, a native of Connecticut, was one of the heroes of the war for independence. He married a Miss Grinnell, likewise of Connecticut, and for a number of years they dwelt in Vermont. It was in that state that the father of our

subject, Anson Hilliard, was born and reared. When a mere youth he removed to the Empire state, there passing the remainder of his life, and dying while in his prime, in 1856. His wife, whose maiden name was Amity Smith, was born in Montpelier, Vermont, and departed this life in 1849.

Thus, when but eleven years of age, John Hilliard was deprived of the tender care of a mother, from whom he received training in example and precept, resulting in high standards of action in his later life. Until the death of his father, he continued to live at the place of his birth, Plattsburg, in whose public schools he obtained a liberal education for that period. In 1858 he came to the prairie state and spent about a year in Ottawa and vicinity, then returning to his native town.

When the war of the Rebellion broke out, John Hilliard was prompt in offering his services to the government. He enlisted in 1861 for a period of two years, in Company C, Sixteenth Regiment of the New York Volunteer Infantry, under command of Captain Frank Palmer and Colonel Davies. With his regiment he was ordered to the front in time to take part in the first battle of Bull Run, and subsequently participated in numerous minor engagements. In 1863 he was actively engaged in the battle of Fredericksburg, and was captured by the enemy, but exchanged at the end of ten days. At the close of his term of enlistment he was mustered out, at Albany, and granted an honorable discharge.

In 1863, Mr. Hilliard returned to Ottawa, where for three years he was employed on the Illinois & Michigan canal, engaged in the transfer of farm produce from various points along the line to Chicago. In 1868 he entered into business relations with Andrew Hamilton, of Ottawa, under the firm name of Hamilton & Hilliard, and for ten years they were successfully engaged in the sale of flour and feed, lime and other products. At the end of the decade our subject sold his interest to his partner and bought a quarter section of land in Utica township. For four years he gave his entire attention to the cultivation and improvement of this property, and dealt more or less in live stock. A good opportunity presenting itself for the disposal of his homestead, he sold the place, and returning to Ottawa again became a partner of Mr. Hamilton. This connection continued for two years. For the second time he sold out and retired on account of failing health. He subsequently purchased a farm near the town of Utica, and here resided temporarily for two years, and in the fall of 1899 returned to Ottawa, his present place of residence.

Mr. Hilliard served for one term as an alderman, in Ottawa. In the Grand Army of the Republic he belongs to Seth C. Earl Post, No. 156, of Ottawa. In the Masonic order he is identified with Occidental Lodge,

No. 40, A. F. & A. M., of this place. By his marriage to Miss Maria Hickling, a daughter of Thomas Hickling, Mr. Hilliard had one child, a daughter, who died when eight years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Hilliard have an adopted son, Hubert J. Hilliard, who now resides on Mr. Hilliard's farm near Utica.

ANDREW HEBEL.

Andrew Hebel, the secretary and treasurer of the Peru Beer Company, and ex-mayor of Peru, was born in LaSalle, Illinois, May 13, 1865. His father, Andrew Hebel, was a well known pioneer brewer of LaSalle and Peru, and was a native of Bavaria, Germany, coming to the United States some time during the '50s. After visiting Milwaukee, St. Louis and other points, with a view to locating, he came to LaSalle, where he settled about 1860. Here he married Miss Karolina Rapp, who came from Bavaria to LaSalle a few years later than Mr. Hebel. Five children were the fruits of this marriage—Andrew, Josephine, Caroline, Annie and Bertha. The father was a master brewer, having learned the trade in his native land, and after locating in LaSalle took charge of the brewing of the Eliel Brewing Company, remaining there nine years. In 1869 he moved to Peru and took charge of the old Peru Beer Company, a co-operative concern. Three years later he and Herman Brunner bought the plant and operated it under the name of Hebel & Brunner until his death in 1886. His wife still survives him.

Andrew Hebel, our subject, was about four years old when his father became a resident of Peru, and he grew to manhood in this city. He was given every facility for obtaining a good education in order that he might become a successful man of business. His primary training was received in the public schools of Peru and the high school, at which he graduated in 1880. He then attended the University of St. Louis for one year, and took a six-months course in the Bryant & Stratton Business College of Chicago to gain a practical idea of bookkeeping. To gain actual experience in the work he secured a position as bookkeeper in the office of Rand, McNally & Company, of Chicago, where he remained four years, leaving there in the spring of 1886, at his father's request, to take charge of the latter's interest in the brewery. At the death of his father he took charge of the office and became a partner, taking his father's interest and continuing the business under the old style for three years. In 1889 the firm was changed to a stock company, which was incorporated and known as the Peru Beer Company, with an invested capital of fifty thousand dollars, and at present the annual output is about fifteen thousand barrels. The

officers elected were Herman Brunner, president; Andrew Hebel, secretary and treasurer; and Charles Herbold, superintendent. They have been continued in that capacity ever since. They have made a special effort to produce a pure, malt-and-hop beer, and are given credit for brewing a high grade. Their business has increased to such an extent that it was found necessary to enlarge their buildings, and they have just completed the erection of a large stock house or cold-storage cellars, at a cost of thirty thousand dollars.

Mr. Hebel was united in marriage, in 1889, to Miss Rose Cossmann, whose father was an iron-foundry man of Chicago. Five of the six children born to them are living. Mr. Hebel and wife are members of the Catholic church and are liberal contributors toward its support. He is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters, the Catholic Knights of America and other organizations. In politics he is a Democrat and was twice elected to the office of alderman without opposition. During his second term of office Mayor Rausch resigned and the council elected Mr. Hebel mayor pro tem. for the remainder of the term. At the election held in the following May he was elected mayor without opposition and held the trust for a further period of two years, declining re-election afterward on account of his business.

THOMAS F. THOMPSON.

The Scandinavian element in our great western population is a good one. The men from Sweden and Norway who have cast their lot with us have demonstrated their ability to seize upon the advantages of American citizenship as practically and as patriotically as men "to the manor born." One of the most prominent Scandinavians in LaSalle county is Thomas F. Thompson, grain merchant and banker, at Leland, who has made his way to permanent success in life in the face of many obstacles.

Thomas F. Thompson was born in Norway, September 7, 1832, and was brought to the United States by his parents in 1844, and the family found a home in Norway, Racine county, Wisconsin. His parents were Thomas T. Flattre and Isabella Thompson. His mother died in Norway, Wisconsin, and his father in Leland, LaSalle county, Illinois, where he located in 1853, though he later lived in Kansas for a time.

Thomas F. Thompson remained at the family home in Norway, Wisconsin, until 1852, when he was twenty years old, and then he went to Chicago, where he remained two years. In 1854 he first came to Leland, where for two years he was in partnership with A. A. Klove. Disposing of his interests to Mr. Klove, he went to Atchison county, Kansas, where

he ran a sawmill two years. After his return to Leland he was for a time employed in the store of Hans Thompson. In 1861 Mr. Thompson and Thomas Iverson began to deal in grain at Leland and they continued the business with varying success until 1866, when Mr. Thompson disposed of his interest in it and was associated, for a time, with C. F. Okefield in the same business. He then removed to Crescent, Illinois, where for eight years he was engaged in merchandising. Returning to Leland, he formed a partnership with Knute Buland and bought the grain business of Mr. Okefield, who had died just before that time. In 1883 Andrew Anderson bought Mr. Buland's interest in the business and the firm became Thompson & Anderson, under which style it exists at this time. Its banking department was added in May, 1896.

Mr. Thompson is a Republican. He has served for his townsmen since 1880 as town clerk and has filled several other important offices. He was confirmed in the Lutheran church more than fifty years ago. He married Miss Caroline Selter, a daughter of Ole T. Selter, June 19, 1861. Mrs. Thompson was a native of Norway and was brought to the United States when she was only about a year old. She bore Mr. Thompson ten children and died deeply regretted in 1886. Six of their children are living: Lewis T., Stanley O., Cora M., Nettie E., Jeannette O. and Charlotte T. Mr. Thompson has proven himself a public-spirited citizen, alive to the best interests of his town, county and state and deeply interested in national affairs. There is no public movement affecting the weal of the people of LaSalle county in which he is not active and helpful.

GABRIEL M. JAMESON.

America can boast of no better, more patriotic citizens than the sons of old Norway, and Illinois and the great northwest recognize them as extremely important factors in the development and progress of this splendid region. Almost without exception they are industrious, peaceable, law-abiding citizens, and in these respects few countries can compete with Norway. Prominent among the early settlers of LaSalle county were the Jamesons, who for more than thirty years have been numbered among the enterprising agriculturists of this flourishing section of the state.

The father of the subject of this article was Sivert Jameson, a son of Gudman Jameson, and a native of the island of Skudesness, on the western coast of Norway, born May 16, 1826. When he was twenty-seven years of age he married Rachel Christopherson, and to them were born the following named children: Gabriel M.; Rastus; Annie, wife of Knute

Holt, of Iowa; Maggie; Rachel, wife of Richard Thorgerson, of Chicago; Martha, who married John Watnem, of Dayton township, LaSalle county; Laura, wife of B. Johnson, of Freedom; Ollie, bookkeeper for the firm of Skinner, Richards & Company, of Chicago; and Miss Nellie.

Until he was forty years of age, Sivert Jameson struggled to gain an honest livelihood for himself and family by farming and fishing, as was the custom of the people of his country. Largely through his own persistent efforts he obtained a little education, and, having given particular attention to the subject of the United States and its development, its resources and industrial conditions, he at length determined to seek a home in the land which ever has extended a warm welcome to the honest sons of toil. When he landed on these hospitable shores he was better versed in the politics and duties of citizens here than some of the native-born sons of the country, and he had made up his mind to uphold the laws and do all within his power to promote the prosperity of the nation. On the 1st of June, 1866, with his six children, he stepped from the deck of the sailing vessel which had conveyed them from Stavanger, Norway, to Quebec, and thence proceeded by railroad to Chicago. There he remained for one month, and then went to Leland, Illinois, where he rented a house, and, having safely installed his family therein, he commenced working by the day, as his scanty funds were in need of replenishment. In the following spring he rented an eighty-acre farm of Charles Wiley, who was so impressed by the industry and spirit of his tenant that he said to him one day that summer, "I want to sell you this farm;" and when Mr. Jameson replied, "I am not able to pay for it," Mr. Wiley told him that he would sell the property for two hundred dollars in cash, and the remainder might be paid for on as easy terms as he desired. Mr. Jameson accepted the condition, and, in due time the farm was deeded to him. After owning the place for eight years he sold it to Theodore McClure, and purchased two hundred and forty acres in Wallace township, making a fine country home there.

Gabriel M. Jameson was born near Stavanger, Norway, March 21, 1852, and was a lad of fourteen when he came to LaSalle county. After learning the details of farming on the parental homestead, he worked for three years by the month, and with the carefully saved earnings of this period later bought an eighty-acre tract of land from his father. There he began his independent family life and resided there until 1898, when he sold that property and bought the Rowe estate in Freedom township. He is improving this farm and is making a success of his business undertakings, as he generally does.

The first wife of Mr. Jameson was Amelia, daughter of Matthias Sawyer. They were married in February, 1881, and in September, 1884, the

wife died, leaving two children—Raymond and Merton. In January, 1896, Mr. Jameson married Mary Thornson, a daughter of Thorn Thornson, and they became the parents of two children, Fremont and Marian. Mrs. Jameson was summoned to the silent land in August, 1898, and her loss has been deeply felt by all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance.

BENJAMIN SPRINGSTEED.

Benjamin Springsteed, of Serena township, LaSalle county, has a wide acquaintanceship in this section of the state and is highly esteemed by every one. He is a son of one of the sterling, rugged pioneers of this county, Hiram Springsteed, who settled here three-score years ago, in October, 1839, and thenceforward was associated with the welfare of this community. He was a native of Onondaga county, New York, born October 16, 1819. He had but limited educational advantages in his youth, but was a man of practical business ability, possessing sound common sense and good judgment. When he was a lad of twelve or fourteen years he left his native state, lived four years in Ohio, and, going to the pine woods of Michigan, found employment in the forests. He worked very hard for the two years he was there, becoming noted for the number of rails which he could split in a day, and after coming to Illinois, in 1839, he was similarly occupied for some time, chiefly employed by a Mr. Borap, of Bureau county. Carefully husbanding his means, he was at length enabled to purchase a quarter section of land from the government, and part of his original farm is now in the possession of Henry Harthan, of Adams township. Selling this homestead later, Mr. Springsteed invested his funds in a piece of timber land in Adams township, and subsequently he secured adjoining lands in Serena township. He cleared and improved his possessions, gave to each of his two eldest children a farm, and still owns five hundred and fifty acres. He hauled to the Chicago market one of the first loads of wheat that were hauled to Chicago, and he took it to Whiting's warehouse. During the gold excitement, in 1850, he went to the Pacific coast, crossing the plains, but was not of the fortunate few who reaped a fortune, and at the end of a year he returned home, by way of the isthmus of Panama, but little richer than when he started. He was very active in the support of the Democratic party and took an active interest in local affairs, though in no wise a politician. His death occurred in October, 1895.

January 4, 1844. Hiram Springsteed married Maria, a daughter of Samuel Lett, and a sister of Benjamin Lett, the celebrated Canadian patriot and revolutionist who blew up the monument to General Brock and had a

price set on his head by the British government. To Hiram and Maria Springsteed several children were born, and those surviving are: Riley, of Kansas City, Missouri; Mary, the wife of Joseph Nelson, of Serena; Hiram, a prominent farmer of Serena township; Benjamin; and Emma, the wife of Gus Grandgeorge, of Adams township.

The birth of our subject, Benjamin Springsteed, took place upon the farm which is his present place of abode, the date of the event being June 22, 1856. He received a fair district-school education, and early mastered the details of farming. Possessing the industrious spirit which animated his father, he has been justly successful, and is the owner of two hundred and twenty-seven acres of valuable, improved property. Politically he is a Democrat and takes an interest in the management of township matters as well as in the greater state and national issues.

Joy and sorrow have come into the life of Mr. Springsteed, as to every one, and he has endeavored to act the manly, noble part, under all circumstances. The lady who is his wife, and sharer of his fortunes, is a native of New York state, and was visiting a cousin in Serena township when she made the acquaintance of her future husband. Her maiden name was Luna B. Nichols, her father being George Nichols, of Niagara county, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Springsteed were married July 26, 1888. Their eldest child, born in 1889, and named Mabel, was killed accidentally, April 4, 1899. Two daughters and three sons remain to cheer and brighten the home. Their names are given in order of their ages: Jessie Ellen, Harry Bryan, Vera Belle, Riley G., and an unnamed baby.

THOMAS T. MOSEY.

One of the pioneers of LaSalle county, Thomas T. Mosey, has been a citizen of this county for fifty-five years and has been actively interested in its upbuilding and progress. His life has been quiet and unmarked by so-called great events, but he has ever endeavored to perform his full duty toward his fellow men, and has found his chief pleasure in extending a helping hand to the poor and needy and in caring for his family.

One of the native sons of Norway, Mr. Mosey inherited from a long line of worthy ancestors the sterling traits of character which he possesses in no unstinted measure. He was born August 21, 1827, was reared upon a farm, and was early instructed in the thrifty, industrious methods pursued by his father. The latter, Knute Mosey, emigrated to the United States with his family, in 1845, and entered a tract of land from the government, in Freedom township, LaSalle county. During the scourge of cholera

which swept away so many of the inhabitants of this country in 1849, he succumbed to the dread disease, as also did the wife and mother and their two daughters.

Thomas T. Mosey was thus left as the mainstay of the younger members of the family, and faithfully did he carry out the plans which had been made by the father. Having been thoroughly familiar with farming labor since his early years, he was equal to the task of carrying on the homestead, and continued to give his entire attention to agriculture for forty-three years. By that time, he had amassed a modest competence, and not being ambitious for wealth he took up his abode in Leland, where he has since dwelt. While a resident of Freedom township he served as a member of the school board for sixteen years, and since coming to Leland he was one of the town councilmen for three years. Politically he is a stalwart Republican. In his church affiliations he is a Lutheran, and has officiated as deacon in his church.

When a young man of twenty-three years, Mr. Mosey married Betsy Hanson, a daughter of Hans Hanson, of Adams township. They became the parents of eight children, namely: Sarah, the wife of the Rev. Gjertsen, of Minnieapolis, Minnesota; Josephine, the wife of Dr. Laws, of Minneapolis; Mary, the wife of the Rev. Guldbrandsen, of Blair, Wisconsin; Charles, a hardware merchant of Leland; Henry T., a farmer of this county; Hannah, the wife of Andrew Klove, of Leland; Lila and Esther, who are unmarried and are at home. The children have received an excellent education and are worthy citizens of the various communities in which their lot is cast.

AUGUST GERDING.

August Gerding, photographer and one of the leading business men and enterprising citizens of Ottawa, was born in the city of Ottawa forty-two years ago. He is one of a family of ten children. He obtained the benefits of a liberal education in the public schools, and for over a quarter of a century he has devoted his time and energies to the art of photography, making steady improvement and keeping abreast of the spirit of the times. Rapid advances have been made in this useful profession, science being pressed into the service, and great minds finding it worthy of their deep research and investigation. In order to be a successful photographer in these end-of-the-century days, one must be an artist, in addition to everything else, and here it is that the natural talent of Mr. Gerding especially asserts itself. Among his patrons may be found the representative citizens of Ottawa and vicinity, as his gallery, at the corner of Main and LaSalle

streets, is reputed to be the best and most thoroughly equipped of all photographic establishments in this place. To the enlarging of photographs and to the execution of crayon, pastel and water-color work, particular attention is given, especially fine likenesses being guaranteed.

The marriage of August Gerding and Miss Louise Scherer took place November 17, 1882. They have five children, named in order of birth as follows: Augusta, Fred, Othileo, Carl and Hubert. The family residence is a pleasant one, situated at No. 1021 West Webster street, on the west side of the town. Politically, Mr. Gerding is affiliated with the Democratic party.

HORACE B. GEORGE.

Horace B. George, a retired farmer and one of the oldest citizens of Leland, LaSalle county, was born in Jefferson county, New York, October 28, 1824, and is a son of Gilman and Fannie (Bartlett) George. His father was born in Vermont and the mother in New Hampshire, and both were descended from Puritan stock, their ancestors having come from England. They were married in New Hampshire and settled, about 1820, in Jefferson county, New York, where they followed farming and both ended their life. Their family consisted of the following children: Horace B., our subject; Moses, deceased, and for more than thirty years an engineer on the Rock Island Railway; Harvey, who has been a farmer of Iowa for about thirty years; Mary Jane, deceased, who married I. A. Thompson, of Watertown, New York; and Daniel, who lived many years in Jefferson county, New York, but came to this county about three years before the civil war, enlisted in the Eighth Illinois Cavalry and died in Baltimore, Maryland, while in the service.

Horace B. George was reared on a farm and received but a limited education as the facilities for attending school were very poor. He left home when twenty-one to learn the trade of miller, securing a place at Redwood in one of the mills. He came west in 1848, in the fall of that year locating in this county, where he has been a resident ever since,—more than fifty years. He first secured employment in a mill at Dayton, this county, where he remained at a good salary for fifteen years. He was a poor man when he came west and went on to California in 1852 during the gold excitement, making some money by the trip. He saved his earnings and invested in one hundred and sixty acres of land in Earl township, locating it with a warrant that cost him one hundred and fifty dollars and was signed by President Fillmore. He afterward added another eighty, for which he paid fifty dollars per acre. His brother first moved upon this land



H. B. George



Elizabeth S. George

and improved it for him, and he moved upon it in 1863, and from that time until 1885 he continued to make this place his home. In 1885 he moved to the village of Leland and has since lived a retired life.

Mr. George was married, while working in Dayton as a miller, in 1852, to Miss Elizabeth Stadden, a daughter of William and Judah (Daniels) Stadden, who came from Ohio to this county in 1829, and here Mrs. George was born four years later. Mrs. George's father was one of the early sheriffs of LaSalle county and also served two terms in the state senate, and later as a member of a constitutional convention for the revision of the state constitution, and was also prominent in Masonry. He settled at Dayton, and there operated one of the first gristmills of the county. He was a prominent character in the early history of the county. We record, however, that he died rather early in life, being only forty-five years of age at the time of his death.

Mr. and Mrs. George were the parents of four children, one of whom died in early childhood. The other children were William, deceased, who was a hotel-keeper in Spring View, Nebraska, where he died in 1891, aged thirty-nine years; he married Hellen Target and left a daughter, Myrtle; Ida B. married William G. Cove, a traveling salesman for Kimbark & Company, of Chicago; and Edgar C. married Jennie Fluellen, and is living on the old homestead in Earl township. Like his father, Mr. George is a stanch Democrat, but has never been an aspirant for political preferment. He has been honest and industrious and his life has been pure and simple,—one that will bear the closest scrutiny.

JACOB C. JACOBSON.

Jacob C. Jacobson, proprietor of a large general store at Leland, LaSalle county, was born in Haugesund, Norway, April 16, 1835, and came to the United States when in his twenty-second year. His parents, Christian and Anna M. Jacobson, lived and died in Norway. Four sons and one daughter were born to them, and they were educated and grew to adult years in their native land. They were farmers and there did Jacob spend the first fifteen years of his life. The following seven years was spent mostly at sea and one year he was a clerk in his native country, and he then took a sailing vessel for Quebec. From there he went by rail to Ottawa, Illinois, and in the month of July, 1857, reached Adams township, LaSalle county, where he went to work as a farm hand. He continued to work as a farm hand until 1864, when he moved into Leland and followed various employments for the next ten years,—in the lumber-yard, clerking in a drug store

for four or five years and as a clerk in a dry-goods store. In 1874 he opened his general store in this city and ten years later took his son into partnership, and continued as J. C. Jacobson & Son. They handle a big stock of goods and have worked up a large trade, buying the building which they occupy in 1886, and also a good residence property.

Mr. Jacobson was married in the fall of 1857 to Miss Cathaline M. Karlson, who came to America at the same time as did Mr. Jacobson. Their children are: Christian B., who is in partnership with his father, was married to Miss Emma Hansen,—by whom he has three children,—and was educated in Leland, afterward taking a course in the Bryant & Stratton Business College; he was brought up in the store and had an inherited as well as acquired talent for the mercantile business; Andrew M., who died at the age of eight years; and Jacob, who died in his twenty-ninth year. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson are earnest members of the Evangelical Lutheran church, as are the son and his family. He has held the office of secretary of the organization for a number of years. He took out naturalization papers in 1862 and since that time has cast his vote with the Republican party, also serving in a number of offices, such as township collector, president of the board of trustees for twenty years, treasurer of the school board, supervisor of the township and treasurer of Leland Cemetery Association for fifteen years. He has not forgotten the home of his youth and five times has he made a visit there, on one occasion spending a year there with his family. He is whole-souled and patriotic and represents a class of citizens who reflect credit upon their adopted country.

AUSTIN SANDERSON.

Austin Sanderson, one of the substantial and wealthy citizens of Leland, LaSalle county, was born in Norway, August 14, 1836, and was a son of Hely and Adalaide (Knutson) Sanderson, both natives of that country. They were the parents of three sons and three daughters: Sander H., who died in 1881; Lavina, a resident of Leland; Knute, who died in 1899, aged sixty-nine years; Margaret, who died in 1897, aged sixty-one; Austin, our subject; and Ellen, of Leland. In 1843 they came to this country with their family, landing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from which place they went to Muskego, that state, and from there came to this county, to Earl township, where Mrs. Sanderson had a brother residing, making the latter part of the journey on foot. The father entered forty acres of government land in Earl township, upon which a small, rude house was built and into this the family moved and made their home. He purchased an adjoining forty

and placed it all under cultivation, living upon it at his death in 1855, at the age of sixty-one years. His widow continued to make her home on this property until 1887, when she joined her husband in the better land, after a long and useful life of eighty-four years.

Austin Sanderson was seven years of age when the family came to this country, and he was reared to farm work, attending the common school during the short winter months. He worked with his father until the death of the latter and two years later he bought the old homestead, which he still owns, and has added adjoining land until it now contains one hundred and ninety acres. He has been a most successful farmer and has continued to add to his possessions until he now owns seven hundred and seventy acres in Earl and Freedom townships, the Munson farm being one of the pieces. He has made most of his money by agriculture and kept at that business until 1891, when he moved to Leland and engaged in the clothing business for five years, under the firm name of Sanderson & Farley. He then sold out to his partner and the following year conducted a grocery in company with Martin Olson. He disposed of this business also and since then has not been actively engaged in any business.

He is a stanch Republican and has been on the school board, using his best efforts to further the cause of education. During 1898-99 he was the president of the board of trustees. He has been a hard-working man and knows what a day's work is, never shirking the task before him, and only after years of toil did he consent to take life easier. He is a member of the Norwegian Evangelical church and a member of the building committee when their beautiful house of worship was erected in Leland, and he was one of the most liberal contributors to the building fund.

RALPH E. KEMBER.

The farming industry of Serena township, LaSalle county, has in the subject of this sketch, Ralph E. Kember, an enterprising factor,—a young man upon whom early devolved the care of a farm and who has always proved himself equal to every emergency.

Mr. Kember was born June 14, 1863, in the town of Serena, Illinois, a son of the well-known and much respected pioneer, William Kember. The feeble health of the latter caused him, while yet in the prime of life and while his son Ralph was a boy in his teens, to relinquish the active duties of the farm, and they naturally fell to the son, who, upon the father's death, became the head of the establishment. He was then nineteen. Two years

later his mother died. He has continued to reside upon the home place and successfully conduct its operations, and has never been absent from home for any length of time except on two occasions, once making a trip to Michigan and at another time to Canada. His efforts as a farmer have met with that reward that wisdom and industry combined always bring, and he is thus ranked as one of the thrifty and successful men of his township.

Mr. Kember was married June 22, 1892, in Freedom, Illinois, to Ann E., a daughter of William Dolder and wife, nee Morsch. Mr. Dolder died some years ago, leaving the following named children: Herman; Mrs. Kember; Louise, wife of E. A. Stoetzel, of Chicago; and William Dolder, of Freedom. The widowed mother is also a resident of the village of Freedom. Mr. and Mrs. Kember have three children, namely: Delbert William, born August 31, 1893; Winnie Esther, born May 20, 1895; and Rachel Norma, born February 12, 1897.

Mr. Kember is a member of the Republican party. At present he is the incumbent of the constable's office, and sees that peace and order are maintained in Serena. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kember are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, holding their membership at Zion Hill, Serena township; and he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

JOHN N. LEE.

John Nathaniel Lee, the postmaster and leading merchant of the village of Triumph, LaSalle county, is a native of Detroit, Michigan, born May 24, 1843. His father, Joseph Lee, was an Englishman, born in the city of London in 1818. In 1836, at the age of eighteen, he left his native land and sought his fortune in America, stopping first in New York city. By trade he was a marble cutter. He did some fine work in New York and in the cemetery at Brooklyn. Also he worked on the capitol at Washington, D. C. Finally he came west to Michigan and for a number of years made his home in Detroit. He died in Black River, New York, in 1888. His wife, whose maiden name was Sarah Amesbury, is also deceased. Their children besides John N., the subject of this sketch, were as follows: Ann, who married James Fitzgerald; Sarah, who was twice married, her first husband being Oscar Kennedy and whose present husband is Henry Welch; Joseph, deceased; George, of Triumph, Illinois; William, deceased; Frank, of Beatrice, Nebraska; Mary, wife of Joseph Graves, of Black River, New York; and Agnes, deceased.

John N. Lee became self-supporting at an early age. When he was only seven years old he was an errand boy in a clothing establishment. At twelve years he became an apprentice to the painter's trade. Contact with the paints and oils being injurious to his health, he turned from this to the carpenter's trade, at which he served an apprenticeship of three years. He was working at the carpenter's bench when the civil war was inaugurated. Dropping the saw and hammer in August, 1862, he offered his services to his country, enlisting as a member of Company D, Tenth New York Volunteers, his brigade forming a part of the Army of the Potomac. He was a participant in much of the hard fighting of the war. While in the service he lost an eye and had his health shattered, the result being much physical suffering during all the years which have followed. He was honorably discharged at Washington, D. C., February 21, 1865.

At the close of the war Mr. Lee came to Illinois, and for a few years worked at his trade at Odell. He engaged then in selling goods, located one year in Streator, Illinois, and one year in Clinton, Iowa. Returning to Illinois, he settled in the village of Prairie Center, LaSalle county, where for a dozen years he conducted a successful business, dating from 1872, when he purchased the stock and good will of John Bowman. At the end of twelve years he sold out and went to Colorado for the benefit of his wife's health. She died December 20, 1886. In August, 1887, he opened a store in Triumph, and has since been the principal merchant of the village and done a successful business.

Mr. Lee was married at Odell, Illinois, in 1866, to Miss Olive Moore, a daughter of Alvin Moore and wife, nee Russell, who were natives of the state of Maine. The fruits of their union were two children, namely: Guy, who married Amanda Wallace, and is a partner in the store with his father; and Eva Grace. Both son and daughter had good educational advantages, the former being a graduate of the Ottawa high school and a business college at Holton, Kansas; while the latter was educated in the Illinois State Normal School. Mr. Lee's present wife was Mrs. Frances Norwood Tharp, whom he married at Hornellsville, New York, February 21, 1889.

Politically Mr. Lee is an ardent Republican.

LEWIS T. THOMPSON.

Lewis T. Thompson, one of the most prominent and substantial business men of Leland, LaSalle county, is a native of that village, having been born there August 5, 1866. He is a son of Thomas F. Thompson, a pioneer citizen here, and was reared to manhood and received his primary educa-

tion in the public schools. He then accepted a clerkship in the hardware store of Hovda & Johnson, where he remained five years, gaining much valuable experience, which was afterward turned to good account when he engaged in business for himself. He now felt that a commercial education was necessary for a successful business career, and went to Chicago, where he took a complete course in one of the best business colleges of that city. He then clerked for a short time for Stark Brothers, general merchants of Chicago, when he went to Pullman as head clerk in the hardware establishment of L. H. Johnson. The grocery business appeared to offer inducements to a man who possessed push and energy to carry it on and he engaged in that for about two years, but finally sold out and secured a position with L. Franklin, of Franklin Park, with whom he remained until 1893, when he returned to the home of his childhood and opened a general store in partnership with Andrew Hayer, under the style of Hayer & Thompson. This partnership continued until 1896, when the business was disposed of and Mr. Thompson engaged in business by himself, opening a stock of general merchandise and adding furnace and plumbing material. He has worked up a lucrative business and has contributed materially to the prosperity of Leland in pushing his own trade. It is a matter of gratification that the city possesses a man whose business propensities and enterprising spirit have brought it into the notice of the surrounding country and called here an outside trade that has added to the general prosperity.

Mr. Thompson was married in the fall of 1889 to Miss Linda Jacobson, a daughter of Thomas Jacobson, an old settler of this vicinity, and five children have been born to them, two of whom have been taken to the better world to await the happy reunion. Mr. Thompson is a Republican and has been on the county committee of that party, giving unstinted support to their success. He has been a member of the village board of trustees and was elected supervisor of Adams township in 1896, and re-elected in 1898. He is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of the Globe. His prosperity has been accomplished by untiring perseverance and industry, combined with strict, honorable dealings, and has caused him to be regarded with admiration and respect by every one.

STEPHEN D. ELWELL.

Stephen Douglas Elwell, one of the enterprising citizens of the town of Serena, LaSalle county, was born in this place, November 4, 1859. The circumstances of his birth caused him to become identified with the farm

from his infancy, and his early training was entirely rural. He spent two years in the Sugar Grove Normal School, in addition to his elementary training in the district school at home. This training furnished him with the proper equipment for meeting the affairs of life intelligently and with confidence.

October 6, 1879, he was united in marriage to Minnie, the daughter of Adolph McInturf and wife, which latter couple was an early family in the settlement of Serena and came from Ohio. Mr. Elwell began life on the old homestead and his success the past twenty years has been such as to warrant him in feeling well satisfied with his efforts. His farm of more than two hundred acres is one of the prize farms on the west branch of the "Big Indian" and he keeps it in prime condition.

To acquaint the reader with something concerning the family history of the subject at hand, it should be stated that the Elwells came to LaSalle county in 1841. The father was Samuel B. Elwell, who was born in Hardwick, Massachusetts, July 24, 1821. His father (our subject's grandfather) was Stillman Elwell, and he moved his family to Iowa the same year that Samuel B. settled in Northville town, LaSalle county, Illinois. He died in Wright county, Iowa. In 1843 Samuel B. settled and improved the farm upon which our subject now resides and is there spending his declining years. William Elwell, of Charles City, Iowa, is a brother of Samuel B. Elwell, and Mrs. Sophia Brooks, a sister, died there. Samuel B. Elwell married, in LaSalle county, January 1, 1846, Elizabeth Dolph, whose father, Orson Dolph, came from Crawford county, Pennsylvania, to LaSalle county. Three of the five children by this union are living, viz.: Dr. Mila B., who married Dr. Preston Sharp and with her husband resides and practices medicine in Madison, Wisconsin; Evaline, deceased, who married Elza Beardsley; Dr. Adaline, the wife of Arthur Portman, of Washington, D. C.; Jessie C., deceased, who married Joe Gregg, of Freedom, Illinois, and Stephen D., our subject. Stephen D.'s children are Jed F., Fred H., Grace, Maud, Delbert, Myra and Clair.

Early in life, Mr. Elwell demonstrated a fondness for music and was so infatuated with it that he took up its study, both vocal and instrumental. The violin possessed the greatest charm for him and he made himself master of the theory of correct execution and acquired a degree of excellence as a performer seldom found in the rural districts. He organized an orchestra of stringed instruments some years ago, which attained notoriety, and was in frequent demand in all the surrounding towns.

Politically, Mr. Elwell is a Republican. His ancestors were Democrats until the civil war, but then even the patriotism of Stephen A. Douglas was no longer a panacea for the ills of Democracy. Mr. Elwell has filled

nearly the whole list of town offices, is a frequent and regular attendant upon county conventions of his party and is regarded as one of the influential men of his town.

WILLIAM P. WARREN.

Among the representative citizens and leading farmers of Serena township, LaSalle county, none perhaps is better known or more highly respected than the subject of this sketch, William Perry Warren.

Mr. Warren is a son of one of the early pioneers of LaSalle county, Nathan Warren. Nathan Warren was born in the state of Maine, in the year 1806, a son of Samuel Warren, also a native of that state; emigrated to New York state with his parents when a child, and in 1836, accompanied by his family, came west to Illinois, making the journey hither by wagon, spending a month en route and landing in safety at his destination, Serena township, LaSalle county, October 20. He bought land from the government, in section 8, and here improved a farm and reared his family. Considering the many obstacles he had to encounter incident to life in a new locality while he improved and cultivated his farm and supplied the wants of a family, his success was remarkable. He had little or no advantages for obtaining an education in his youth, and it was not until he was the head of a family that he learned to read and write, then being taught to do so by his wife. Later in life a great reader, well informed on the topics of the day, and possessing a strong individuality, he became a potent factor in the pioneer locality. On all political matters he entertained decided views. The Morgan incident made him a radical anti-Mason man and the slavery question found him on the side of the most intense abolitionists. When the Republican party was organized he identified himself with it and became one of the leading Republicans in Serena township, which from time to time he served in various official capacities, always promoting the best interests of the public. In every sense of the word he was a Christian gentleman, and was a member of the old "close communion" Baptist church. He died in Serena, in 1886. Of his family, we record that his first wife, whose maiden name was Lydia Baxter, was the daughter of Connecticut parents. She died in 1846. Subsequently he married Maria Lester. The children of the first marriage were named William P., Fannie M. and Lucien L. The daughter is married and lives in Ottawa, Illinois, and the son Lucien is a resident of Galesburg, this state. There were four daughters by the second marriage, all now deceased, namely: Laura and Emily; Mary, the wife of Almon Bristol; and Florence, wife of Elmer Perkins.

Returning now to the immediate subject of this sketch, William P.

Warren, we find that he was born in Madison county, New York, June 28, 1828, and was eight years old when he accompanied his parents to Illinois. In the pioneer schools of the locality in which they settled he received his early training. He relates an incident of his experience as a school-boy calculated to undeceive the modern youth as to the actual conditions under which the pioneer boys and girls of the west were educated. Many of the early schools were kept in dwellings that had been abandoned or for any reason were unoccupied, and in this instance a double log house was being used by the school. One night it rained and some roaming cattle took shelter on the porch connecting the two buildings. One of the animals found the leather latch-string and began chewing it, which caused the door to open, and in walked the cows and took possession of the school-room! Books were scattered about the room and there were other evidences that cattle were not the tidiest housekeepers in the world. The puncheon floor had a passage through to the cellar and one of the cows found its way thither, where it was found by our subject the next morning when he went to school! The children of the closing days of the nineteenth century are scarcely able to imagine that very many such incidents, and even more laughable ones, actually occurred where now are to be found such modern and greatly superior accommodations and appliances for their instruction.

On reaching manhood Mr. Warren continued in the occupation in which he had been reared, that of farming, and settled down to it in earnest after his return from the Pacific coast, whither he went in quest of gold. It was March 20, 1850, that he started for California. This journey he made across the plains, by caravan, and after five months of weary travel he landed in "Hangtown," now Placerville, California, where he began work as a prospector. While he did not, in the language of the miner, "strike it rich," in the course of two years he got enough of the shining metal together to pay for a large piece of the land he now owns. He returned home by the way of the Nicaragua route, purchased the partial swamp that is now so well improved and so tillable, and has been a successful farmer ever since. The prairies of Illinois in their wild state were full of "rattlers" and it was a continuous battle between the snake and the settler as to supremacy. The ground was rife with them in the spring, the fields were overrun with them in summer and the meadows were guarded by them in the autumn. While stacking wheat on a chilly day one season, these pests (having secreted there for warmth) would fall out of the bundles upon Mr. Warren's head or be thrown from the load by his father to be killed by the son, and on that particular day he killed twenty! He says he never let a snake get away that he saw, heard or smelled!

Mr. Warren has ever been a Republican in politics, interested in the success of his party and the general good of his township and county. He has filled the office of deputy county surveyor, which business he acquired while acting as assistant for Surveyor Brumback many years ago. He makes plans for bridges and other structures requiring the services of a civil engineer, and has acquired an excellent reputation for his work in this line.

During the latter part of the civil war Mr. Warren was in the Union army ten months; was stationed at Mobile, Alabama, as a member of the Forty-seventh Illinois Infantry, and saw the surrender of Fort Blakely. At the close of the war he received an honorable discharge and returned to his home.

At the age of twenty-six years Mr. Warren was united in marriage to Miss Delia A., daughter of Samuel Flint, of Ohio. She died March 7, 1893. To this union we record the birth of these children, namely: Marion A., the eldest; Horace, who married Lyda Roe; Geneva (deceased), who was the wife of John Woolsey; Lewis E., who married Helga Holmba; and Harry and Sherman, both single and still at home. In 1894 Mr. Warren married for a second wife Mrs. Louise Granteer, nee Dann, of Pennsylvania birth.

JOHN GOEDTNER.

For many years a resident of Mendota, Illinois, and prominently identified with the financial interests of this city, is found the subject of this sketch, John Goedtner. As the name indicates, Mr. Goedtner is of German origin. He was born in Wallroth, burgermeisterei Asbach, bezirk Coblenz, Germany, February 10, 1849, a son of John M. and Margaretha (Erlenborn) Goedtner, and one of a family of eleven children, six sons and five daughters, only three of whom are now living,—John; Heinrich, of Buchholz, Westerwald, Germany; and Anton, of Mendota, Illinois. Both parents, farmers, lived and died in Germany,—the father in August, 1893, at the age of seventy-three years, and the mother in May, 1895, at the age of sixty-seven years. Both were Catholics. The father filled various minor offices in his town, and, as is the custom in that country, served a term in the army. During the war in Baden his command was called as a reserve, but immediately thereafter the war was declared at an end. Going back further in the history of the family, we find that the paternal grandfather of our subject was John Goedtner, also a farmer, who died in Ger-



John Goodner

many, at the age of seventy-one years. His family was composed of five sons and one daughter. The maternal grandfather of Mr. Goedtner was Kasper Erlenborn. He was a grocer, baker and tavern-keeper, and the government contractor to furnish bread to the starving poor during the famine of 1847 and 1849. His age also was seventy-one at the time of death, which occurred in 1871, at Mendota, Illinois, to which place he had come in 1858. In his family were eleven children.

John Goedtner came to America in November, 1866, a youth in his 'teens, equipped with a fair education and ambitious to make his way in the world. He came direct to Mendota, Illinois, and as a clerk entered the employ of his uncles, Anton, John Michael, Gottfried, Philip and Mark Erlenborn. His uncle Philip is the only one of these now living. At that time they were engaged in a grocery, crockery and saloon business, which they continued for several years, and in connection therewith they started the Germania Bank, in 1874. In the meantime, in 1873, the subject of our sketch went to Chicago, where he spent two years, the first six months as a student in Bryant and Stratton's Business College, and the second year as a bookkeeper for James S. Kirk & Company, soap manufacturers. Returning to Mendota in 1875, he was made cashier of the Germania Bank, which position he filled up to December, 1876, also during that time acting as general overseer in his uncle's store. In 1876, after his uncle Anton died, he became a partner in the bank with John M., the firm being Erlenborn & Goedtner until July 1, 1877, when it was succeeded by Madden & Goedtner, the present firm style.

Mr. Goedtner resides in a pleasant home on the corner of Washington street and Wisconsin avenue, in which block he has lived since 1879. He was married February 25, 1879, to Miss Mary L. Clinefelter, daughter of Finderan Clinefelter and wife, nee Jacobs. They have four children, Anna L., Ida M., Justin T. B. and Theresia. Both he and his wife are members of the Catholic church, and with a number of social and other organizations he is prominently identified. He is president of the Germania Society, and for a number of years from 1875 was its secretary. Also he is president of the Germania Gesang Verein. Politically, he harmonizes with the Democratic party, and has served as city treasurer of Mendota, to which office he was elected for the fourth time and is at present deputy city treasurer. In 1894 he was nominated by acclamation for LaSalle county treasurer on the Democratic ticket, but was defeated for the office, his party being in the minority, but he made a creditable race, holding even more than the full strength of his party. An important enterprise of Mendota with which Mr. Goedtner is connected is the Mendota Light and Heat Company, of which he is president. Much more might be said of the active,

useful life of Mr. Goedtner, but enough has been given to indicate his position and standing, namely, in the front ranks of the leading citizens of his city and county.

RANSOM D. PALMER.

Ranking with the representative farmers of Ophir township, LaSalle county, is found the gentleman with whose name we are pleased to introduce this review, Ransom Dunn Palmer.

Mr. Palmer was born on the farm on which he now lives and which has always been his home, October 18, 1857. He was educated in the Englewood high school. After completing his four years' course in that institution he became actively identified with the management of the farm. His father becoming enfeebled more and more as age crept on, the responsibilities of the farming operations were finally all transferred to the son, Ransom D.

Joseph Snow Palmer, the father of Ransom D., was born in Warsaw, New York, April 29, 1819, a son of Thomas and Rebecca (Snow) Palmer, who emigrated from New York to Medina county, Ohio, in 1831, and to Kane county, Illinois, seven years later. In 1843 Joseph S. Palmer returned to Ohio and bought the old home place, but in the fall of that year sold it and came back to Illinois, settling then in LaSalle county. December 15, 1845, he married Cynthia Parker, who died in July, 1899, at their home in Ophir township, whither they had moved in the spring of 1851. His death occurred June 27, 1892. Their children are as follows: Mrs. Azema Kimmey, of Chicago, Illinois; Rush H., of Miden, Nebraska; Ransom D., whose name initiates this review; Mrs. Alma Smith, of Peoria, Illinois; and Dr. Enos E., of Ottawa, Illinois. Mrs. Cynthia Palmer was a daughter of Shepard and C. Zarina Parker, and was born in Lower Canada. Her parents removed to Ohio in the early part of the present century and died in Medina county, in 1846. Joseph S. Palmer was one of the foremost citizens of Ophir township, interested in all that tended to advance the general welfare and material prosperity of his township and county. His industry and business foresight were amply rewarded by the acquirement of a large landed estate, and everybody within the scope of his acquaintance was glad to refer to him as a friend. Politically he was a Republican; religiously a Free-will Baptist.

Ransom D. Palmer was married January 13, 1887, to Miss Nettie E. Cole, a daughter of Lawrence and Frances (Lowe) Cole. Mrs. Palmer is one of a family of five, her brothers and sisters being: Charles D. Cole, a commission merchant of Chicago; Edwin Cole, of Pomona, California;

Mrs. Catherine Hickok, of Crown Point, New York; and Mrs. J. W. Phelps, of California. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer are the parents of three children: Horace E., Ina Frances and Kenneth Cole.

Ransom D. Palmer is a counterpart of his father in all that contributes to good citizenship. He is successful to a marked degree in his vocation and is an honor to the name he bears and a credit to the town and county in which he lives. A staunch Republican, he has done his part, as he has been called upon, in matters of public interest, but is in no sense a seeker for public honors.

CHARLES KEMBER.

Charles Kember, of Serena township, LaSalle county, Illinois, is a son of the late William Kember, who was born in Kent county, England, at Chelseafield, in the year 1813. The latter came to the United States in 1840 with his wife, nee Sarah Castle, and settled in LaSalle county, Illinois. They were in poor circumstances but were by nature endowed with an industrious disposition and were impelled by a strong desire to acquire a home in this Mecca of the poor, and were rewarded for their labors with more than mere existence. Mr. Kember had no advantages for obtaining an education in his youth and it was not until after his marriage that he learned to read and cipher. In his later life, however, he gained a fair knowledge of books and papers, and he was a useful and trustworthy citizen. On his arrival in Illinois he bought a tract of cheap land, which "Uncle Sam" was then selling to home-seekers, and through frugal and industrious management paid for it, improved it, and subsequently added to its area, and at the time of his death he was the owner of a farm of two hundred and forty acres. When it is remembered that he was "freighted" into this county with an ox team, with only ten dollars in his pocket to stand between his family and actual destitution, his accumulations do not seem small. He soon became interested in the politics of his adopted country, and espoused the cause of the Republican party upon its organization, and while he was always interested in public affairs he never sought nor accepted office other than that of membership on the school board of his district. His first wife died in 1861 and some time afterward he married Rachel Brewer, who died in 1885. The children by his first marriage were William, who married Kate Reed, was four years in the federal army during the civil war, and died in 1889; Alfred, who married Miss C. Middleton, died in 1874; Charles, who is the subject proper of this sketch; and Albert J., who married Mary McAtee and now resides in Oklahoma. The children of the second marriage are Ralph E.; Ella, wife

of Wilson W. Hupp; Mary, wife of Lincoln Knight, of Adams township; and Arthur T., of Serena township, who married Nellie Harthan. The father died in April, 1882. He had lived an honorable, upright and useful life and passed to the world beyond believing that "He who doeth all things well" would give him the reward that is promised the God-fearing man here below.

Charles Kember was ushered into life in Serena township on the 22d of August, 1846. He passed his youth, as was the custom of the farm boys of his time, going to school in winter and following the plow in summer. He remained at his parental home till past twenty-two years of age, when he was attracted to the west by the reports of the large and quick profits to be made in the stock business on the frontier. He located at Burlingame, Kansas, engaged in the cattle business, and for four years reaped a reasonable harvest from his ventures. At the end of that time he closed out his business and returned to the state of his birth to be near his father and to try his fortune with the money-makers of LaSalle county. He turned his attention to farming and soon began acquiring real estate. His has not been the fate of "the rolling stone" but rather of the rolling snowball. He now owns no less than six hundred acres in Serena township, and his home place is one of the finest in LaSalle county. Also he has a large creamery in Serena township, which he is successfully operating.

Mr. Kember was married in 1876 to a young lady whom he met while in business in Kansas—Miss Winnie Granteer, a daughter of the late William Granteer. Her mother is now the wife of W. P. Warren, of Serena, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Kember have three children,—Orville H., Jesse E. and Elsie.

Mr. Kember votes with the Republican party, has filled the office of township assessor and is at present the commissioner of highways and postmaster of Serena. It is due to him that Serena township has more than fifty miles of gravel road, and it is also largely due to his efforts that the Republican organization in Serena has been so well preserved, for he has been a member of its advisory committee for fifteen years.

MILTON E. BLANCHARD, M. D.

Through two decades Dr. Blanchard has engaged in the practice of medicine in Marseilles and has won distinctive preferment as a representative of the profession. His entire life has been passed in Illinois, his birth having occurred in Brookfield township, LaSalle county, on the 30th of September, 1852. His parents were Psalter S. and Phoebe (Thorp)

Blanchard. His father was born near Rochester, New York, October 18, 1800, and was married in that city to Miss Thorp, whose birth occurred June 14, 1816, and who was a daughter of James Thorp, a native of Genesee county, Michigan, and a farmer by occupation. Throughout his life Psalter S. Blanchard carried on agricultural pursuits. He arrived in LaSalle county, Illinois, in 1847, and purchased a farm on section 16, Brookfield township, devoting his energies to its cultivation and improvement until his death, which occurred on the 14th of March, 1868. In his family were the following children: Adelaide L., Elizabeth, Emily, James S., Alba G., Achsah M., Milton E., Eunice L. and David E., and all are living with the exception of Elizabeth and James.

Dr. Blanchard spent his boyhood days on his father's farm and early became familiar with the work of the fields, following the plow and performing other services incumbent upon those who engage in the tilling of the soil. In 1869, however, he left home and went to Remington, Indiana, where he was employed in a grain office. He was ambitious and energetic, and, desiring to acquire a better education than had hitherto been vouchsafed to him, he spent all his leisure time in study. In the winter of 1873-4 he engaged in teaching, and in 1875 joined his brother Alba in conducting a drug store, which they purchased, in Cornell, Illinois. In September of the same year Dr. Blanchard went to Cincinnati, Ohio, and entered the Eclectic Medical College, where he pursued his studies for two terms, after which he began the practice of medicine in Norway, LaSalle county. There he remained until September, 1877, when he re-entered college, and was graduated January 22, 1878. Immediately thereafter he went again to Norway and remained there until June, 1880, when he came to Marseilles. He has further perfected himself in his chosen calling by a post-graduate course in the Rush Medical College at Chicago, where he pursued his studies in 1893-4, and while there he was promoted as assistant to Professor Adolphus in the clinical chair of gynecology. His professional connection with Marseilles covers a period of twenty years, during which time he has demonstrated his ability to cope successfully with all sorts of disease. His superior skill and his devotion to the profession have won him a creditable place in its ranks, and he enjoys the regard of those who, like himself, are giving their energies to the healing art. His genial manner in the sick room, as well as his skill and ability, makes his visits very desirable. He is a member of the LaSalle County Medical Society and of the Illinois State Medical Society, and is a surgeon of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company,—which position he has held ever since 1890.

All his life he has manifested a deep interest in all that pertains to the welfare of the community, withholding his support from no movement

which gives a net result in favor of human welfare. Accordingly he has also been an active politician. A stanch Jeffersonian Democrat, in 1892 his party rewarded his zeal and fidelity by electing him the coroner of this great county, which office he filled with credit to the county and honor to himself. He has also distinguished himself in the Masonic fraternity, having held an office in Marseilles Lodge, No. 417, with the exception of one year, for the past eighteen years. He has been elected worshipful master five times, and now occupies the chair, for the fourth time, of excellent high priest of Shabbona Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, at Ottawa. He is also thrice illustrious master of Oriental Council, Royal and Select Masters, at Ottawa, a member of Oriental Consistory, Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret, Chicago, and of Ottawa Commandery, No. 10, Knights Templar. In further social connection with the fraternity he is also a member of Medinah Temple of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Chicago. In active philanthropic connection with the order he is also a life member and a director of the Illinois Masonic Home for the Aged.

Locally he has just completed one of the finest business blocks in the city of Marseilles and now occupies it with a drug store and his offices.

On the 7th of November, 1874, the Doctor was married to Miss Ella M. Bartlett, a daughter of Charles E. and Maria S. (Virgil) Bartlett. She was born November 16, 1858, in Naperville, Illinois, and is now the mother of four children, namely: Florence, who was born August 15, 1875; Vivian M., born October 18, 1877; Alfa M., born December 10, 1888; and John, born May 23, 1897.

In all his professional, political and domestic relations the Doctor has manifested a trustworthy devotion and responsible skill, and so has won for himself a name and fame envied by all.

WILLIAM CALLAGAN.

It has been said that if the roll were called of the men who have won lasting fame as leaders of this grand republic, of those who have achieved great things in the domains of science and commerce, we should be wonderfully surprised to find how large a proportion of these men were reared upon farms and shared in the arduous labors of the pioneer, clearing the land and preparing it for cultivation, growing strong in body and mind, while nourished by simple, wholesome country food and invigorated by the clear pure air. Thus it is not strange, after all, nor is it remarkable, that many return to mother nature and agriculture after a few years, more or

less, spent in the feverish pursuits of wealth and honor, realizing that here alone is found true contentment.

William Callagan, one of the progressive farmers of Adams township, LaSalle county, has never aspired to a place in the busy world of commerce or public life, but has quietly and happily attended to the business of cultivating his homestead and providing for the needs of his little family. He is a son of William Callagan, who was born in Ireland in 1820, of poor, but honest and upright parents. He learned a trade, and in 1845 came to the United States. Upon coming to LaSalle county he bought a tract of government land, and continued to improve and cultivate the place during his life-time. His career was that of an industrious, patriotic citizen, his chief ambition to do his duty in every way and to merit the good opinion of those who knew him. In his political convictions he was a staunch Republican. He died in 1896, and is survived by his widow, whose maiden name was Jane Fleming, and by their three children, namely: Mrs. Mary Hupp, of Northville township; Mrs. Annie Madison, and the subject of this article.

The latter was born January 13, 1848, in Adams township, and has spent his entire life here. His education consists of the knowledge gained in the schools of this district, together with the more practical learning of experience, reading and observation. Industry and well applied energy are the secrets of the success he has won, and now in the prime of life he is the owner of four hundred and thirty acres of valuable land in LaSalle county, and is accounted one of the leading agriculturists of this locality. Amply abundant as are his means to support himself and family for the remainder of his days, he is not a lover of idleness, and has no desire to retire as long as he is blessed with health and strength.

At the age of thirty-three years, December 27, 1881, Mr. Callagan married Miss Eva, daughter of William Reed, of Sycamore, Illinois, and they have had born to them four children, namely: Ralph Jason, Rilla May, Lloyd Harrison and Cora Ann. Mr. Callagan and family are members of the Methodist church, he being one of the trustees of the congregation with which he is identified, and having served as superintendent of the Sunday-school.

JOSEPH SHERMAN.

Joseph Sherman, a prosperous farmer and stock-raiser of Northville township, LaSalle county, was born in the township in which he lives, September 20, 1846, a son of Stephen and Louise Sherman, natives of Germany, the former born in Prussia and the latter in Alsace-Lorraine. Stephen Sherman came to this country a young man, about the year 1839,

having a brother John who had preceded him to this country and settled in Illinois,—Northville township, LaSalle county,—when the Indians were yet plentiful through this section of the country. The mother of our subject came to this country about the time the father did. They were married in Illinois, and afterward he pre-empted a tract of government land, one hundred and ninety-three acres, in Northville township, where they spent the rest of their lives and died, his death occurring in 1869, when he had attained the age of sixty-four years; hers in 1875, at the age of fifty-one. They were the parents of ten children, namely: Joseph; Sophia, deceased; Bosine, deceased; Elizabeth, Henry, Mary, Kate, Edward, infant, deceased, and Caroline Lawrence. In their religious faith the parents were devout members of the Catholic church.

Joseph Sherman has all his life continued in the occupation in which he was reared, and in his farming operations has been rewarded for his labor by a fair degree of success. While he carries on general farming he has always given more or less attention to stock-raising.

In 1873, at the age of twenty-five years, Mr. Sherman married Miss Louise Antoine, a native of Northville township and a daughter of Lawrence and Catherine Antoine, early settlers of this township, having come here from their native land, Alsace-Lorraine, Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Sherman have three children,—Lawrence, Clara and Henry.

Mr. Sherman is identified with the church in which he was reared, and politically is a Democrat, supporting the same party as did his father. As to public position, he has filled the office of road commissioner.

ALMAN A. CLAPSADDLE.

Alman A. Clapsaddle is a brilliant young attorney of Leland, Illinois, who is rapidly forcing his way to a prominent place among the legal fraternity of this county. He was born November 25, 1868, in De Kalb, De Kalb county, this state, and is a son of Andrew and Mary (Ames) Clapsaddle, prominent residents of that county.

Andrew Clapsaddle was of German origin, but the place of his nativity was Herkimer county, New York, whence he came to De Kalb county in 1848. He had received a good education and the earlier years of his life were spent in teaching school, a vocation for which he was eminently fitted. Coming to this state he engaged in agricultural pursuits and it was while thus engaged that he met Mrs. Mary Heustis, nee Ames, for whom a strong friendship was formed. Her parents were of Scotch-English descent and were early settlers of Stonington, Massachusetts, moving later

to Otsego county, New York, where the daughter, Mary, was born. The friendship which sprung up between Andrew Clapsaddle and Mrs. Mary Heustis soon ripened into love and culminated in their marriage. A family of five children blessed their home, which was rudely broken by the death of the affectionate wife and mother in 1873. Left with a number of small children to care for, the father chose a second wife to preside over his household and care for his little ones and was permitted to remain with them until they were grown to adult years. In 1894 he laid down the burdens of life and entered into the dreamless sleep that leads to life everlasting.

Alman A. Clapsaddle was five years of age when he was bereft of his mother's love and care, but remained at home and grew to manhood on his father's farm. He assisted with the chores common to all farms and attended the country schools; but farm work did not appear congenial and he decided to enter a profession, choosing the legal as offering the greatest scope. He attended school at Leland and then entered Jennings Seminary at Aurora. Leaving school he became a teacher for four or five years, having in the meantime entered the office of M. T. Maloney, of Ottawa, with whom he studied two years and was admitted to the bar in June, 1892. He first practiced in Ottawa for one year and in 1893 came to Leland, where he has since been established and has worked up a good clientage. He has a large patronage among the better class of people and his skill in the treatment of the cases that come under his care has shown a surprising ability in one of his experience.

Mr. Clapsaddle was married in 1890 to Miss Minnie Potter, daughter of C. M. Potter, of Leland, and two children have been the fruits of their union, Reita M. and Janet A. He is a member of Leland Lodge, No. 558, F. & A. M., and Sandwich Chapter, No. 107, R. A. M. He is a Republican in his political views and is well posted on all the current events of the day. He has won the respect of the community by his conduct and general bearing and his friends predict for him a bright and prosperous future.

ANDREW N. ANDERSON.

The gentleman whom we here select as deserving special mention in a collection of biographical sketches of citizens of LaSalle county, is a banker at Leland. He was born in Adams township, this county, March 17, 1855, a son of Nelson and Ann (Quam) Anderson. His parents were both natives of Norway. He came to this country about 1845 and his wife in 1842, and were married in De Kalb county, Illinois, in which county they continued to reside for a short time, and then moved to Adams township, LaSalle county,

Nelson Anderson was a farmer by vocation and died in 1864, at the age of forty-four years; and his wife is still living, now aged sixty-eight years, and living on the old homestead in Adams township. Their six children were Sophia B., Mattie S., Lorinda S., Andrew N., John N., and Nelsey M. All these are now deceased excepting our subject and John N., who is a farmer on the old homestead.

Mr. Anderson of this sketch was reared to farm duties and educated at Leland; and he continued in agricultural pursuits in Adams township until he was thirty-two years of age. In the autumn of 1883 he and Thomas F. Thompson formed a partnership, he buying out Mr. Thompson's former partner, Mr. Buland, in the grain business, ever since which time the firm name has been Thompson & Anderson, bankers and grain merchants. They established the Leland Bank in 1896, and are doing a safe and profitable business.

Mr. Anderson has been a resident of Leland ever since 1883. He has served as supervisor, is a Republican and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1884 he married Anna Vold, who died in 1897, leaving three children—Vira A., Nelson C. and Njeda J.

CHARLES A. COULTER.

Charles Alvin Coulter, the genial and accommodating postmaster of LaSalle, Illinois, has been a lifelong resident of this city, having been ushered into life here June 15, 1859. He is a son of Robert K. and Mary E. (Allinder) Coulter, well known substantial citizens of this city. The father was born September 22, 1822, in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, where he was educated and learned the trade of painter. When twenty years of age he began work as a journeyman painter and later contracted work and painted many steamboats at Brownsville and Pittsburg. In 1857 he came to LaSalle and opened a shop, soon acquiring the reputation of being a first-class house painter and decorator. He was married in Brownsville, Pennsylvania, to Miss Mary E. Allinder, in 1851. Six children were born to them, namely: William G., Emily J., Charles A., John A. and two that are deceased.

Charles A. Coulter attended the public schools of LaSalle, finishing with a course in the high school. As his father was a painter and decorator of ability, it was not strange that the son should show a decided aptitude for the work and make it his vocation. For seventeen years he was the junior member of the firm of R. K. Coulter & Son, general painters and decorators. Mr. Coulter was married in 1887 to Miss Lucy J. Brown,



Charles W. Coulter

daughter of N. R. Brown, one of the oldest citizens of Peru, Illinois. Charles A. Coulter has been prominently identified with the Republicans of LaSalle county since early youth and has contributed much toward the success of that party in his district. For seven years and a half he was a member of the city council, but resigned in 1894 in order that he might take his wife to Colorado, hoping the change would prove beneficial to her health. This hope was a delusive one and she passed away in October, 1896, and was laid to rest in that state beside an infant son, Donald. With two little ones, Lucy M. and Robert G., left to his fatherly care, he returned to his native city and once more took up the duties of life. On May 4, of the following year, 1897, he was commissioned postmaster of LaSalle and has filled the office most acceptably since. He is a Knight Templar Mason and stands high in the councils of that body, being the present worshipful master of Acacia Lodge, No. 67, A. F. & A. M., of which he served as the same officer in the years 1886-7 and '8.

FRANK DALE.

Frank Dale, deceased, was born in Yorkshire, England, January 23, 1812, and was struck and killed by a train in Leland, Illinois, September 4, 1890.

When a small child, in 1819, Mr. Dale came with his father, David Dale, and family, to this country, their settlement being in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, where he was reared. In 1834 he went to Port Huron, Michigan, where he remained two years, thence coming to Illinois and first locating in De Kalb county, near Freeland, where he farmed and acquired considerable land. Disposing of his interests there, he removed to Somonauk, Illinois, in 1853, and established the first store in the town. In 1859 he came to Leland and engaged in the grain business, which he conducted for a period of ten years. He then moved to a farm in De Kalb county, five miles north of Leland, and for seven years carried on farming, after which he returned to Leland and lived retired up to the time of his death.

Mr. Dale was a man of local prominence. For several years he was the president of the De Kalb County Old Settlers' Association. Politically he was a Republican, and for a time served as the president of the board of village trustees. For many years he was actively identified with the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he was an ordained minister, and while he never had a regular charge he frequently preached, substituting his services for that of absent ministers. He was the youngest of a family of eight children and was the last to leave the scenes of this life.

Of Mr. Dale's family, we record that he was twice married, and by his first wife had a large number of children. August 17, 1833, he wedded Maria Webster, a daughter of John Webster, and for nearly forty years their lives were happily blended together, her death terminating the union August 21, 1872. They were the parents of eleven children. The first two died in infancy, one died at the age of eight years, and eight are still living, namely: Clara, the wife of George Metcalf, of Oklahoma; Caroline, the wife of H. L. Bacon, of Chicago, Illinois; Mary E., the wife of M. L. Watson, of Andale, Kansas; Susan E., the wife of John Beckwith, of Wichita, Kansas; Arthur H., of whom mention is made further on in this sketch; John W., of Wichita, Kansas; J. Frank, ex-chief justice of Oklahoma; and David M., a district judge residing in Sedgwick county, Kansas. December 7, 1873, Mr. Dale married Sarah E., the widow of Ira Kipp, who is now living with a daughter in Dawson, Minnesota.

Arthur H. Dale, referred to above, was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, February 2, 1846, while his parents were making a brief sojourn there, that being his father's boyhood home; and in his infancy Arthur H. was brought to Illinois. At Somonauk he was reared and received a common-school education, and later he took a six-months commercial course in a Chicago business college. In 1861 he engaged in the grain business at Leland, with his father, their association continuing until the summer of 1864, when young Dale enlisted in Company E, Eighty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, as a recruit, and was in the Fourth Army Corps, under General Thomas, remaining in the service until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged. He was a participant in the battles of Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee.

Returning to Leland, Illinois, after the war, Mr. Dale again engaged in business with his father; was with him until 1870, and afterward was for a time alone in business there. Then he went to Plattsburg, Missouri, where he spent two years and a half, engaged in the hardware business. From Missouri he went to California, and after spending a year in the Golden state, near Sacramento, he returned to Leland and engaged in the live-stock business, which he has since successfully conducted, owning a fine tract of land here. He was in the hardware trade for eight years in Leland, just after his return from Missouri.

Mr. Dale is a Republican, and has always shown a commendable interest in public affairs. He has served as road commissioner, having filled that office for some ten years; from 1893 to 1895 inclusive he was the assessor of Adams township, LaSalle county, and for the past twenty years has been a school director. Fraternally he is identified with the Masonic order, the Eastern Star, and the Knights of the Globe.

He was married in December, 1874, to Louie H. Gedney, a daughter of Henry E. Gedney, of Ottawa, Illinois. Mr. Gedney was the founder of the Ottawa Constitution, now the Republican-Times.

GEORGE THOMAS FOREMAN.

The subject of this sketch is one of the successful farmers of Adams township, LaSalle county, Sheridan his postoffice address. It was in Kent county, England, April 13, 1856, that he was born, a son of George and Emily (Nettlingham) Foreman. The Foreman family emigrated to this country in 1858. Coming west at once to Illinois, they settled on the Lyman farm, near the line between Serena and Freedom townships, LaSalle county, where they resided for a number of years. The parents and one daughter are now residents of Iroquois county, Illinois, and the father is now seventy years of age. Of their children we record that George Thomas, the subject of this sketch, is the eldest; Alfred married Annie King and resides in Iroquois county; Ellen R., the wife of Anson Taylor, lives in Dodge county, Nebraska; Maggie, the wife of Melvin Sturdevant, resides in Birmingham, Alabama; Henry, who married Mary Sturdevant, is in Iroquois county; William E., who married Phoebe Carlock, is a resident of Minnesota; Albert R., also of Iroquois county, married Lavina Brandenburg; Walter, of Chicago; Lewis J., who married Mrs. Celia (Van Vleet) Elgin, and resides in Iroquois county; and Fannie S. resides in Watseka, Illinois, with her parents.

George T. was reared in LaSalle county and received a limited education in the local schools. He remained with his parents and aided in the support of the home until he was twenty years of age. He then secured employment as a farm hand in Adams township, and was thus occupied two or three years. Carefully saving his earnings, he acquired an interest in a threshing machine, of which he became manager, and while running the thresher made some money. In 1888 he went to work in the bridge department of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, where he was employed for two years. In 1890 he came to the old Cottew homestead, his father-in-law's home, and has since resided here. A man of energy and good management, he is meeting with justly deserved success in his farming operations.

Mr. Foreman was married March 13, 1883, to Miss Caroline, daughter of James and Harriet Cottew, early settlers of Adams township. Mr. Cottew died in 1894, at the age of seventy-seven years. He was a soldier in the civil war, a member of the First Illinois Regiment of Light Artillery,

and was discharged from service on account of disability. Mr. and Mrs. Foreman have two children—Pearl S. and Allen R.—aged respectively fourteen and six years.

Fraternally Mr. Foreman is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, having his membership in Baker Camp, No. 4434. He is a Republican in his political affiliations.

EDWARD A. NATTINGER.

Probably one of the best known men in journalistic circles of northern Illinois is Edward A. Nattinger, of Ottawa, now connected with the *Republican-Times* of that flourishing city. He has occupied numerous important public positions of trust and honor and stands high in political and fraternal organizations. His ability and direction of affairs entrusted to him, and his worth and integrity, have won for him the friendship of all who have been associated with him in any manner.

Born June 20, 1846, a son of J. G. Nattinger, who for many years was a leading merchant of Ottawa, the subject of this sketch claims this as his native town. In his boyhood he obtained a liberal education in the public and private schools of the place; but the excitement occasioned by the opening years of the great civil war interrupted his studies, and in the fall of 1862 he ran away and enlisted as a bugler at Peoria, Illinois. Ere long he was promoted to the ranks and he served faithfully and gallantly until the close of the great conflict, being but nineteen years of age when he was granted an honorable discharge, August 5, 1865. The boy soldier's record is one well worthy of many who were twice his years in age; and, summed up in the briefest form, it may be stated thus: Participated in twelve battles of the war; was in numberless skirmishes; went on the long and exciting chase after John Morgan, who was at last captured near the Ohio-Pennsylvania line; went on the several daring cavalry raids in Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina and finally was made a prisoner on the Stoneman raid in Georgia, and suffered the horrors of the rebel prisons of Andersonville and Macon, Georgia, and Charleston and Florence, South Carolina.

Resuming the paths of peace, young Nattinger went to Chicago and pursued a course in Bryant & Stratton's Business College and for some time was employed as a clerk in the Ottawa postoffice and in dry-goods and grocery houses. Then he began to learn the printer's trade, in the office of the *Ottawa Republican*, finishing in the Lyons (Iowa) *Mirror* office. By degrees he worked up, taking various positions, including those of reporter and advertising solicitor, and started three Illinois journals—the Buda

Enterprise, the Bradford Chronicle and the Wyoming Blade—running the whole number for three months himself. For six years he was the city editor of the Joliet Republican, Sun and Record; and in June, 1877, in partnership with Mr. Fletcher, he started the Ottawa Daily Times, the first daily established in this county of the ten now published. A few months later Mr. Fletcher retired from the business, and at the end of another year the weekly edition of the paper was established also. In 1890 the Times and the Republican were consolidated, F. M. Sapp, the editor of the Times, becoming the senior partner of the new organization. Needless to say, the Republican-Times is recognized as one of the representative papers not only of this county but also of the great state of Illinois, and the high standard which it always has maintained is steadily winning for itself friends among the most intelligent citizens.

An influential factor in the Republican party of this section, Mr. Nattinger has been the secretary of the Young Men's Republican Club of Joliet, and has occupied like positions in the Will county and LaSalle county central committees of his party, and has been the president of the Young Men's Republican Club of Ottawa, and chairman of the town committee. From 1890 to 1894 he was the postmaster of this place, serving under President Harrison's administration.

Mr. Nattinger is a past commander of Seth C. Earl Post, No. 156, G. A. R.; is the chief of the staff of the department of Illinois, and aide-de-camp to the commander-in-chief; is the president of the Fourteenth Illinois Cavalry Regimental Association; a member of the committees having in charge the Illinois Soldiers' Home, the Illinois Soldiers' Orphans' Home and the Illinois Soldiers' Widows' Home. In the Masonic order he is identified with Occidental Lodge, No. 40, A. F. & A. M., and Shabbona Chapter, No. 37, R. A. M.; and of Mary E. Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star; and he is also associated with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Knights of Honor and the Ottawa Boat Club.

HIRAM E. BAKER.

Hiram Emmit Baker, of Dayton township, LaSalle county, is a prominent farmer and stock dealer and is entitled to more than a passing notice on the pages of this work, devoted as it is to a portrayal of the lives of the representative men and women of LaSalle county.

Mr. Baker may well be termed a self-made man. He began life a poor boy, he toiled and saved, and his industry and good management have brought him the success he now enjoys. He was born in Clinton county,

New York, February 4, 1848, the son of a farmer, and was reared and schooled in Plattsburg. His father, Daniel Baker, was born at Chazy, New York, and died in LaSalle county, Illinois, in 1884. He and his wife, whose maiden name was Laura Card, were the parents of the following named children: James, of Allegan, Michigan; Martha, wife of Henry Miller, of Oakland, California; H. E.; George, of Iowa; Oscar, of Dayton township, LaSalle county; Charles, of Des Moines, Iowa; Susan, who married Gideon Ruger; and Nelson, a traveling salesman in Kentucky.

H. E. Baker, on leaving school, entered the employ of a Mr. Benedict, a milkman, with whom he remained two years, beginning at a salary of ten dollars per month, and five years with I. S. Thorn. At the end of the seven years he had assisted his father to the extent of one hundred and thirty dollars and had six hundred dollars in the bank. He then married and rented his father-in-law's farm, which he ran four years, after which he was prevailed upon by Gabe Ruger, his wife's uncle, to emigrate to Illinois. Coming here in 1874, he was employed as the foreman on Mr. Ruger's farm, in which capacity he served two years, receiving four hundred dollars the first year and five hundred dollars the second. The third year he purchased eighty acres of land in Dayton township, the price being four thousand dollars. Half of this amount he paid down. The other half and five hundred dollars worth of stock he went in debt for, paying ten per cent interest on the money, and at the end of five years he had the farm paid for. Then, with the hope of bettering himself, he went to Greene county, Iowa, but returned to his former residence in Dayton township, after an absence of one year. He bought one hundred acres on the bluff, near Ottawa, at sixty-five dollars an acre, on five years' time; built a modern house and barn, and when the five years had elapsed his obligations had all been met. Still another tract of eighty acres he contracted for, at five thousand five hundred dollars, four thousand dollars of which consideration he received four years' time on with the usual results, prompt payment of principal and interest. The last addition he made to his property was the stock yards west of Ottawa, which he purchased from the Phelps estate. These yards he himself used for a time, while he was engaged in buying and shipping stock, but now has them leased. Such rapid accumulation of wealth among the farming classes where the products of the soil are depended upon solely to meet such investment expenses is remarkable, even wonderful; and the instances are rare where such good fortune attends so regularly and so persistently as in this one.

Mr. Baker was married in 1870, at Plattsburg, New York, to Annie Ruger, a daughter of Gideon Ruger. The Ruger family is one of prominence in the townships of Serena and Dayton, where they are classed among the

most industrious and progressive people of their respective localities. Mr. and Mrs. Baker have six children, namely: Sadie, Julius, Anna, Florence, Hiram E., Jr., and Glen.

Mr. Baker affiliates with the Republican party and takes an active interest in local affairs. He has served as a member of the board of road commissioners, of which he was the treasurer.

OSMAN MATTHIAS DANIELSON.

The Danielson family has been prominent in the settlement and development of LaSalle county, coming here in pioneer days. Hard-working, upright and just in all their dealings, they have merited the respect and confidence which have been liberally accorded them by neighbors and acquaintances.

The father of our subject is Christopher Danielson, who was born in Vadla, Norway, January 4, 1834, and when one year old was brought to this country by his father, who settled in the vicinity of Norway, LaSalle county, and carried on a farm there until 1849, when he and his wife and all his children save Christopher fell victims to the cholera. When twenty-one, Christopher Danielson married Ann, daughter of Osman Thompson, a well known farmer owning property near Big Indian, LaSalle county. She came with her father to the United States in 1835, when she was two years old. During his active life, Mr. Danielson carried on a fine farm near Leland, and became prosperous. In 1897 he retired and went to Lamoni, Iowa, where his sons, Daniel C. and Joseph, reside. His eldest son, Martin, has charge of the Old Folks' Home at Lamoni, an institution supported by the church of the Latter Day Saints. Another son, Edwin, born in 1869, is engaged in business with our subject, and David N. is a grain merchant, of Thompson, Illinois. The daughters are Bertha, wife of Lorenzo Hayer, of LaSalle county; Ida, Mrs. Charles Hayer; and Mary, Mrs. Andrew Gaard, of Sheridan, Illinois.

O. M. Danielson was born in this county, November 15, 1863. After having completed his liberal public-school education he came to Leland and for a year was engaged in the grocery business. From his boyhood he had evinced great aptitude in the use of all kinds of tools, and he concluded to embark in the manufacture of wagons and carriages in Leland. Soon afterward, he commenced handling foreign-made vehicles, and added a stock of implements of various kinds. Success attended him from the first, and his excellent business methods won for him increasing popularity. In 1895 the firm of Danielson Brothers was organized, and a general hard-

ware business was started, as well. For a few years the brothers operated the Leland electric-light plant, which our subject constructed for the town, but the expense attending the operation of this enterprise proved too great for the citizens and it was abandoned.

On the 28th of February, 1885, the marriage of Mr. Danielson and Carrie, daughter of William Larson, was celebrated. They have had two children, but only Willis, who was born in 1887, is living. Mrs. Danielson's father was a successful farmer and an early settler in the vicinity of Wenona, Illinois.

Our subject is a member of the church of Latter Day Saints. In his political faith Mr. Danielson is a Republican. He takes a patriotic interest in public affairs, and is highly esteemed by his customers and acquaintances in general. Now in the prime of manhood he has already achieved more than many men years his senior, and judging his future by his past he will be some day a wealthy man.

HENRY GATISS.

Henry Gatiss, a prominent and popular grocer of LaSalle, was born in the county of Durham, England, March 21, 1839, and is a son of Henry and Sarah (Hunt) Gatiss. His grandfather, John Gatiss, died in England, his native home, at an advanced age, leaving a large family. His maternal grandfather also lived and died in that country. Henry Gatiss was the father of eight children, six sons and two daughters, as follows: John H., of Eagle River, Michigan; William, of Thetford, Ontario; Robert B., of Black Hawk county, Iowa; Thomas W., of Dimmick township, this county; Henry, our subject; Mary Ann, wife of William Dinsmore, of Earlville, this state; Richard E., of National City, California; and Sarah Jane, wife of Joseph Elliott, of Manitoba. The father was married a second time, Miss Jane Pickering becoming his wife, and to them were born nine children, of whom four are living. Those living are Joseph P., of Earlville, Illinois; Samuel R., of Manitoba; Sophia R., of Earlville, Illinois; and Walter, of the same place. The father of these children in early life was a shaft-sinker in his native land. In 1842 he came to the United States, landing in New York on July 4 of that year. He immediately went to Bradford county, Pennsylvania, where he remained until 1856, engaged in mining for an English syndicate. He explored and opened up about twenty thousand acres of land for them, which he afterward sold. He then moved to LaSalle, Illinois, and was the superintendent of the coal shaft for some time, when he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, some four and a half miles north

of this city. He then spent his time in tilling the soil until his death, which occurred in 1877, at the age of seventy-two years and ten months. He served as a road commissioner for a number of terms. He was twice married; his first wife, the mother of our subject, died in 1850, when about forty-five years of age.

Henry Gatiss, our subject, was but three years of age when his parents took up their residence in America. He attended the Pennsylvania schools and worked for his father until he was twenty-six years old. When he was seventeen they moved to LaSalle, where he has since lived with the exception of two years spent in Canada. Before making this trip he engaged in farming, but found the work unsuited to his liking. He then entered a grocery as clerk and met with such success in this line that in 1877, in partnership with his brother Richard, he purchased the stock of his employer, the store being conducted conjointly by them until 1891, when Richard retired from the business, leaving Henry Gatiss the sole proprietor. In his twenty-two years' work as a grocer he has built up a large trade, his patronage extending many miles into the country. His strict honesty and integrity have won their confidence and made him warm friends throughout the entire county.

Mr. Gatiss was united in the holy bonds of matrimony on the 25th of December, 1874, to Miss Margaret Nixon, a daughter of Hugh and Mary Ann (Robson) Nixon. Three children have blessed this union: Henry Milton; Stella May, who died at the age of two years and two months; and Mary. Both the children living are with their parents. Mrs. Gatiss and her daughter are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which they are zealous workers. Their residence is on Fifth street, where they have a pleasant, comfortable home and a house which they rent. Mr. Gatiss has been a resident of LaSalle for forty-three years. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and in politics a Republican.

DAVID SNELLING.

This well known citizen and respected farmer of Adams township, LaSalle county, Illinois, is a native of Rutland township, this county, born June 26, 1848, and is a representative of one of the pioneer families of this locality. His parents were John and Rebecca Jane (Shaver) Snelling, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Ohio. John Snelling, when quite small, was taken by his parents to Ohio, where he grew to manhood. When a young man, previous to his marriage, he came west to Illinois, then called the frontier, and located in LaSalle county. That was some time in the '30s.

Here he subsequently married Rebecca Shaver, a daughter of David Shaver, one of the first settlers of Rutland township, this county. Mrs. Snelling was born in 1821, was ten years old when brought by her parents to Illinois, and is still a resident of LaSalle county, her home being in Serena township, where her husband settled on a farm a number of years ago. He died there in 1884, at the age of seventy-four years. They were the parents of seven children, viz.: Nancy, Elizabeth (deceased), James, Olive (deceased), David, Annis and George.

David Snelling received his early education in the country schools of his native county and then for two years was a student in Lombard University, Galesburg, Illinois. On his return home from college he was for a short time engaged in teaching school. Farming, however, has been his life pursuit. After his marriage, which event occurred in 1879, he settled on his present farm, two hundred and sixty-seven acres, a part of which lies in the southwest corner of Adams township and the rest across the line in Serena township. In his farming operations he has been very successful, and is well known as one of the leading farmers of his locality.

Mr. Snelling was married in 1879 to Miss Evaline Umphrey, and they have two children: Claudia, the wife of William Hoadley; and Maud. Mrs. Snelling's parents were Samuel and Sophia (Snelling) Umphrey, both natives of Ohio, who came to LaSalle county, Illinois, some thirty years ago and settled in Serena township; they are now residents of Earl township. Mrs. Snelling was born in Ohio and is the oldest of four children, namely: Mrs. Snelling, Anna (deceased), Charles, and Hattie.

MILTON POPE.

The ancestral history of Mr. Pope can be traced back to representatives of the Revolutionary period, including John Pope, who joined the colonial forces and fought for the independence of the nation. He was captured by the Tories and died while on his way home from the war, in 1781. His wife bore the maiden name of Sarah Atheran and was born on Martha's Vineyard, in 1725. Her parents were Solomon and Sarah (Skiff) Atheran, and her grandparents were Simon and Mary (Butler) Atheran. The next in the line of descent is Benjamin Pope, a son of John and Sarah Pope. He was born November 23, 1769, and in 1797 married Sarah Purcell, who was born on Martha's Vineyard, August 28, 1777. He died October 18, 1838, and his wife passed away January 12, 1848.

George Pope, the father of our subject, was born in Lorain county, Ohio, December 21, 1814, and in 1843 came from the Buckeye state to



Milton Popes

LaSalle county, locating near the town of Manlius in what is now Miller township. There he engaged in farming and stock-raising until his death, which occurred March 2, 1860. He was industrious and successful and his enterprise and capable management brought to him a merited competence. He took a great interest in the newly organized Republican party and joined its ranks, staunchly supporting its principles. He married Miss Louisa R. Redington, a daughter of Harry and Lydia (Allen) Redington. Her father was a native of London, England, where he was born April 3, 1786, and his wife was born in Pennsylvania, December 14, 1793, and was of Welsh descent. He died November 18, 1848, and her death occurred on the 25th of April, 1836. Mrs. Pope was born in Girard, Erie county, Pennsylvania, October 6, 1820, and with her parents removed to Lorain county, Ohio, in 1821. In December, 1840, she became the wife of George Pope and in 1843 they went to Cedar county, Iowa, but in August of the same year became residents of LaSalle county. Mr. Pope died in 1860, and on Christmas day of 1861 his widow became the wife of John Brundage, a wealthy and respected citizen of Manlius township. He was born in Seneca county, New York, April 27, 1808, and came to LaSalle county about 1843, residing here until his death, which occurred September 7, 1891. Mrs. Brundage departed this life April 5, 1896, when in her seventy-sixth year. By her first marriage she had three children who lived to maturity and three who died in infancy. Alanson became a member of Company C, Eighty-eighth Illinois Infantry in the civil war, and while at Camp Douglas on his way to the front was drowned in Lake Michigan. Milton is the next younger. Eva, the only daughter, is the wife of Charles G. Werner, of Ottawa.

Milton Pope, of this review, was born in the township of Miller, LaSalle county, June 5, 1852, and spent the years of his boyhood in a manner common to country lads, a portion of his time being devoted to the acquisition of knowledge in the district schools of the period. Subsequently it was his privilege to attend school in Oberlin, Ohio, for about two years. Returning to his old home in LaSalle county he continued to follow the occupation to which he had been reared until 1891, when he retired from active agricultural labors. He carried on farming along very progressive lines and managed his business affairs so capably that he won thereby very creditable and desirable success. At present he is the owner of about five hundred acres of fine farming land in LaSalle county and three hundred and twenty acres in Kansas. He is a director in the First National Bank of Ottawa, negotiates loans and attends to his other business interests.

On the 24th of November, 1897, Mr. Pope married Miss Cora J. Pickens, of Ottawa, a daughter of James H. and Clementine L. Pickens, old

and respected citizens of that city. Her father is a grandson of Henry Pickens, who was born in Middleton, Massachusetts, June 18, 1785, and came to Otter Creek, LaSalle county, in 1839, accompanied by his wife, Mercy Pierce Pickens. He died in 1844, leaving a son, James, who married Eliza Chase. James Pickens and his wife came from Massachusetts to Illinois in 1838, traveling the entire distance in a wagon and accompanied by their aged grandmothers, Mrs. Abia Hathaway, who died a few years later, at the age of eighty-nine years. In 1848 James Pickens removed with his family from Otter Creek to Ottawa, where he died October 11, 1889, when almost eighty-one years of age, his birth having occurred December 15, 1808. His son, James Henry Pickens, was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, August 16, 1834, and in December, 1856, married Clementine Lavelia Ashley, of Lakeville, Massachusetts. In the same winter he brought his young wife to Illinois, locating in Ottawa, where their children—Cora Justene and John Ashley—were born. Mrs. Clementine L. Pickens is a granddaughter of Noah and Ruth (Pickens) Ashley. The former was born June 18, 1787, and the latter May 20, 1791. Their son, Silas P. Ashley, was born April 4, 1813, married Phebe Davis and died in April, 1897, leaving a daughter, Clementine L., who was born August 28, 1839, and is the mother of Mrs. Milton Pope. Cora Pickens, the esteemed wife of our subject, was born July 13, 1860, in Ottawa, acquired a liberal education and is well qualified to grace any station in life to which she may be called. Mr. Pope is a member of Marseilles Lodge, No. 417, A. F. & A. M., Shabbona Chapter, No. 37, R. A. M., and Ottawa Commandery, No. 10, K. T. He and his wife enjoy the high regard of many warm friends, and all who pass beneath the portals of their pleasant home enjoy there a most gracious hospitality

OLIVER G. OAKLAND.

Oliver G. Oakland enjoys the distinction of being the first settler and first merchant of the thriving little town of Baker, LaSalle county, Illinois, where he opened his general store in the fall of 1890. He was born in Adams township, this county, January 28, 1856, on his father's farm. His parents were Gunder A. and Seneva (Serhus) Oakland, both of whom were natives of Stavanger, Norway. The father was one of the first settlers in Adams township, where he bought government land and followed farming until 1864, when he disposed of this property and moved to the vicinity of Pontiac, where he died, in his eighty-fourth year, in 1887. In his early life in his native country he worked at the trade of a carpenter; and he was

married in that country, but had lost his wife before coming to America. He was again married while residing in Mission township, this county, to Miss Seneva Serhus, by whom he had children. She now resides at Rowe, Illinois.

Oliver G. Oakland was reared on a farm, having been eight years of age when his parents moved to Livingston county, where he grew up to an industrious manhood. At the age of seventeen he began to work for himself, hiring out to do farm work until he was twenty, when he rented a piece of ground, which he cultivated. He continued to follow the pursuit of agricultural life until 1890, when he came to Baker and opened a general store in the depot, serving also as agent for the railway company, a position he still holds. His trade increased to such proportions that he was justified in erecting his present commodious store room, and it is still increasing. He began life as a poor man and by his own efforts has built up a neat competency, dealing honestly and uprightly with all men and winning their respect and admiration for his strict business methods. He was the manager of the elevator for five years and has been a busy, energetic man.

Mr. Oakland was married in Livingston county, Illinois, in 1878, to Miss Mary Chew, who was born at Chillicothe, Illinois. They have three children—Jesse M., Ella S., and Imus M. He is a Republican and held the postoffice from 1891 to 1897, giving general satisfaction to the patrons of the office. He is a zealous member of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

CHARLES B. WATTS.

Charles Brown Watts, supervisor of Earl township and a wealthy and substantial farmer of LaSalle county, Illinois, was born October 12, 1848, on a farm some four miles south of Ottawa, this state, and is a son of Phillip C. and Margaret Ann (Brown) Watts, who are among the oldest and most respected residents of this county.

Phillip C. Watts was born in Devonshire, England, January 22, 1822, and came to America with an uncle at the age of sixteen, locating in Genesee county, New York, where he remained one year, and then came to this state and acted as a guard in the penitentiary at Alton for a few years. In 1844 he came to this county, settling at Ottawa, and in November, 1847, married Miss Margaret Ann Brown, by whom he had nine children, all of whom are living. They have prospered in their business and own the farm four miles south of Ottawa, and are well-to-do people. His wife was a daughter of Charles Brown, who came here in 1830, and she remembers

the Black Hawk war and being driven into the fort at Ottawa. She tells of burning hickory wood to obtain saleratus and obtaining their meal by grinding corn. Her father entertained the Indian chief, Shabbona, but could never get that famous character to sleep in the house. The Brown family came here from New York, the journey being made by ox team and fifteen miles being considered a good day's travel.

Charles Brown Watts was the eldest of nine children—seven sisters and two brothers—and was reared on a farm. He attended the country schools and then entered the high school of Ottawa and later attended the Normal School at Normal, Illinois. Returning from school he took up the occupation of farming and has been remarkably successful. Some twenty years ago he purchased farm lands in Nebraska, which he afterward disposed of at a profit, enabling him to purchase a tract of fine land in Earl township, containing three hundred and sixty acres. Mrs. Watts also owns a quarter section in Kansas and a house and four lots in the town of Earl. He has made a neat income from stock raising and is a farmer who uses both brawn and brain in his work.

Mr. Watts was married in 1874 to Miss Anna Gillett, who was born on the farm upon which they now reside on June 13, 1850. They at once located on a farm in Livingston county, owned by Mr. Watts' father, and cultivated it for three years, moving, at the expiration of that time, in 1878, to the farm where they now live. The children born of this marriage were Clarence M., Harry W., Alice I., William W., Daisy, Archie T., and two—Grace and Margaret—that are dead. Mr. Watts is a Republican and has filled several minor offices, having been a school director nine or ten years and in 1898 was elected to the office of supervisor. He is a Master Mason, a Modern Woodman of America, and a Knight of the Globe, and is a man who makes many friends.

The father of Mrs. Watts was Thomas Gillett, who came to this state from New York in 1844. He was born in Kent, England, March 16, 1811, and in 1842 came to the United States and located in Syracuse for two years, whence he came to this county and lived in Ottawa for about four years, when he rented a farm in Earl township, and the following year, 1849, married Miss Sarah Hoadley, who was born in England in 1809. They had grown up in the same neighborhood and in 1842 she came to America with her uncle, Henry Hoadley. Thomas Hoadley, a pioneer of Earl township, was her brother. Thomas Gillett purchased a soldier's claim to one hundred and sixty acres of land in Earl township, on which he settled and which is now owned and occupied by Mrs. Watts and her family. He had but two children: Anna (Mrs. Watts), and Thomas H., who died in Kansas, in 1879. In 1884 Mr. Gillett retired from the active duties of agricultural

life and took up his residence in Earlville, where his wife died in 1889 and he in 1891, both having attained to the advanced age of eighty years and having the love and respect of all with whom they came in contact.

SMITH H. OLMSTEAD.

Smith Howland Olmstead, deceased, was one of the prominent and sterling citizens of Freedom township, where his entire life was passed. He came from one of the pioneer families of LaSalle county, and his name is indissolubly connected with the history of this region. It stands for patriotism and public spirit, for industry and uprightness—in short, for all of the qualities which are embodied in the noblest citizens of this great commonwealth. His memory is tenderly kept in the hearts of scores of his old-time friends, and many of them will scan with deep interest the following outline of his career and tribute to his genuine worth.

Sixty years ago Hiram D. Olmstead, the father of the subject of this memoir, removed from his former home in New York state to the wilds of LaSalle county. He located in the township of Freedom, and in 1844 wedded Eleanor Harding, by whom three sons were born, namely: Charles H., Judson H., and Smith Howland. Hiram D. Olmstead, after a busy, useful life as an agriculturist, is now living retired, his home being in Ottawa, Illinois.

The birth of Smith Howland Olmstead occurred on the parental homestead in this township, July 8, 1850. He obtained a common-school education, and, with characteristic energy, mastered the varied details of farming when he was a mere youth. He remained under the parental roof until his marriage, when he was twenty-five years of age, by which time he had laid the foundations of his future success. Aided by his thrifty, brave-hearted wife, he steadily prospered, and at the time of his death he left a large and valuable estate as the result of their united efforts. He not only was "not afraid of work" but he really enjoyed it; and he was so thoroughly in earnest in all of his plans that he imparted his enthusiasm and interest to all around him. It has been said that one of the secrets of success is "to be in love with your work;" and thus it proved in the case of Mr. Olmstead. However great his interest in his personal undertakings, he never neglected his public duties, and his neighbors relied upon his thorough performance of whatever work was intrusted to him for the general welfare. He was a zealous Republican, and held the offices of road commissioner and assessor and school director. His prominence in public and social affairs of his locality was due to his well recognized qualities of worth, and his genial, friendly

disposition, which won every one with whom circumstances brought him into acquaintanceship. When death stilled his noble heart he was in the prime of life, and the blow was deeply felt throughout the entire community. He entered into the silent land on the 17th of August, 1886, but a few weeks subsequently to the thirty-sixth anniversary of his birth.

The widow of Mr. Olmstead was, like her husband, a native of Freedom township. Her parents were Seth F. and Elizabeth (Frye) Ford, the former born in 1809 and the latter in 1815, and both natives of Massachusetts. They came to this county in 1850 and located on the farm which is now owned by Charles T. Mosey. Five of their six children are living at this writing, namely: Fidelia, widow of J. J. Hutchinson, of Washington county, Kansas; Caroline, widow of Hartson E. Billings, of Washington county, Kansas; Myra S., wife of F. A. Barker, of Parsons, Kansas; Hattie F., Mrs. Olmstead; and Florence E., Mrs. Isaac G. Parish, of this township.

Mrs. Hattie F. Olmstead resided with her parents until her marriage, December 30, 1875. Of her five children two died in infancy and a daughter and two sons survive: Myra, the eldest, born in 1878, became the wife of William Gregg, November 20, 1897; Burton C., the elder son, was born in 1880, and wedded Olive, daughter of Lewis Warren, of Serena township, November 30, 1898; and Frank D., the younger son, was born in 1885, and, with his elder brother, is of great assistance to his mother in the management of the home farm. She has manifested marked ability and excellent judgment in the cultivation and maintenance of the homestead, and enjoys the respect of her neighbors, who regard her as a model farmer and financier. She has maintained the same interest in public affairs as did her lamented husband, and has served her locality as a school director for six years, being the only woman here who has had this responsibility and honor. She also belongs to the County Grange and to the Woman's Relief Corps, and is kind and helpful to the poor and needy.

OLE J. KIRKHUS.

Ole J. Kirkhus was born in Norway, September 24, 1850, a son of John and Elizabeth (Olson) Kirkhus, and one of a family of ten children. Of this family six are still living, three having died in infancy and one at the age of eighteen years. Three of the sons and one daughter reside in this country. The father was a farmer, and on a farm in his native land Ole J. spent his youthful days.

May 18, 1869, before he reached his twentieth year, he bade good-by

to home and friends and started for America, having borrowed the money with which to pay his passage to this country. His father could have helped him at this time, but as the family was large and our subject was of an independent disposition, he preferred not to ask assistance at home. It is needless to say that as soon as possible after he came to this country he repaid the debt. Landing at Quebec, he came thence by rail to Chicago and from there to Ottawa, where he secured work as a farm hand. For three years he was engaged in farm work, as a wage-earner, and then in 1873 he married and settled on a rented farm in Adams township, LaSalle county, the one which he now owns and occupies. After renting this farm three years he removed to Earl township, in the same county, where he rented land and lived the next three years, then returning to the first farm, which he bought in 1880 and where he has since lived. Here he owns one hundred and six acres, well improved and under an excellent state of cultivation, the result of his hard work and good management.

Mr. Kirkhus married a woman of his own nationality, Isabelle Gunderson, who came with her parents to America when she was six months old. Her father, Thomas Gunderson, was one of the early settlers of LaSalle county, Illinois, having located at an early day on the farm now owned and occupied by Mr. Kirkhus. Mr. and Mrs. Kirkhus have six children.

Politically Mr. Kirkhus is a Republican, and has served his district as a school director. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

U. N. THORNTON.

U. N. Thornton, M. D., C. M., was born in Ontario, Durham county, Canada, July 1, 1865, and worked his way from the position of a farmer lad, through college, up to his present enviable position among the most skillful and firmly established physicians of Leland, Illinois. He is a son of Thomas and Susan (Powers) Thornton, and a grandson of John Thornton. Thomas Thornton was born in Hull, Yorkshire, England, in 1822, and came to Canada with his parents when he was seven years old. There he grew to manhood and became a tiller of the soil, following that as his principal occupation. He was married to Susan Powers, daughter of Nathaniel Powers, both of whom were born in Vermont, as were all their ancestors, whose nativity were in America. The family were started in this country by Thomas Powers (spelled Pouers), who left the parent trunk and settled in the New England States of America in 1643, having come from England. The father of Nathaniel Powers was a soldier of the Revolution. The mother of our subject died in 1880, at the age of fifty-four years.

U. N. Thornton was the eleventh child in a family of twelve—six brothers and six sisters. His early years were spent on his father's farm and he then entered Albert College, at Belleville, Ontario, where he matriculated in the arts. He then began the study of medicine in the Trinity Medical School, of Toronto, from which he received a fellowship and graduated at the University of Trinity College in 1887, with the degrees of M. D. and C. M. In the fall of that year he came to the states and opened an office at Rockford, Illinois, but remained only a short time, as a better location was offered at New Milford, this state, where he practiced four years. He was an assistant surgeon at the Rockford Sanitarium for three months, when he went to Chicago and practiced until December, 1892, and then located in Leland, where he has since been practicing, and has built up a large patronage among the better class, although his services are given alike to rich and poor. He is a general practitioner, preferring to keep up on all branches rather than to devote himself to one particular class of disease.

He was married November 20, 1890, to Miss Augusta Dale, of Thorold, Canada. They have two children: Charles D., five years old, and Dorothy, aged two. He is a Republican and belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, the Knights of the Globe and the Home Forum, and is a Royal Arch Mason. He also belongs to the LaSalle Medical Society and takes an active part in the deliberations of that organization.

WILLIAM S. STERRETT, M. D.

Dr. William S. Sterrett, a popular young physician of Marseilles, Illinois, comes of an honored, old southern family, his ancestors coming from Virginia and Kentucky. His father, G. W. Sterrett, was born in Augusta county, Virginia, February 14, 1834. At the age of four, with his father, he removed to Monroe county, Missouri, where he has resided ever since. On March 4, 1858, he was united in marriage to Miss Corilla Price, of Monroe county, her parents coming from the "blue-grass region" of Kentucky. They became the parents of five children, namely: Eva, James G., William S., J. Claudius, who died in his ninth year, and George W., Jr. The devoted wife and mother departed this life February 15, 1899, when in her sixtieth year. The father is still living, making his home in Monroe county, Missouri. He has always given his allegiance to the Democratic party, and has endeavored to do his duty as a citizen and patriot under all circumstances.

The birth of Dr. Sterrett occurred about thirty-three years ago, in Monroe county, Missouri, the date of the event being March 29, 1867. He passed his boyhood and youth in his native state, and received a liberal

education in the public and high schools. Later he entered the University of Missouri, where he pursued a course of study, after which he engaged in teaching for some time. Ever ambitious and striving after greater knowledge and higher standing in the intellectual world, he next enrolled himself as a student at the celebrated University of Virginia, where he spent two years in the study of medicine. Previous to entering the University of Virginia, he had given considerable attention to medicine, under the guidance of Dr. Thomas Chowning, of Hannibal, Missouri. In 1894 he graduated in medicine at Rush Medical College, of Chicago. He established an office in the Masonic Block, in Marseilles, Illinois, and has since been actively engaged in the practice of his profession. He is a member of the LaSalle County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society and is identified with the Knights of Pythias as well.

JOHN O'DONNELL.

On the 1st of March, 1897, John O'Donnell was appointed to his present position as collector of the port of Ottawa, and entered upon the discharge of the responsible duties which devolve upon him in this capacity. He is popular and highly esteemed by all who know him, and he is faithful, prompt and courteous as an official.

For over half a century Jerry O'Donnell, the father of our subject, was a resident of Ottawa, and for many years was in the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company. For his wife he chose Miss Johanna White, and to them were born seven children—four sons and three daughters. The family have been numbered among the substantial citizens of Ottawa during the greater part of the existence of the town, and have been noted for a worthy public spirit and patriotism. Jerry O'Donnell died September 13, 1899, aged seventy-two years.

The birth of John O'Donnell occurred in 1865, in Ottawa, and when he was a lad he acquired a practical business education in the common schools of this place. When he had arrived at years of maturity he went to Chicago, and for some time was employed as a conductor on a street car. He became one of the most popular conductors on the road, and the courtesy which has ever been one of his marked traits was particularly grateful to those who journeyed to and from the commercial center. At length, returning to Ottawa, he took a position in the Ottawa Bottle & Flint Glass Company's works, of which concern he was a shipping clerk for ten years. Afterward he was made the assistant manager, which position he held until the company went out of business in 1895.

In 1889 Mr. O'Donnell wedded Miss Minnie Kennedy, a daughter of Captain and Mrs. Julia Kennedy, the former now deceased. Two sons bless the happy home of our subject and wife, their names being respectively Leo and George. Politically Mr. O'Donnell is associated with the Republican party, and in the fraternities he is the second lieutenant of the uniformed rank Knights of Pythias.

JOHN KANGLEY.

The record of a man who started out to win a place for himself in the world, when a poor boy, almost alone and without friends, in a foreign land, and who, in spite of great obstacles and discouragements, persevered in the task he had set out before him, until he became wealthy and influential, is one which cannot fail to be of interest, and should spur the young to greater bravery and more steadfast principles of conduct. Such, in brief, is the summary of the career of the late John Kangley, who was a highly esteemed citizen of Streator, LaSalle county.

The birth of the subject of this memoir occurred in county Meath, Ireland, in 1843. His parents were John and Mary Kangley, both of whom died when their son John was a mere child. The father was a man of more than ordinary attainments and education, and was successfully engaged in teaching at the time of his death. At eleven years of age John Kangley, Jr., left his native land to seek a new home in America, the land of promise. He accompanied a friend and came direct to Illinois, locating at first in Grundy county. He attended school to some extent after coming here, and obtained employment in the coal mines when quite young. He was industrious and economical; earnestly watching every opportunity for advancement, and the result was that ere many years had passed he had become a coal operator upon his own account. In 1869 he came to Streator, where he continued to make his home until his death. When the Star Coal Company was organized, in 1880, he was made general manager of what is better known as the Kangley & Carbon Hill Mine. Many years later he retired from the active management of the mines, but continued to be one of the largest stockholders in the concern. For several years prior to his death he devoted his time to dealing in railroad stocks in Chicago and New York city and met with marked success in his speculations.

In 1877 Mr. Kangley married Miss Mary Lunney, of Ottawa, and of the eight children born to this worthy couple seven survive, Zita having died August 13, 1898. Minnie is a student in a Chicago college, and J. Arthur, the elder son, at present is attending Philips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. Helen and Charles Vincent are in the Streator high school,



John Kangley

and Louise, Gertrude and Lucy complete the family. Mrs. Kangley was born and reared in Ottawa, her parents, Thomas and Elizabeth Lunney, being early settlers of that place, their residence there dating from 1852.

In 1882 Mr. Kangley erected his commodious and comfortable brick residence in Streator. Fraternally he belonged to Streator Lodge, No. 607, F. & A. M., and in political faith was a Republican. He enjoyed the sincere respect of those who had been associated with him in business or social relations, and his long and honorable commercial career justly entitled him to the love and admiration of our citizens. His death occurred June 8, 1899, resulting from an attack of pneumonia. His final illness was of short duration and the community mourned the loss of one who had occupied a prominent position in business and social life, and whose high character had gained for him unreserved regard, while to his immediate family the bereavement came as the greatest of all possible, for in his home his many sterling qualities and his true kindness and nobility had ever cast their beneficent light with never varying power.

ANDREW W. MERS.

Deer Park township, LaSalle county, Illinois, includes among its intelligent, thrifty and progressive farmers the subject of this sketch, Andrew W. Mers, who has been identified with this place since 1853, having been drawn hither at that time, as he says, "in close pursuit of a young lady who soon afterward became his wife." After his arrival here he bought a small tract of land southeast of Vermillionville and began the work of developing a farm and making a home. The land was then almost in its wild state and only a shell of a house was here to indicate that man had ever made it his abiding place.

Mr. Mers came to Illinois direct from Kentucky, his native state. He was born in Fleming county, July 21, 1830, a son of Samuel Mers, a native of the same county, born in 1797. Samuel Mers spent his active life as a farmer, and died at Knightstown, Indiana, in 1862. He was a soldier of the United States in our second war with England, and inherited his military inclinations from his father, who was a patriot soldier of the American Revolution. The latter, also named Samuel, was born in Ireland, and was, it is thought, a recruit for Washington's army from the state of Virginia, and from that state entered Kentucky soon after the conclusion of his seven years of army service.

The younger Samuel Mers married Tenna Plank, whose father was of German birth. She died in 1889, at the age of eighty-eight years. The

children of Samuel and Tenna Mers were as follows: Margaret, deceased, was the wife of Henry Rice; Frederick, of Pleasant Hill, Missouri; John, who still resides in the home county in Kentucky; Elizabeth, deceased, was the wife of Henry Keal; Mary, now Mrs. William Beckner, of Rush county, Indiana; Evaline, the wife of Alfred Beckner, of the same county; and Andrew W., whose name introduces this review. There were other children, that died in infancy.

Andrew W. Mers spent his youth on his father's farm and received his education in the private schools near his home, attending only during the winter months. When about eighteen years of age he engaged regularly in farming for himself, and remained in his native state until lured away, as above recorded. Since he came into possession of his first tract of land Mr. Mers has increased the area of his farm to two hundred and six acres, all now nicely improved and well tilled, forming one of the few attractive places on the highway on which it is located.

Mr. Mers was married in 1855, to Miss Mary Newell, a daughter of George Newell. The Newell family came to this state from Brown county, Ohio, in the year 1851. Mr. Newell was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1798, the son of an Irishman, and died in the town of Deer Park, in 1875. One of his children, John H. Newell, is a retired farmer of Deer Park, residing with his son, George A., who is a most highly esteemed and prosperous farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Mers have two sons: Lawrence Webster and Charles D., both worthy citizens of their native town.

Mr. Mers is well known as a Democrat. He has held, at some time, all the offices of his town, except that of supervisor, and is now a justice of the peace. A quarter of a century ago, when the Farm Ridge & Deer Park Mutual Fire Insurance Company was organized, Mr. Mers was one of its charter members; and of the thirty-one men whose names were on the charter he is one of six survivors. He has been a director of the company all these years.

M. E. DOUGHERTY.

Prominent among the rising young men of LaSalle county stands M. E. Dougherty, one of the native-born sons of Ottawa, in which city he has passed his entire life. His father, Michael Dougherty, was for thirty-five years, or until his death, an honored citizen of this place. For a companion and helpmeet on the journey of life he chose Miss Catharine Feeney, and to this worthy couple six children were born, two daughters and four sons, one of whom, P. J. Dougherty, is a well known printer of Ottawa.

The birth of M. E. Dougherty occurred some thirty-one years ago, and

in company with his brothers and sisters he attended the public schools when he reached a suitable age. He received a liberal education, and is thoroughly posted upon all of the current events and leading questions of the day. In the spring of 1898 he was honored by being elected to the responsible office of town collector of Ottawa by his political friends, and has ably discharged the duties resting upon him, giving entire satisfaction to all concerned. He is well liked, personally, and enjoys the friendship of all who are well acquainted with him.

MRS. CHARLOTTE L. WARREN.

The lady whose name graces this sketch represents, in her position as a citizen, two of the prominent pioneer families of the township of Serena, LaSalle county, Illinois. Her father, the late venerable John Wright, brought his family to LaSalle county some time in the '50s, and her husband, the late Ruden Warren, was a son of that worthy citizen and guardian of the frontier, Daniel Warren, who came to this county from New York.

John Wright, the father of Mrs. Warren, was a native of Suffolk county, England, his birth having occurred at Ipswich in the year 1807. In his youth he had limited advantages for obtaining an education, but made the best of his opportunities and by close observation and general reading acquired a good store of useful information and became a useful citizen. After his conversion to Christianity he put away "worldly sins" and became an active and influential member of the Methodist Episcopal church, taking a prominent part in Sunday-school work. It was in 1849 that he came to America. He landed in Canada, his wife sick of cholera, and from Canada he came over into the United States, selecting a location in Vermont, where he made his home until 1855, farming, after working for a time at his trade in a blacksmith shop. In 1855, coming west to Illinois, he took up his residence in LaSalle county. Here he also engaged in farming and succeeded in providing his large family with all the necessities and comforts of life, though he never succeeded in accumulating property. He died in LaSalle county, in July, 1890; and his wife, whose maiden name was Rebecca Osborn, died at the same place a few years later. Their children were: Hannah, wife of Thomas F. Farnsworth, of Silver City, New Mexico; Mary A., deceased wife of William Gillespie; Fannie, deceased; Lucy A., wife of John Townsend, of Ford county, Illinois; Maria, deceased wife of John Rogers; Charlotte L., whose name introduces this review; Fannie C. (2d), who married John Rogers, of southeastern Kansas; Eleanor, deceased wife of Brice Dick; and Silas M., who was born in Vermont October 5, 1855, and is a successful farmer of Serena.

Mrs. Warren was born April 28, 1846, and August 13, 1862, was married to Ruden Warren, a native of Serena township, LaSalle county, Illinois, born December 31, 1840. They spent their married life on the farm where she still resides, and here their family was reared. Mr. Warren's youth was passed on his father's farm, and before he reached the age of twenty-two years he enlisted in the service of his country as a member of Battery C, First Illinois Light Artillery, for a term of three years. His battery was in the department of the Tennessee and participated in some of the hard-fought battles of the civil war. When the battery was captured at Stone River Mr. Warren succeeded in making his escape. In the campaign around Chattanooga Mr. Warren was in poor health and was assigned to hospital guard duty. He was honorably discharged at Nashville at the close of the war, and returned home, shattered in health. Chronic disease contracted during the war was the cause of much suffering to him and no doubt shortened his days. He died in 1890. His life was spent as a farmer. He was progressive and successful and was ranked with the leading farmers of his locality. Politically he was an ardent Republican.

Mr. Warren's parents, Daniel and Lucy (Skeels) Warren, were the parents of the following named children: Elizabeth, widow of Anthony Horr; Ardilla, deceased, was the wife of Henry Horr; Luther, deceased; Huron, of Lincoln, Nebraska; Ruden; and Lewis, a prominent farmer and worthy citizen of Serena township.

The children of Ruden Warren and wife are: Herman W., born April 11, 1867; Myra E., October 8, 1876; and Silas H., September 28, 1882.

Mrs. Warren and her children are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

WILLIS A. MARTIN.

Willis Allen Martin, the popular merchant of Harding, is a son of Richard Martin, the carpenter and builder. He was born in Freedom, January 21, 1862, on a farm one mile east of the village of Harding, on what is known as the Sampson place. He was sparingly educated in the village school and learned the carpenter's trade of his father, beginning at the age of thirteen years, following it about six years. If the brand of Dick Martin & Son was on all the buildings for which they are partly responsible, being connected with their construction, the improvement of the township could be more nearly judged. Having an opportunity to engage in a business not physically as hard, he accepted a position in the employ of S. U. Lawry, then the leading merchant of Harding, from whom he took his first lessons in commercial transactions. Although Mr. Martin was only a boy in his ex-

perience, his employer said of him, "He was never a boy but always a man." Again he remarked, "He was as straight as a string and I would trust him with anything I possessed." About seven years after he entered this store as a clerk, his employer proposed a partnership to him, which was accepted and entered into, the same existing until some time in 1893, when he purchased his senior's interest in the concern and thus became the sole proprietor of the only store in the village of Harding. He was appointed the postmaster of the Freedom office, and has held the position through all the administrations since. He is a "gold Democrat," but that has been no legal or other barrier to his holding the office during a Republican administration of the nation. The best recommendation one can have for an appointment to the public service is honesty, capacity and adaptability for doing the work, and all these Mr. Martin possessed. The popularity of Harding, as a trading point, is due to the manner in which business is conducted in Martin's store, and to the further fact that it carries about everything that a well-regulated country home ever needs. Everybody is "Will" Martin's friend and all rejoice in his prosperity and aid him toward success.

Our subject's father, Richard Martin, came to LaSalle county in 1856. He was born in Vermont, in 1830, and is still active at his trade. He married Minerva Allen, the daughter of Ethan Z. Allen, of New York state. The Allens claim to be descended from the Aldens, who were passengers on the historic Mayflower; but the name was afterward changed to "Allen." The genealogy of the family reveals this fact, and it was compiled some years ago, after many years of patient labor.

Richard Martin's children were: Ethan Allen, a railway mail clerk; Irwin L., a printer, of Grand Ridge; and Willis A., the last named being the first born. He was married in November, 1891, to Frankie, a daughter of James R. Walters, of Freedom. They have no children.

Mr. Martin is that type of manhood, of whom the world has none too many. He is a good business man; a good citizen ever seeking to do the right for the right's sake. His general rule of life is to practice the golden rule.

HENRY J. DAVIS.

Among the worthy citizens that Wales has furnished to this country is the subject of this sketch, Henry Jenkins Davis, of Freedom, Illinois, who was born in Cardiganshire, Wales, March 18, 1830, a son of Samuel Davis. The latter brought his family of sons and daughters to the United States in 1841, making the voyage from Liverpool England, to Castle Garden, New York, in the sailing vessel Batsford, which required four weeks to

make the trip. From New York they went up the Hudson river to Albany, thence by canal to Buffalo, and to Newark, Ohio. Their first location was on a farm in Licking county, Ohio, nine miles west of the city of Newark, where they lived five years. Thomas Jenkins, one of the older sons, born in 1818, left the parental roof in 1843, seeking a location on the fertile, frontier prairies of Illinois, whither David, his brother, had preceded him. He reached Chicago by boat and from there came on foot to Millington. In Green's mill, at Dayton, Illinois, he secured employment, and for nine years remained in Mr. Green's service. His acquaintance with the conditions and environments of LaSalle county led him to advise the remainder of the family to come further west, and they arrived in Freedom in 1846.

Samuel Davis, the father, was in limited circumstances, and as cheap as land was at that date he was unable to pay for more than a small tract. His farm was in section 5, Freedom township, and on it he spent the rest of his life, devoting his energies to its cultivation and improvement. He was twice married, his first wife being a Miss Jones; his second wife, her sister, Miss Eleanor Jones, who died in 1848. His children were as follows: Jenkins Davis, who died in Iowa many years ago; Maria, the wife of Elias Jones, died in Ohio; John J., deceased; Thomas J., of the town of Ophir, Illinois; David J., deceased; Rachel, deceased, was the wife of William Williams; Henry J., whose name initiates this review; Evan J., of Iowa; Fred J., of Ottawa, Illinois; Mary, who first married George L. Kinney; he died in 1870, and she is now the wife of John Hoadley, and resides at Earlville, Illinois; with her lives her only daughter, Miss Georgie L. Kinney, at present employed as bookkeeper; and Jane, wife of Plinn Bears, Chicago, Illinois. The father of these children died in 1859, at the age of seventy-seven years.

Henry J. Davis received his education in the district schools of Licking county, Ohio, and LaSalle county, Illinois, and in the broad school of experience. At nineteen he left home and became a wage-worker on farms, at the rate of fifty cents per day, among his employers being Mr. Hosford and John Henderson, prominent farmers. With what he had saved from his earnings in four years he purchased a forty-acre tract of land. But he had no team and had to hire the soil broken. This cost him one dollar and fifty cents per acre, and it was not until the second year after the purchase that he obtained a crop. He continued to work and save and invest in land, and in a few years he found himself with a quarter and then a half section of land. While he was buying he was also improving, and at this writing there is perhaps not a farm in LaSalle county that will excel his own in the cost of improvements and the care and expense with which they are preserved.

June 15, 1854, Mr. Davis married Miss Sarah Jane Crumpton, a daughter of William Crumpton, who came from Maine to Illinois in an early day

and became one of the pioneer settlers of LaSalle county. Mrs. Davis has a brother, Samuel Crumpton, who resides in Superior, Wisconsin. Of her sisters we record that Mrs. Ann Bangs resides in Chatsworth, Illinois; and Mrs. Charlotte Davis, wife of Thomas J. Davis, is a resident of Ophir township, LaSalle county. Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Davis began housekeeping in a primitive way, in keeping with their circumstances, and for a period of forty-five years their lives have been happily blended together.

Mr. Davis is a Republican, but has never sought, nor would he accept, official position, his own private affairs requiring the whole of his attention. He believes in expansion, protection and all other doctrines that have made the United States prosperous and powerful. Both he and his wife are noted for their genial hospitality and are invariably referred to in the most generous and complimentary terms.

BARTO THOMPSON.

Barto Thompson, of Freedom township, is a living example of that remarkable and wonderful prosperity that follows some of the sons of semi-illiterate, but industrious pioneers of a new country. He was born July 27, 1836, in Christiansand stift, on a place called Mosey, in Norway. His parents were Knute Thompson Mosey and Sarah Thompson. At the age of eight years he emigrated with his parents to this country. His father had been induced to take the southern route, with the intention of locating in Texas, but, on reaching New Orleans and learning of the advantages to be had in the north, changed his course and started up the Mississippi river. This trip was an experience of bitterness and suffering; their boat stuck on an island and they came near starving and freezing to death before they could be rescued! Then one of their companions, a generous fellow from the old country, fell overboard and was lost, and this threw a damper over the whole company. When they were released from the ice gorge the company hired another boat and arrived at Alton, Illinois, after a long voyage. The family came up the Illinois to Ottawa, and reached the town of Freedom nearly one year after their embarking in Norway.

After buying one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government, the hardships can better be imagined than told. It would require a small volume to relate all that took place to bar the settlement and progress of civilization and to add to the discomfiture of the white settlers in the west—First, their efforts to reach their intended location; then their troubles while getting a cabin ready to shelter them from the beating storms. In this case their first house was a dug-out; and this filled with water when it rained;

in winter snow obstructed its entrance; in hot weather its walls were filled with living reptiles; and there scarcely could have been a time when the family felt secure and happy. Through all this the family survived and lived with the will of their Maker in mind until the summer of 1849, when that terrible plague, the Asiatic cholera, called four of the family—father, mother and two sisters. Our subject and a brother, Thomas T. Mosey, now of Leland, Illinois, were the only members of the family who survived.

Being left an orphan at the age of thirteen, he had to make the best he could of the schools in winter and working in summer until he reached the age of twenty-one, when he commenced life for himself. At the age of twenty-three he married Tarbar Baker, a daughter of Halver Baker, who came to Freedom from Thelemarken, Norway, in 1854. They were blessed with four children. Charles M., who died March 30, 1895; Hattie J., the wife of Fred Mathieson, who is farming in Dayton township; Joseph E., also a farmer, in Freedom; and Sarah E., the wife of Professor L. H. Chally, of Red Wing, Minnesota.

Mr. Thompson's success as a farmer has been all that could be desired, and as he acquired the means he added to his domains until he now owns two as good farms as lie in LaSalle county—one in Freedom and one in Dayton township.

GEORGE D. HILTABRAND.

Though comparatively a young man, George D. Hiltabrand has already evinced that he possesses exceptional business and financial ability, and during the six years of his residence in Tonica, LaSalle county, he has been an untiring worker in the interests of the place—a fact thoroughly appreciated by its citizens. The standing of a town or community in the public opinion is a matter that should be of great concern to every inhabitant of the place, for true patriotism, like charity, should begin, though not end, at home.

The grandfathers of our subject were numbered among the early pioneers of Illinois, and his relatives have borne an important part in the development of its resources. George Hiltabrand, his paternal grandfather, was a native of North Carolina, and lived in Tennessee prior to his removal to Magnolia township, Putnam county, Illinois, in 1827. His farm was located at a place known as Ox Bow, and there he resided until his death, which event occurred when he was nearly three-score and ten years of age. During the Black Hawk war he enlisted and served as a sergeant of his company. Jeremiah Hartenbower, the maternal grandfather, was born in Germany, came to America in the '20s, and about 1830 located in Putnam county,

Illinois, taking up some government land. Later he settled in Hennepin township, and in 1876 he departed this life at his home in the village of the same name. He had nine or more children and George Hiltabrand had eleven children, and their descendants are numerous and influential, both in this and in other states of the Union.

Benjamin F. Hiltabrand, father of George D., was born in Putnam county, where he was a successful farmer and stock-raiser for many years after arriving at manhood. In 1882 he came to LaSalle county, and during the next thirteen years he dwelt about a mile and a half west of the village of Lostant. He owns six tracts of eighty acres each in that locality, another farm of one hundred and twenty acres in that district, and about five hundred and seventy acres in Iowa, besides twenty acres in Putnam county. Since 1895 he has lived retired in Bloomington, Illinois. For some time he was the supervisor of Magnolia township, Putnam county; and in Hope township, this county, he served in the same capacity. Politically he is a Democrat, and religiously both he and his estimable wife are members of the Baptist church. In her girlhood she bore the name of Minerva Hartenbower, and, like her husband, she was born in Putnam county. They had six children, four of whom survive, namely: George D., Norman J., Vera L., and Benjamin Franklin.

The birth of George D. Hiltabrand occurred on the parental homestead near Magnolia, Putnam county, September 10, 1872. At ten years of age he came to this county, and, after finishing his district and village school education, he took a commercial course at the Dixon (Illinois) Business College and for about a year pursued his studies in the Northern Illinois Normal School in the same town. Then, returning to his father's old homestead, he continued the agricultural labors which have engrossed his time and attention, to a great extent, from his childhood. He is now engaged in the stock business, in partnership with his brother, Norman J., and they cultivate a farm of three hundred and twenty acres. In 1893 our subject became assistant cashier of the Tonica Exchange Bank, and two years later he entered into partnership with John E. Hartenbower and Austin Hiltabrand, and for a year they were the proprietors of this now well known and successful banking institution. In 1896 Mr. Hiltabrand retired and the firm has since consisted of J. E. Hartenbower and George D. Hiltabrand. The latter owns considerable real estate and is interested in its sale and in the insurance business and other enterprises.

In the multiplicity of his private business affairs, Mr. Hiltabrand does not neglect his duties as a citizen, and at present he is serving as president of the board of trustees of Tonica. He is independent in politics, using his franchise for the nominees and principles which he deems worthy of sup-

port regardless of party lines. Socially he belongs to Tonica Lodge, No. 364, F. & A. M., of which he is the present master; of Peru Chapter, No. 60, R. A. M.; Tonica Lodge, No. 298, I. O. O. F.; and of Kaiser Camp, Modern Woodmen of America.

On the 12th of December, 1894, Mr Hiltabrand married Miss Lizzie, a daughter of Abraham and Sarah (Dixon) Phillips, and they have one child, Wendall K. Abraham Phillips is a native of Manchester, England, while his wife was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He came to this state about 1840 and was preceded here by his wife, who came west with her parents in 1838. Her mother dying when the little Sarah was but four years old, the latter was reared by a Mrs. Miriam Graves, who lived to the remarkable age of one hundred years. The paternal grandparents of Mrs. Phillips were James and Nancy Dixon, and her maternal grandparents were John and Mary Woolsoncroft. James Dixon, a native of England, located in the neighborhood of Magnolia, Illinois, about 1845, and he lived to be well along in years, while his wife was almost a century old at the time of her death. John Woolsoncroft, also a native of England, did not come to America until he was past the prime of life, and his last years were spent in Putnam county, Illinois, where he died at an advanced age.

M. C. LANE.

Among the venerable and well known citizens of Allen township, LaSalle county, Illinois, is M. C. Lane, who has been identified with the county since 1856. A resume of his life is as follows:

M. C. Lane was born in Brown county, Ohio, February 9, 1819, and is descended from English and Irish ancestors. The Lanes were English people and were among the first settlers of the Old Dominion. Elias Lane, the grandfather of M. C., was a Revolutionary soldier, born in 1755, and died in 1820. The father, Elias Lane, Jr., was born in 1786. Elias Lane was reared on the Kentucky frontier and was there married to Miss Jane Neeper, daughter of John and Tabitha Neeper, who were of Irish descent. Elias and Jane Lane were the parents of a large number of children, of whom William H. and Emily Dow, residents of Nebraska, and the subject of our sketch, are living. One son, Thomas, went, in 1852, to California, where he was supposed to have died, as nothing has been heard from him since 1853. Two of the sons, Frank and Alexander, were Union soldiers in the Civil war and lost their lives in the army, Alexander's death resulting from wounds received in battle, and Frank dying of disease. The father of this family lived to the ripe age of ninety-one years, and died in Allen township, La-



Mr. C. Lane

Salle county, Illinois, in October, 1877. The mother also died in Allen, her death having occurred in 1866, at the age of seventy years.

On his father's farm and in his native county M. C. Lane passed his boyhood days, receiving his education in the public schools and when not in school assisting in the farm work. At the age of twenty-two he married, and the young couple went to housekeeping on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, the house on which contained only three rooms. He remained in Ohio until 1851, when he moved his family to Illinois and settled in Putnam county. Here he remained until 1856, when he moved to Allen township, LaSalle county, where he was for many years actively engaged in farming operations, and where he owns a fine farm of four hundred acres, carefully cultivated, and improved with first-class buildings, included among which is his two thousand eight hundred-dollar residence and his large barn, 40x60 feet, with twenty-four-foot posts.

Mr. Lane was married August 7, 1840, to Miss Amanda Evans, born December 23, 1820, a daughter of Benjamin Evans, and, like himself, a native of Brown county, Ohio. Their union was blessed in the birth of ten children, namely: Marcus J., a soldier in the civil war, a member of Company D, One Hundred and Fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Captain William H. Collins; Mary Hawk, of Doniphan, Nebraska; George, of Oklahoma, who also was in the civil war, a member of the Sixty-third Illinois Infantry; Eliza; Thomas, of Allen township; Eldoras, of Doniphan, Nebraska; Albert, of Aurora, Nebraska; Lincoln, at home; Joanna, wife of Oscar Folk of Rolfe, Iowa; and Ida, at home. Two, Amanda and Fremont, died in infancy. The mother died December 8, 1895, at the age of seventy-five years.

Mr. Lane is politically a Republican, and throughout his long and useful life has always taken a laudable interest in public affairs; and while he has never sought official honors he has frequently been called upon to fill local offices and in several capacities has served the township, faithfully and well.

HELIA ARENTSEN.

This citizen of the town of Freedom, LaSalle county, was the son of the late pioneer Thorbjorn Arentsen, who was born among the pine-clad hills of that most picturesque of all northern European countries—Norway—in Bergen, March 21, 1812. To better his condition he emigrated to America, in 1836, just after his marriage, and worked at day labor in his new home in New York. He had led the life of a sailor in Norway, but came here to lay the foundation for something more to his liking, and to gain a freedom

not once to be thought of in his native land. In his search for a spot to suit his fancy, he left the state of New York and by water came to Muskegon, Michigan, and from that point he wended his way overland to LaSalle county, Illinois, by ox team. He found himself twelve dollars in debt, but by day labor he supported his family and repaid this sacred debt. How our subject came into possession of his first piece of American land may be of interest in this connection. There were two young Norwegians in this locality who wanted to become preachers. One of their chief qualifications was the possession of the proper garb of a broadcloth suit and a plug hat. This mantle neither of them had, but one of them owned twenty acres of wild land; and Mr. Arentsen had in his possession, left over from his days of greater prosperity and when his thoughts ran more to style, a broadcloth suit and the coveted "tile;" and when it was proposed by the germinating reverend to swap the land for the clothes he lost no time in agreeing to do so, and the head of the Arentsen house became a freeholder of Freedom township. He pursued his new occupation with renewed diligence and industry and made a success of it. His accumulations came somewhat slowly, but as they did come he found them in the form of additional area to his homestead, and when he died he was the owner of a large farm.

Thorbjorn Arentsen was just the type of man that made life valuable in that early day. He was not endowed with selfishness; on the contrary, he had an unselfish interest in all his neighbors and was especially awake to the needs of those who were in distress. During the cholera scourge he aided in nursing the sick and buried the dead, thus unavoidably exposing himself to the attacks of that deadly plague, with no thought of its possible consequences to him. Wherever there was needed a word of encouragement to the stricken, or bit of comfort to the afflicted, he always had it ready, and his presence did as much good as the old doctor's remedies. He was a Christian gentleman and prominent in the Lutheran church. He passed on to his reward September 14, 1889. His devoted wife, Caroline, died January 13, 1888. Their children were: Cecelia, wife of Christ Olson, of Ottawa; Helia; Henry, who died in the army, during the civil war; he was in Company D, Second Artillery, and died April 26, 1863; Caroline, wife of Ole Thorson, of Freedom; David and Daniel Arentsen.

Our subject, Helia Arentsen, was born in Perry, Wyoming county, New York, April 26, 1839, and was not favored with an excellent schooling, but had to be content with what he could obtain in the little "log seminary," as it was styled. However, he got sufficient book knowledge to enable him to teach a district school one winter, but after that he became a farmer and held to that without interruption, except as to the period he served his country during the Rebellion. He came to Illinois with his parents in

1844. August 25, 1861, he enlisted in Company D, Second Illinois Artillery, as a private. His regiment was a part of the Fifteenth Army Corps, and he served in the western army under General Logan, receiving his discharge September 24, 1864, at Nashville, Tennessee.

Mr. Arentsen was married at Ottawa, Illinois, by Justice of the Peace Arthur Lockwood, to Julia Thompson, a sister of Andrew Thompson, of Leland, Illinois. After his marriage he began life with a team and wagon and the money he had saved from his salary as a soldier. He went to housekeeping on the spot where the handsome residence now stands and where he was the possessor of sixty acres of land. His prosperity was attested by his final ownership of one hundred and twenty acres, which he had made one of the most beautiful farms in all his township. He claimed to be nothing, if not a farmer. He filled a small town office or two, but he never permitted his friends to lead him off for political crumbs, when he knew his success lay in the soil. He was, however, a director on the school board for eighteen years. He was a stanch Republican. He died January 20, 1900, a great loss to the community.

Of his family it may be added that his children are: Henry T., who is a prominent young Republican and a member of the advisory committee of the party for the town of Freedom; Joseph E.; Clara R.; William T., with Reed & Co., of Ottawa; Annie C., a successful teacher of the county schools; Emma S., a pupil at Dixon (Illinois) University; and Herbert L.

SEYMOUR POTTER.

The Potter family, which is worthily represented in LaSalle county by the subject of this article, is one of the oldest and most highly respected in the United States, having been founded here by Nathaniel Potter, a native of England, who emigrated to the New World in 1638. He located at Portsmouth, Rhode Island, where his son and grandson, named in his honor, were born.

In tracing the ancestry of Seymour Potter it is found that he is a son of Darius and Susan (Bower) Potter, the former one of the ten children of Esec and Lucena (Curtis) Potter. Esec Potter, in turn, was a son of Job and Desire (Irish) Potter, and grandson of Nathaniel and Mary (Carr) Potter. Nathaniel was a son of John and Mary Potter, grandson of Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Stokes) Potter, great-grandson of Nathaniel and Dorothy Potter, and great-great-grandson of the Nathaniel Potter who founded the family in New England. John Potter, his son Nathaniel and grandson Job, above mentioned, in the direct line of descent, were born and dwelt in the

town of Dartmouth, Massachusetts, where they were highly esteemed citizens. Our subject's parents were both natives of New York state, the father born in Cayuga county and the mother in Tompkins county. Esec Potter had emigrated into the wilds of Cayuga county, cleared a small farm, and at first lived in a rude cabin, which he built of logs cut by himself in the surrounding forest. He cleared the timber and farmed days, and at night worked at blacksmithing. In time he developed a good farm, and there the rest of his useful life was passed. The maternal grandfather of our subject, on the other hand, was Adam Bower, who with his wife was a native of Pennsylvania, and was of German extraction. He settled in the Empire state at an early period, and was a neighbor of the Potter family there.

In 1841 Darius and Susan Potter removed to the west to found a new home, and, locating on section 26 in Northville township where our subject now resides, proceeded to improve a farm. The father did not live to carry out many of his plans, as he died in 1849, at the age of forty-five years, and his devoted and sorrowing wife did not long survive, as she, too, entered the silent land during the following year, her age at death being about forty-six years. They were the parents of a number of children, among whom were: Orange, Fannie, Annice, Theron, Seneca, Seymour, Jane, Sarah, Lydia Ann and Ellen.

Seymour Potter was born July 20, 1834, in Tompkins county, New York, and was a child of seven years when he came to this county. Here he acquired a common-school education and laid the foundations of his future success. He has always resided on the old homestead where his parents settled in 1841, buying the property of the other heirs, after the death of the mother. He has carried out the work of improvement inaugurated by his father, and possesses a very desirable homestead, as the result of his well directed labors.

In 1866 Mr. Potter married Mary Elizabeth Pearson, who was born in the city of New Orleans. Her father died when she was an infant, and her mother came to live with her after her marriage, and died in the home of our subject. Mrs. Potter was summoned to the silent land in 1887, and left four children to mourn her loss, namely: Mary T., Sarah A., Arthur S. and Eliza J.

Mr. Potter is a public-spirited citizen, always ready to do all within his power to promote the welfare of the community. He has persistently declined official distinction and responsibility, preferring the quiet life of a private citizen, yet has neglected none of his duties toward the public. He uses his franchise in favor of Republican nominees, and takes a deep interest in the success of his party.

In December, 1899, Mr. Potter visited his birthplace and his parents' early homestead in New York, and renewed many old acquaintances, and learned much from the early pioneers there of his own family. Among those with whom he renewed acquaintance was Roswell Beardsley, of North Lansing, Tompkins county, New York, who was a neighbor of Mr. Potter's grandparents, both paternal and maternal, and which gentleman has been postmaster of North Lansing for the last seventy-two years, a remarkable and unequalled continuance in office as a postmaster.

C. D. WILHELM.

No more loyal American citizen can be found in Ottawa than this son of the German Fatherland; for though his affections cling tenderly to his birthplace he realizes the greater blessings and advantages which he now enjoys under this flourishing republic, and has instilled into the hearts of his children the same patriotism and love for the Union which he feels.

Born in Hesse Cassel, Germany, in 1837, C. D. Wilhelm is one of the four children of George and Dora Wilhelm. His sister Dorothea is the wife of Lawrence Romer, of Ottawa, and his sister Elizabeth married A. Carver, while the youngest of the family, Gertrude, is unmarried. In his youth our subject was employed first in farming; then, for three years he served in the German army, in compliance with the law compelling able-bodied young men of that nation to give a certain period of time to the support of the military system.

In 1868 young Wilhelm took one of the most important steps of his career, for he decided to come to the United States. Sailing from Bremen, he landed in Baltimore, and thence proceeded to Chicago, where he spent some time. In 1868 he came to Ottawa, with whose business interests he has since been connected. He is now the proprietor of one of the largest and best equipped meat markets in the place, and, owing to the neatness of the shop, the courtesy and desire to please manifested by himself and his employes, and on account of the strictly first-class meats which are to be found here at all times, he enjoys a large and representative patronage.

The marriage of Mr. Wilhelm and Miss Julia Saulman was solemnized August 24, 1875, in this town. They have two sons, of whom they have reason to be proud—Walter W. and Fred C.—both of whom are now serving as members of Company C, Third Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry, being under command of Colonel Bennett. When their country called for men in the late war with Spain, they immediately responded and accompanied their regiment to Camp Chickamauga, where they were drilled

and prepared for active duty in the field should their services be required; but, greatly to their regret, they were not sent to Cuba, but were sent to Porto Rico, returning to Ottawa in November, 1898; but they suffered the numerous discomforts and hardships of camp life, just the same. Besides these sons, Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm have two daughters, Gertrude and Dorothea.

In his political relations Mr. Wilhelm is a stalwart Republican, and never fails in discharging his duty as a voter. He favors schools and churches, and all worthy public institutions and enterprises, and has a good word and helpful sympathy for the poor and unfortunate.

MICHAEL DUFFY.

Now over three-score and ten years of age, Michael Duffy is passing the evening of his life in quiet and contentment at his pleasant home in the northern part of Ottawa. For more than half a century he has dwelt in this immediate locality and has been a witness of wonderful changes, as the wild prairie blossomed into usefulness and beauty under the labor of man, as thriving villages sprang into existence, and the county was covered with a network of railroads, which afford easy transportation facilities to the farmer who desires to dispose of the products of his land in the adjacent towns and cities.

A son of James and Mary (Kennedy) Duffy, our subject was born in county West Meath, Ireland, in 1827. His parents spent their entire lives in the Emerald Isle, their attention being given to agriculture. At an early age, Michael Duffy had to take up the burdens of life, and until recently he kept busily at work, adding to his capital and steadily making improvements upon his farm. It was in 1844 that he concluded to come to the United States, and after a three-weeks voyage in a sailing vessel he landed in New York city, whence he proceeded direct to Ottawa. A brother, Bernard, had come to this locality about two or more years previously, and made a purchase of land in their joint names. This property, three hundred acres, was not divided, but together the brothers carried on the homestead harmoniously until the death of Bernard in 1895, fifty-one years from the time that they had first started to run the farm. Bernard was the only brother of our subject, and, as he remained unmarried, he made his home chiefly with Michael Duffy. The latter succeeded to the sole ownership of the homestead at the death of his brother, and now leases the place to responsible tenants. A substantial brick house, good barns and other farm buildings are to be found on the place, which is kept in a neat and thrifty

manner. The farm is finely situated, being on the well kept graveled road leading from Ottawa to Utica.

In political matters Mr. Duffy is a staunch friend of the Democratic party. He and all of his family are members of St. Patrick's Catholic church, of Ottawa. Thirty years ago he married Mary Vork, of Ottawa township, and three children blessed their union, namely: James, who resides on the farm owned by the father; John, who is engaged in farming; and Mary, who, since the death of the devoted wife and mother, in 1896, has been her father's housekeeper.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TOWNSEND.

The family of the Townsends is an ancient and honored one. It is very old in England and was early established in America by James Townsend and his two brothers, who came over together, James locating in Massachusetts, one in New York and one in Vermont.

It was in the Vermont line of the family that the ancestors of George Washington Townsend descended. Mr. Townsend's grandfather was Aaron Townsend. His son, Almond Townsend, father of George Washington Townsend, was born in Windsor county, Vermont, January 26, 1803, and was a prosperous farmer and an extensive breeder of Merino sheep. He married Elvira Butler, also a native of Windsor county, Vermont, a daughter of that well known man, Charles Butler, who was drowned in the Connecticut river. Mrs. Townsend was born in 1811, and died April 15, 1880. Mr. Townsend died April 16, 1885. Almond and Elvira (Butler) Townsend had seven children: Charles G., born April 30, 1834 (deceased); Eugene B., born June 13, 1836, died April 26, 1883; James A., born February 8, 1838; Henry H., born May 5, 1841; Carrie E., born April 12, 1843 (deceased); George Washington, and one other whose name is not at hand.

George Washington Townsend was born in Windsor county, Vermont, at the birthplace of his father and mother, April 10, 1847. He passed the first sixteen years of his life in Vermont, where he was sent to the district school and later to the Green Mountain Institute at South Woodstock. He supplemented the education thus obtained by a commercial course at Eastman's Business College, at Poughkeepsie, New York. In 1865 he came west to LaSalle county, Illinois, and went from there to Grundy county and tarried a year at Morris. He then made a short visit to his native town. On his return he stopped at Morris for a short time and then went to Grinnell, Iowa, and thence to Monmouth, Illinois, where he located in 1861. For a time he did a thriving business in wooden eave-spouts. He abandoned

this business to learn the tanners' trade. He remained at Monmouth and in Stark county, Illinois, until 1877, when he removed to Ottawa and engaged in the dairy business on an eighty-acre farm which he purchased in Ottawa township, two miles and a half north of the city. This place, known as the Wade farm, he improved and stocked with thirty or forty cows and sold the milk they produced to a fine trade in Ottawa. He maintained this business on an extensive scale until 1897, and still keeps a few cows, more to have something to look after than for the profit there may be in so small a trade.

Mr. Townsend was married, December 19, 1892, to Miss Julia P. Judd, a native and resident of Wayne, Stark county, Illinois. He is a staunch Republican and has held the responsible position of treasurer of Ottawa high school for the past nine years. He has a fine residence, heated throughout by a modern hot-water system and provided with other up-to-date conveniences and luxuries. A library of fine and useful books attracts the attention of the visitor, but the presence of these is not necessary to suggest to any one who meets Mr. Townsend that he is a man of high intelligence and a wide range of general information.

CARLISLE M. POOL.

Carlisle M. Pool is a member of that large and popular family of Pools that settled in Freedom township, LaSalle county, at a very early day in the history of this section and have been prominently identified with it ever since.

The Pools are of English origin. Joseph Pool and William, his son, grandfather and father of Carlisle M., were both born in Yorkshire, England, the former in 1798; the latter June 16, 1823. In 1830 Joseph Pool emigrated with his family to the United States, locating first in Clinton county, New York. In 1846 he came west to Illinois, making the journey by canal and lake route, and selecting a location in Serena township, LaSalle county, where he bought a farm and soon took rank with the leading and successful farmers of the county. Here he lived and labored until his death, which occurred in 1874. Politically he was a Democrat, active and influential in local affairs. He and his wife were the parents of the following named children: Thomas, Mathew, William, Mary E. (who married Gilbert Dominy), Joseph, George and Ann Eliza (who married Augustin Dominy).

William Pool was seven years old at the time he came with his parents and other members of the family to America, and at the time of their removal from New York to Illinois was twenty-three. He was reared a

farmer, receiving only limited educational advantages. In 1844, at the age of twenty-one, he came west on a prospecting tour and was so well pleased with LaSalle county that he decided to locate here. Hence the coming of the family a short time later. He was married May 28, 1846, just before they all started west, the lady of his choice being Sarah, daughter of David Smith, a Vermont farmer. Of the Smith family we record that John Smith, the father of David, was born at Needham, Massachusetts, October 9, 1758. He fought in the battle of Lexington April 19, 1776, and was an artilleryman in the battles of Bunker Hill and Ticonderoga. His second enlistment was at West Point in 1779, and it is fair to presume he served through the war. He married Sarah Mastick in 1780, and died at Grafton, Vermont, in 1838. His children were Clarissa, Hannah, John, Sarah, Walter, Elijah, Nahum, Joseph, Nathan and David. David Smith, born in 1794, went to Plattsburg, New York, in 1812, and married Phebe McCreedy, August 2, 1818. He died in 1837, and his widow in 1843. Their children were Sylvia, who married Benjamin Barber, died in 1846; Sarah, born July 13, 1825; Esther M., wife of Isaac Winters, died in 1857; Phebe, deceased; and Ann, a resident of Joliet, Illinois, is the widow of Benjamin Barber.

William Pool and wife are the parents of the following named: Albert J., a prominent farmer and stockman of Ford county, Illinois, married Lucy Crook and has four children—Willie C., Harry A., Ralph W., and Ethel May. Arthur S., a resident of Freedom, Illinois, has been twice married, his first wife being Eliza Ball, and his second wife Hester Hinchman; Carlisle M., born March 10, 1855; and Sarah, wife of J. W. Hall, of Eldon, Iowa; they have two children—Clarence L. and Lyle W.

Carlisle M. Pool has thus far passed his life on the farm on which he was born. His opportunities for obtaining an education were limited to the district schools. Under his father's training and with experience as a teacher, he became a first-class farmer and has always taken a pride in keeping his place in the best condition. His farm and home are among the most attractive in the township, giving every evidence of the fact that the owner is a man of industry and careful management. He has always taken an active interest in the public affairs of his township and has rendered efficient service in some of its public offices. He comes from a line of Democrats, politically, but claims to be an independent during the events of the present time. He has been a town clerk and commissioner of highways. Fraternally he, as well as Albert and his father, is identified with the Masonic order, having his membership in Freedom Lodge, No. 194. Albert and Carlisle have also taken the Chapter and Commandery degrees—Carlisle in Ottawa Chapter, No. 40, and Ottawa Commandery, No. 10.

Carlisle M. Pool was married in 1885 to Louisa Fogg, who was born

August 7, 1858, a daughter of Ezekiel Fogg, of Ottawa, Illinois. She has two brothers and two sisters: Dr. Charles Fogg, of Wenona, Illinois; Leander Fogg, of Freedom, also in Illinois; Sophia, wife of Frank Smith, of Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Anna M., of Ottawa, this state. Mr. and Mrs. Pool have two children, a daughter and a son: Irene Bertha, born October 23, 1886; and Ernest Howard Carlisle, June 5, 1894.

HENRY B. NEFF.

The gentleman to whose life history we now direct attention—Henry B. Neff—was born in Franklin county, Indiana, October 14, 1821, a son of Ebenezer and Susanna (Buck) Neff, pioneers of that place.

Ebenezer Neff was a native of the Green Mountain state, being born in Vermont, August 4, 1790; was a pioneer of Indiana, and in 1835 left the "Hoosier" state for Illinois, coming to Mission Point, LaSalle county, where he spent the rest of his life, dying May 31, 1867. He was a farmer by occupation, always took an active part in the public affairs of the community in which he lived, and when the Republican party was organized in LaSalle county became one of its ardent supporters. He was twice married. His first wife, nee Susanna Buck, was born October 2, 1784, and died in Franklin county, Indiana, July 25, 1823. Their children who grew to maturity were Daniel B., Betsey, Almira S., Olive, Isabelle P. and Henry B. Mr. Neff's second wife was before marriage Miss Margaret Douglas. She was born July 12, 1799, and died December 9, 1871. The children of this union, that lived to adult age, were William B., Rachel, Sarah Bell, Janetta, Ellen, George and Margaret.

Henry B. Neff was a boy in his 'teens when he accompanied his father and family to Illinois. He was reared a farmer, receiving only a common-school education, and when he started out to make his own way in the world it was as a poor young man with no capital save a willing hand and a determination to succeed. He engaged in farming in Kendall county, Illinois, was prosperous from the start, and as the years went by accumulated a large amount of property. He continued farming until 1882, when he moved to Ottawa, near which city he had a farm, and during the rest of his life his time was spent in looking after his property, loaning money, etc. He died in Ottawa, January 14, 1895. Politically, like his father, he was a stanch Republican, but never aspired to official honors. His religious creed was that of the Congregational church, of which he was a consistent member.

Mr. Neff was married April 15, 1852, to Miss Mary J. Freeland, a



Henry B Neft

native of Dearborn county, Indiana, born February 24, 1829, a daughter of Richard and Ellice (McMath) Freeland. Mr. and Mrs. Freeland were natives respectively of New York and Pennsylvania, were among the early settlers of Indiana and were married in that state. Their family consisted of the following named members: Mary J., John W., Samuel L., Ann Eliza and Ellice Augusta. In 1848 the Freeland home was changed from Indiana to Mission township, in LaSalle county, Illinois; and many years afterward to Troy Grove, this county, where the mother died. After the mother's death the father went to Champaign county, Illinois, where he passed the closing years of his life. Mr. and Mrs. Neff had no children, but adopted a daughter, Lillian V., whom they reared as their own. Mrs. Neff is a member of the Congregational church.

GEORGE D. HILL.

For some years Mr. Hill has been a prominent factor in the business circles of Grand Ridge, and at the present writing he is the popular and efficient mayor of the city, who, in his control of municipal affairs, follows a wise and progressive policy, resulting greatly to the benefit of the community which he thus officially represents. He is an enterprising man, loyal citizen, and at all times loyal and reliable in the discharge of the trusts and responsibilities devolving upon him.

A native of Maine, Mr. Hill was born in Augusta, a son of John and Oral (Sutherland) Hill, who had seven children, three sons and four daughters. The father, who was the proprietor of a shoe store, removed to Bement, Illinois, and thence to Streator, this state, where for a number of years he was successfully engaged in dealing in shoes. Mr. Hill accompanied his parents to Illinois, and under the parental roof spent the days of his boyhood and youth. He acquired a good education, well fitting him for the practical and responsible duties of life, and after attaining his majority he was engaged in business in Dana, Illinois, where he dealt in fruit for five years. On the expiration of that period he came to Grand Ridge and purchased of A. K. Knott & Company, of Ottawa, his present grain and coal business. Here he is enjoying a liberal patronage, which is steadily increasing. He has a very large elevator with a capacity of six hundred thousand bushels of grain; and as Grand Ridge is located in the center of a rich farming district he carries on an extensive business, deriving therefrom a good income and at the same time furnishing an excellent market for the grain producers of this region.

In 1894, in Morris, Grundy county, Illinois, Mr. Hill was united in

marriage to Miss Martha Lindsay, a lady of superior education and culture. She was graduated in the State Normal School, and for some years prior to her marriage was a successful teacher. Mr. and Mrs. Hill have two children, May and Oral. The parents are members of the Methodist church and are numbered among the most prominent people of Grand Ridge, occupying a leading position in social circles and enjoying the hospitality of many of the best homes. In his political affiliations Mr. Hill is a Republican, and on that ticket was elected to the office which he is now filling so creditably to himself and satisfactorily to his constituents. Socially he is connected with several fraternal organizations. He is a Royal Arch Mason, and is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias fraternity. In manner he is frank and cordial, entirely free from ostentation and display, but his genuine worth at all times commands respect and in the community he has many warm friends.

LEVI M. EATON.

Levi M. Eaton, of Sheridan, Illinois, was born in Freeport, this state, April 4, 1848, a son of William and Eliza (Hunt) Eaton, the former a native of Cortland county, New York, the latter of Massachusetts, and both of English lineage. Mr. Eaton's maternal grandfather was a soldier in the Mexican war and served as a drummer. The snare drum used by him is now owned by Mr. Eaton, who is himself a fine drummer; and to this day it is as fine an instrument of its kind as can be found.

Mr. Eaton was reared on a farm, his only educational advantages in early life being those of the country school. In the broad school of experience, however, he has acquired a large stock of useful information, and, being a good reader and a close observer, keeps himself well posted on the general topics of the day. He began the battle of life for himself at the age of seventeen years. At twenty-three he went west and had considerable experience in mining. Afterward he spent three years in the iron mines of Michigan. In 1882 he returned to Freeport, his native town, and for several years thereafter his occupation varied. June 11, 1890, he started out on the road, with horse and wagon, selling Dr. Ward's Remedies, and in this business he has since continued with success. Dr. Ward's name and remedies are too well known to need further mention here. Suffice it to say that Mr. Eaton as a salesman in this line has met with more than ordinary success. For several years he has resided in Sheridan, where he is well and favorably known.

Mr. Eaton was married, in 1884, to Miss Lena Olsen, and they have one daughter, named Eva J. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., the Modern Woodmen of America, the Home Forum and the Royal Circle.

JOHN ARTHUR QUAM.

There is no foreign element in our American nationality more valuable than that which comes from Norway. The land of the midnight sun has furnished to the United States many of its most prominent citizens, and its representatives are found in all the useful walks and vocations of life. The gentleman whose name heads this biographical record belongs to a worthy Norwegian family, although he is a native son of LaSalle county. He is now occupying a leading position in business circles, being a merchant and banker of Sheridan, where he exerts a wide and beneficent influence upon the commercial affairs of the place.

Born on a farm in Mission township, May 24, 1854, he is a son of Ole A. and Gertrude (Osmunson) Quam, both of whom were natives of Norway. When thirteen years of age the former came to the United States with his parents, in 1843, the family settling in Mission township, LaSalle county, where John Arneson Quam, the grandfather of our subject, spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1880, when he had reached the age of eighty years. His wife, Rachel Quam, has also passed away. They were the parents of two sons and four daughters, but one son and two daughters are now deceased. Ole A. Quam and Gertrude Osmunson were married in LaSalle county. The latter came to the United States in 1839, when five years of age. Her father died in Chicago soon after the arrival of the family in this country, and the mother moved to the town of Mission, LaSalle county, where she passed away six months later, leaving two little daughters, alone in a strange land, and without a known relative in the world! Here they grew to womanhood, and Gertrude married as above mentioned. By the union were born eight children, namely: Rebecca, John Arthur, Rachel, Isabelle, Bertha, Emma, Clara and Victor J. The parents continued to reside in LaSalle county until 1879 and then removed to Norway, Iowa, where they remained until 1896, since which time they have made their home in Ashland, Wisconsin.

John Arthur Quam, the subject of this review, was reared in LaSalle county, and has here spent his entire life. He acquired his elementary education in the common schools and later pursued his studies in the schools of Aurora and in the Fowler Institute at Newark, Illinois. He left the farm at the age of twenty-one years and came to Sheridan, where he entered

upon his business career as a general merchant, in partnership with Peter C. Berkland. This connection was continued for three years, when Mr. Quam bought out his partner's interest, and since that time he has dealt exclusively in clothing and men's furnishing goods. His store is filled with a large and well selected stock of everything found in his line and he receives a liberal patronage. In 1884 he established a private banking business and in 1887 Robert Knapp became his partner in both branches, since which time operations have been carried on under the firm style of Quam & Knapp, merchants and bankers.

In 1875 the subject of this review was united in marriage to Miss Amelia Nelson, a daughter of Peter C. and Sygne (Danielson) Nelson. Her father was born in New York and was a son of Cornelius Nelson, a native of Norway and one of the owners of and passenger on the "Norwegian Mayflower," the sloop Restoration, which weighed anchor from Stavanger, Norway, on July 4, 1825, with fifty-two emigrants, and landed in New York, October 9, with fifty-three passengers. Cornelius Nelson settled in that city and his son was born in the Empire state. After the death of the grandfather of Mrs. Quam, his widow and her children came west to LaSalle county, Illinois, in 1836, casting in their lot with the early settlers here. Mrs. Nelson's death occurred in this county, at a ripe old age. Her son, Peter C. Nelson, was born January 20, 1830, and is believed to be the oldest living Norwegian born in America. He is now residing at Larned, Kansas. To Mr. and Mrs. Quam have been born three children: Mabel, wife of Rev. J. M. Hibbish, of California; Vida and Hila.

The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are numbered among the most prominent citizens of Sheridan. In politics Mr. Quam is a stalwart Republican and for the past ten years has held the office of supervisor for Mission township. As a citizen he is progressive and gives a generous support to all measures calculated to prove of public benefit. In business he has been successful, and his reputation is unassailable, for his honesty is proverbial, and in all transactions he fully merits the confidence reposed in him.

JAMES BRUCE.

James Bruce, junior member of the firm of Bruce and Jamieson, and one of the promising young business men of Marseilles, LaSalle county, was born at Lockport, near Joliet, on September 2, 1872, and is a son of James and Jane (Stephens) Bruce. His parents were both natives of Scotland, the father having been born at Aberdeen in 1823. He came to America in 1844 and located at Lockport, where he was a contractor in the stone quar-

ries of Joliet for many years. He died December 13, 1898, at Lockport. He was a son of George Bruce, of Scotland. The same vessel that brought him to this country also brought Jane Stephens, a daughter of Ebenezer Stephens, to whom he was united in marriage in this country. Of the five children born to them but three survive.

James Bruce was the second child born in the family. He attended public school at Lockport, finishing with the high school, after which he took a course in a commercial college at Chicago. The following four years were spent assisting his father in his work connected with the stone quarries. In 1894 he came to Marseilles and formed a partnership with J. A. Jamieson and has since dealt in all kinds of grain, hard and soft coal, and built up a very profitable business. He is a straightforward, honorable man with whom it is a pleasure to do business.

In 1895 he was joined in marriage to Miss Adlaine Richards, whose grandmother was a Miss Middleton and whose parents were Daniel and Catherine (Gould) Richards, of Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. Bruce is a member of the board of directors of the First National Bank, and is the trustee of his father's estate.

JOSEPH FUTTERER.

Among the zealous and influential workers in the Democratic party of LaSalle county, Joseph Futterer is acknowledged to be in the front ranks. His ability and valued assistance to the party received fitting recognition when, in 1892, he was honored by election to the responsible office of supervisor. He served for two years—the full term—to the entire satisfaction of all concerned, and was then chosen by the vote of the majority for a second term. In 1898 he was again elected to the supervisorship, and is thus filling his third term. Not only in a public capacity but also as a citizen in the private walks of life, he commands the respect and high regard of all with whom he has had dealings, and he has been engaged in business in Ottawa for many years.

A native of Baden-Baden, Germany, born in 1852, Joseph Futterer spent the first years of his life in that fair land, and was a lad of about thirteen years when, in 1865, he and his parents, Joseph and Rosa Futterer, bade adieu to all their old friends and associations and set sail for America, here to found a new home. In 1868 they settled in Monroe county, Wisconsin, and on the homestead there, not far from the village of Sparta, the mother is still living. The father died some years ago, when in his sixtieth year. They had only one son, but were the parents of four daughters.

Our subject received the benefits of a thorough training in both the German and English languages, and in his boyhood and youth acquired an intimate knowledge of the various duties connected with the proper management of a farm. In 1873 he came to Ottawa, where he has since made his home, while occupied in business transactions. By diligence and perseverance in whatever he undertook he gradually amassed a competency, and he now has a good bank account and valuable property. Socially he is connected with the Knights of Pythias, the German Benevolent Society and several other fraternal organizations.

In 1877 Mr. Futterer married Miss Theresa Schaeffer, of Ottawa. Nine children came to bless their happy home, but four of the number have passed to the silent land. Four promising sons and a daughter are left to the devoted parents, their names in order of birth being as follows: Fred, Charles, Alice, John and Ernest.

WILLIAM COOPER.

William Cooper, of Otter Creek township, LaSalle county, Illinois, is one of the well known and popular citizens of the county, and has the distinction of being a veteran of the civil war. While he fought for this country and is thoroughly an American at heart, Mr. Cooper is not a native of the United States. He was born in the northern part of Ireland, November 11, 1842. His father, Edward Cooper, was a native of Ireland and a shoemaker by trade, following that pursuit in early life, but later turning his attention to agricultural pursuits. His wife, whose maiden name was Jane Coughlin, was also a native of the Emerald Isle. When their son William was a boy of six years they emigrated with their family to this country, and settled at Salmon Falls, New Hampshire, where they lived for some time, after which they came to Illinois and took up their abode in LaSalle county. Edward Cooper died at the age of forty-five years. His widow, surviving him, is now eighty-five years of age and is a resident of Streator, Illinois. They were the parents of eight children, namely: Mrs. Maria Roberts, of Indiana; Mrs. Sarah Berry, of Rock Rapids, Iowa; John, of Otter Creek township, LaSalle county, who is given personal mention elsewhere in this work; William, whose name introduces this sketch; Richard, who was a member of the Fifty-third Illinois Volunteers, under General Grant, and was killed in the engagement at Vicksburg, Mississippi, in the civil war; Edward, of Streator, Illinois; Mrs. Jane Litts, of Stuart, Iowa; and Mrs. Lizzie Jones, of Otter Creek township. All of the four sons in this family volunteered in the Union army during the civil war, rendered

faithful, courageous service, and one, as already stated, lost his life on the battlefield. Few families can show such a war record.

William Cooper, with his brothers and sisters, was reared on the farm and educated in the public schools, and, as one of a large family in moderate circumstances, he was early taught industry and economy, and for a time he worked in a cotton factory. To his early training, indefatigable industry and his determination to succeed may be attributed the success he has attained in life. He is now the owner of a valuable farm in Otter Creek township, well improved and giving every evidence of successful management on the part of the owner.

During the civil war Mr. Cooper "donned the blue" and fought in defense of the Union. He enlisted in 1862 and went to the front, his name being enrolled on the 14th of August, among the members of Company F, One Hundred Fourth Illinois Volunteers, under command of Captain McKennan. Among the engagements in which he participated were the battles of Hartsville and Missionary Ridge. While in the service he was disabled by deafness of the left ear, and was honorably discharged in June, 1865, at Washington, D. C.

In January, 1867, Mr. Cooper married Miss Mary Smith, daughter of Richard and Sarah (Booth) Smith, both natives of England. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper have had six children, all of whom are deceased. One of their daughters, Violet, married Mr. John Brock and died in May, 1893, leaving a child, Clarence William Brock, who is now eight years old and who resides with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper. Mr. Cooper is a member of G. A. R. Post No. 68, at Streator, and is a loyal and public-spirited citizen whose faithfulness to duty is as marked as when he followed the stars and stripes upon the battlefields of the south.

W. E. DOWNS.

From the time that he arrived at his majority W. E. Downs has been one of the most zealous workers in the interests of the Democratic party in Ottawa. He was but twenty-five years old when, in the spring of 1893, he received the nomination and was elected to the office of alderman by his numerous party friends. In 1897 he was again chosen to represent the people in the city council, and was elected from the Third ward. He is still acting in that capacity, and now, as always, has the best interests of the public at heart. Progressive and in accord with the spirit of the times, he advocates public improvements and judicious expenditure of the people's money.

One of the native sons of Ottawa, in which place he has passed his whole life, Mr. Downs is naturally proud of this enterprising little city, and is loyally anxious to promote its growth and prosperity. He was born in 1868, and is a son of John Downs, an old and prominent citizen of this place. In his youth our subject attended the public schools and gained a practical business education. After leaving the school-room he obtained a position in the employ of the Ottawa Electric Street Railway Company, with which corporation he has been connected in various capacities for many years. At present he is the foreman and superintendent of tracks. By long and faithful service and strict attention to the welfare of his employers, he has won their approbation and confidence.

Mr. Downs bears an enviable reputation for integrity and uprightness in all the varied relationships of life. He is a member of the Uniformed Rank of the Knights of Pythias, and has many friends in the organization. For years he has been sent as a delegate to political conventions, local and general, and has kept well posted on party tactics and plans of campaign work.

MICHAEL J. FLAHERTY.

Michael J. Flaherty, the genial and courteous postmaster and merchant of Baker, LaSalle county, is well and favorably known throughout the county as a man of energy and push whose residence in this state has been marked by an industry and energy that have brought him to the road to prosperity. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts, December 28, 1842, and is a son of Michael and Bridget (Flaherty) Flaherty. Both parents were born in Ireland and were there married, coming to the United States in 1831 and settling in Boston, where the mother died in 1852, and four years later the father and five of the children came west and located at Serena, this county. He purchased land, which was taken in charge by his son Martin and converted into valuable property. The children of Michael Flaherty were two sons and four daughters: Martin, deceased; Sarah, deceased; Margaret; Ellen; Kate and Michael. The father died in Serena in 1888 and his remains were taken back to the east and placed beside his wife at Bunker Hill. Martin Flaherty was a successful man of business and well liked by those who knew him. He resided at Serena and was a supervisor for fourteen years, moving to Ottawa, where he was again elected supervisor. He was a Democrat in his political affiliation and died at Ottawa in 1892, aged sixty-six years. He was unmarried.

Michael J. Flaherty remained behind to attend school in Boston, when his father and family came west, in 1856, but in the course of about two

years he followed them to LaSalle county. He worked on the farm until 1893 and then lived in Leland five years more, when he came to Baker and opened a store of general merchandise. He was appointed the postmaster of Leland in 1893 and served four years and a half, and during that time was elected the president of the town board. He was appointed to the office of postmaster in Baker in December, 1897, and the following year was elected a justice of the peace. He is one of the workers among the Republican ranks, and renders the party valuable aid in their local elections. He is a member of the Roman Catholic church and belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, the Knights of the Globe, the Home Forum and the Foresters. In 1872 Mr. Flaherty married Kate Calvy, who died seven years later, leaving a son, Martin, who died one year afterward. He was married a second time, in 1881, to Miss Eliza A. DeBolt, a daughter of John DeBolt, one of the oldest settlers of LaSalle county, who came here as early as 1832. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Flaherty has been blessed by the birth of four children: Martin (1st), who died in his seventh year, Harold, Martin (2d) and Mary.

GEORGE A. CAMPBELL.

As his name indicates, George A. Campbell, of Ottawa, comes of Scotch-Irish ancestry. His father, Hugh Campbell, was born in the city of Belfast, in the northern part of Ireland, and in his early manhood he came to the United States. At first he resided in New York state, where he married Miss Nancy Polls, a native of Orange county. Later he removed with his family to Michigan, and throughout his active life he devoted his attention to farming. At the time of his death he had reached the extreme age of eighty-seven years. His widow is still living and makes her home with her youngest son, Joseph R., in Clinton county, Michigan. The three eldest sons of this worthy couple, James, Chester and Robert W., were heroes of the civil war, nobly upholding the Union in its time of peril. Chester was wounded in one of the numerous battles in which he participated, and for six months was a captive in a Confederate prison. Thomas, a railroad conductor, whose home is in Frankfort, Indiana, and three children, who have passed to the silent land, complete the family.

George A. Campbell, whose name forms the caption of this sketch, was born near Newburg, Orange county, New York, September 6, 1848, and was reared to farm life. In his boyhood he accompanied the family in its removal to Michigan, where he experienced the vicissitudes of pioneer life, and in order to pursue his education was often obliged to walk two miles to school. When a young man he came to Ottawa, where he remained for

several years. In 1880 he went to Montana, where he spent about four years, but returning here at the end of that period, he located his place with the intention of remaining permanently. On the 1st of July, 1887, he was appointed to his present position as mail carrier and delivery clerk, and has made a desirable record for efficiency and faithfulness. In his political convictions he is a Democrat, as was his father before him.

In October, 1874, occurred an important event in the life of George A. Campbell, as at that time his marriage to Miss Lizzie Cross was solemnized in Ottawa. Mrs. Campbell is a native of Wayne county, New York, and is a daughter of Jairus Cross. Louise, the only daughter of our subject and wife, is employed by J. E. Scott & Company; and Norman D., the only son, is at home, attending the local school. The pleasant home of the family is at No. 635 Chapel street, in the eastern part of the town. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell and their children are members of the Congregational church, lending their influence to the support of religion, morality, temperance and all that makes a community prosperous.

GEORGE E. WILLS.

George E. Wills, a prosperous and public-spirited citizen of Troy Grove township, LaSalle county, is one of the early settlers of this locality, and for forty-three years he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits in this vicinity. He has seen the development of the county almost from its wild state, and has himself broken prairie and improved tracts of land which gave little promise of the wealth that proper cultivation was to evolve from the soil.

A son of George and Mary (Watts) Wills, both natives of Somersetshire, England, our subject was born March 22, 1836, in Michigan, and, with his little sister, Mary, was left motherless at a tender age, in the year 1838. The father, who was a carpenter and mechanic, returned to England, where his death took place in 1847. He was a son of Richard Wills, who likewise was a carpenter and who lived to a ripe age, dying in England, where he had been a life-long resident. He had but two children. The maternal grandfather of our subject also lived and died in that country.

George E. Wills was reared at a place about twenty-eight miles distant from Detroit, Michigan, and resided in that city also for a short period, prior to his seventeenth year. He was early thrown upon his own resources, and may truly be termed a self-made man. About 1853 he went to New Brighton, Pennsylvania, a town some thirty miles northwest of Pittsburg, and there learned the trade of plasterer. Later he attended school at North



George E Will.

Sewickley, and by earnest study qualified himself for teaching. In 1854 he went to Jackson county, Iowa, where he worked on farms during the summer and taught school in the winter season. At the end of thirteen months he came to Mendota, and here he assisted James Henderson in establishing a seminary, in which he also became a student.

It was in 1856 that Mr. Wills permanently turned his attention to agriculture. For two years he carried on a rented farm west of the limits of Mendota, and then leased a place south of the town and adjoining his present homestead on the south. That land was wild prairie, and for sixteen years Mr. Wills cultivated the place, which soon bore little resemblance to its original condition. In 1874 he bought the homestead which has been the scene of his endeavors for a quarter of a century. In addition to this place, which he greatly improved, building a substantial house, barns, granaries and fences, he owns another farm, of one hundred and sixty acres, situated four miles north of Mendota, in the township of the same name.

During the past two years Mr. Wills has been the president of the Mendota Union Fair Association, of which he had served as a director for a number of years previously. For twelve years he has acted in the capacity of road commissioner, and was township assessor for one term, discharging his duties to the full satisfaction of every one concerned. He is a stanch Republican, and fraternally is identified with Mendota Lodge, No. 176, A. F. & A. M.; Mendota Chapter, No. 79, R. A. M.; and Bethany Commandery, No. 28, K. T.

In 1862 Mr. Wills married Mary, daughter of Slocum and Matilda Bunker. Jennie M., their first-born, became the wife of the Rev. W. H. Clatworthy, a Presbyterian minister, and has been called to the better land. James S., the eldest son, is in the west for the improvement of his health. George A., who married Miss Belle Garwood, is financially interested in the Stockholm Manufacturing Company, of Chicago, in which city he makes his home. Oscar T. married Miss Carrie Bailey, and is engaged in managing the farm owned by our subject. Edgar B. married Margaretta Moore, and carries on the farm north of Mendota owned by his father. The mother of these children, who was a devoted member of the Presbyterian church and a most lovable lady in every respect, departed this life February 12, 1877. On the 12th of October, 1886, Mr. Wills was united in marriage with Miss Sarah, daughter of Peter and Magdalena (Leufer) Miller. They have two children, Roy M. and Jennie Mabel. Mr. and Mrs. Wills are members of the Presbyterian church. Her parents were natives of Germany, and were early settlers of Troy Grove township. Her father, who was a respected, hard-working farmer, died about 1863; and her mother, who belonged to the Evangelical church, survived her husband

many years, dying in January, 1887, when in her sixty-fourth year. She was the mother of one son and two daughters: Magdalena, who is the wife of Thomas Bowers; Henry J., and Sarah. Mr. Wills has led an interesting career. Left an orphan in very early childhood and thrown upon his own resources very early in life, he began the battle of life under very discouraging conditions. Nature had endowed him with a burning ambition to succeed in life, and with a noble purpose before him he set about first to gain the best education possible for him to gain under the circumstances of his early youth. His spare hours and nights were spent in study. We soon find him in the school-room as teacher, then we find him engaged in farming. To the latter noble calling he brought his thirst for knowledge and progressive spirit, and with energy and pluck he has risen to a high place among the successful tillers of the soil, and gained a competency for declining years, and established a lasting friendship with his fellow-citizens.

FREDERICK T. SCHERER.

One of the most enterprising business concerns of Ottawa is that known as the Scherer Brothers' Transfer Line. To the indomitable energy and executive ability of the eldest brother in the firm, the subject of this sketch, is due the credit of having established the business on a sound, practical basis many years ago, and to his genius and keen foresight in a large measure can be attributed the success of the enterprise.

Thomas Scherer, Sr., the father of our subject, is a native of Germany, born there about seventy-two years ago. In 1856 he decided to try his fortune in America and came to Ottawa, where, in 1863, he embarked in the draying business in a humble way. As the years rolled by he materially increased the number of his wagons and was kept very busy in meeting the demands of the town. In 1877 he admitted his son, Frederick T., to a partnership in the business, and a few years later the father retired, having acquired a handsome competence for old age. To him and his wife, Catherine (Frontz) Scherer, six sons and two daughters were born, but two of the sons are deceased.

The birth of Frederick T. Scherer occurred in Ottawa, in 1865, and as he was the eldest son he early became his father's assistant in the business. As soon as his brothers, Louis T. and Thomas, Jr., had reached a suitable age they became associated with him, and are still enterprising members of the firm. Another brother, Hubert, was admitted to the partnership in 1890, but subsequently withdrew and established a grocery. The company not only transfers goods from one railroad to another but also delivers

great quantities of merchandise to business and private houses. About three years ago the firm was awarded the contract for carrying the United States mail to and from the postoffice and railway stations, and provided a handsome new wagon for the purpose. In their business about eight drays, trucks and express wagons are used and some eighteen or twenty horses are kept. The vehicles are as neat and business-like as any to be seen in the city and the horses are large, fine animals. In addition to their regular business the firm has the local agency for the Standard Oil Company, and has succeeded in building up a large and lucrative trade at this point for the great corporation. One of the more recent enterprises of the Scherer Brothers consists in the storage of furniture or other goods in their large storage building and in the handling of hard and soft coal, in wholesale and retail quantities.

At the age of twenty-two years F. T. Scherer married Miss Lucy Lilley, and six children brighten their happy home. In order of birth they are named as follows: Stella, Fred, Othelia, Hazel, Helen and Alboene.

In disposition Mr. Scherer is genial and fond of society, and he holds a membership in several local orders. He is a prominent worker in the Woodmen's lodge, is the president of the German Benevolent Society, and belongs to the Uniformed Rank of the Knights of Pythias. Recently he has been associated with the Ottawa Evening Pleasure Social Club. In the spring of 1896 Mr. Scherer was elected alderman from the Seventh ward, and after serving for two years was re-elected by a large majority. He is an ardent Democratic politician and usually attends the caucuses and conventions of his party. Such in brief is the life history of Frederick T. Scherer. The character of the man has been shadowed forth between the lines of this review, and in a summary of his career we note only a few of the salient points—his activity and sound judgment in business affairs and his conformity to the ethics of commercial life, his faithfulness to public office, and his genuine friendship and regard for true worth of character. These are the qualities which made Mr. Scherer a valued citizen in whatever community he has made his home.

C. W. BUTTERS.

One of the native sons of LaSalle county is C. W. Butters, an enterprising young business man of Ottawa. He was born in Prairie Center township, February 1, 1871, and is one of the six children of John and Maggie (Miller) Butters, the former a native of Scotland.

With his brothers and sisters young Butters passed his childhood upon

the old homestead and received a public-school education. Lessons of integrity and justice, public spirit and patriotism were instilled into his youthful mind by his wise and conscientious parents, and his whole life thus far has been actuated and controlled by the most admirable principles. He is a student and thinker, making up his mind to a course of action in no hasty manner, but when he has resolved what is the right thing to do he does not hesitate but manfully takes up the task before him.

During the long weeks of anxious suspense in the early part of 1898, prior to the declaration of war by the United States government against Spain, the oppressor of her helpless subjects, Mr. Butters decided the question for himself that he would offer his services to his country upon the first call to arms. Accordingly, when the opportunity presented itself he enlisted, April 26, 1898, as a member of the Third Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was made a corporal, serving under Colonel Bennett. After passing through the hardships of camp life, and holding himself ready at any moment for the more serious responsibilities of military life, he was honorably discharged January 19, 1899.

Returning home, Mr. Butters resumed the ordinary vocations of business life. He is the proprietor of a neat and well equipped restaurant and cafe at No. 106 Market street, Ottawa, where an appetizing meal can be obtained at any reasonable hour of the day or night. He carries a large stock of fruit and confectionery, bread, cake and bakery goods, and ices, ice-cream and oysters in season. By uniform courtesy and a genuine desire to please, he has won a large patronage and has a promising business career before him.

WALTER C. LOVEJOY, M. D.

One of the younger members of the medical profession of LaSalle county is Dr. Walter C. Lovejoy, of Marseilles. A son of E. B. Lovejoy, now a prominent citizen of Ottawa, Illinois, he was born in the pretty village of Landaff, New Hampshire, October 3, 1869, and there his early years were happily passed.

When a mere child he accompanied his parents in their removal to Illinois, and, locating in Ottawa, he acquired his English education in the public grammar and high schools of that place. Having a fixed purpose to devote his life and talents to the healing of the sick and to alleviating the "ills to which flesh is heir," he went to Chicago after he had completed his elementary education and began the study of medicine under the instruction and guidance of Dr. C. A. Weick, a well known physician of that metropolis. In 1891 he was graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine in the

Chicago Homeopathic Medical College, and succeeded his preceptor, Dr. Weick, in practice. Subsequently he came to Marseilles, where he opened an office and soon was enjoying a fair share of the patronage of the people of this locality. In July, 1898, he enlisted for service in the Spanish-American war, and was given a position as assistant surgeon in a Wisconsin regiment. Ordered to the Pacific coast, he accompanied the regiment to Camp Merritt, Presidio, California, and it was not until the 5th of December, 1898, that he received his honorable discharge and was permitted to return to his home and regular practice. The wide experience and broader views of life and duty which he gained in this six months' experience, however, will be of inestimable value to him in his future career; and even though he had personally been benefited not a whit he would not begrudge the time and service he had given to his country. He is a member of the Illinois State Medical Society and takes the leading medical journals, thus keeping posted on the latest discoveries in regard to diseases and modern methods of dealing with them.

An important event in the life of Dr. Lovejoy occurred on the 13th of June, 1895, when his marriage to Miss Ella Frances Pitts, a daughter of F. D. Pitts, an honored citizen of Marseilles, was solemnized. The Doctor and wife are members of the Congregational church of this place, and are both very popular in local society.

G. W. BROWN, JR.

Brown's Ottawa Business College, which has been running under its present management only since 1894, was founded as a commercial college in 1888. The school is centrally located in one of the best business blocks in Ottawa, a flourishing little city of perhaps fifteen thousand inhabitants. All of the methods used in the institution are modern, the equipment of the rooms substantial and attractive, and everything possible is done to advance the students in their work.

G. W. Brown, the principal of Brown's Ottawa Business College, is a teacher of wide experience and possesses a thorough and practical knowledge of the requirements of his responsible position. The range of studies which the pupil may pursue is extensive, and an able corps of teachers further his efforts to give a comprehensive commercial education. The Ottawa college is a branch of the Brown's Business Colleges so well known throughout this state. The company, which now owns and manages colleges in Jacksonville, Peoria, Decatur, Galesburg, Bloomington and Ottawa, was incorporated under the laws of Illinois in 1888. Five directors have control

of affairs of the company and the president is G. W. Brown, Sr., who, for thirty years has been the owner and manager of the college at Jacksonville. Each college belonging to the company has at its head as principal a gentleman well qualified for the position by years of educational work and commercial experience. One of the chief advantages of any of Brown's business colleges to the student is that his scholarship is transferable to any other of the colleges owned by the company, without additional expense, and the interchange of practical ideas and business correspondence between the pupils of the various colleges is of great value to them.

The eldest of the nine children of Charles I. and Mary (Ogle) Brown, the subject of this sketch, was born in Fulton county, Illinois, in 1843. The parents were both natives of New York state, and their other children were named as follows: Esther, Edgar, John, Frederick, Frank, Alice, Nora and Charles I. The latter is a successful teacher, and Edgar is deceased.

Having gained a good English education in the public schools of his native county, G. W. Brown took a course of commercial training in the Jacksonville Business College. In 1894 he was placed in charge of the newly reorganized college at Ottawa, and to his enthusiastic efforts is due, in a large measure, the success which the school now enjoys. He likes to associate with young people and is very popular with them, as a class, for he enters into their plans, aiding and sympathizing with them, and withal exercising a marked influence for good over them.

The marriage of Mr. Brown and Miss Jennie Yates was celebrated in Peoria, Illinois. Mrs. Brown, who was a popular and very successful teacher, is a daughter of James Yates, and is a niece of Richard Yates, deceased, once governor of this state. Three children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Brown, namely: Louis P., James and Ada. The parents are members of the Congregational church, and are active in various kinds of Christian enterprises, having for their object the amelioration of humanity.

ROBERT BIRTWELL.

Among the well-known farmers of Otter Creek township, LaSalle county, is Robert Birtwell, a veteran of the civil war and a man highly esteemed by all who knew him. He was born in Lancashire, England, February 11, 1839, the son of John and Mary (Taylor) Birtwell. The parents came to America when their son Robert was very small, and for some years lived at Hudson, New York. In 1849 they moved out to Illinois and settled on a farm in LaSalle county, where John Birtwell is still living. His wife died April 14, 1865. She was a member of the Church of England, to

which he also belongs, and in that faith they reared their children. The five children born to them were named as follows: Ellen; Robert, the subject of this sketch; Sarah, widow of Evan Brick; James, of Allen township, LaSalle county; and Permelia, the wife of W. Porter Donnell, of Kearney, Nebraska.

Robert Birtwell was reared on his father's farm, acquired his education in the public schools, and as he was the eldest son he always found plenty of work at home to occupy his time when he was not in school. During the civil war, in August, 1862, he enlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Captain J. J. McKennan, and took part in the battles of Hartville, Missionary Ridge and Arlington Heights, and at the close of the war participated in the Grand Review at Washington, D. C. At Camp Douglas he received an honorable discharge and from there returned home, and since the war has been actively engaged in the occupation in which he was reared. He owns a valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres on section 6, Otter Creek township, which has a good residence and other buildings thereon and which is highly cultivated.

Mr. Birtwell was married in 1878 to Miss Mary Reddick, daughter of William Reddick, a prominent citizen of this county. Mr. Reddick was born in New Jersey, reared and educated in Washington, D. C., and has for a number of years been identified with LaSalle county. Mr. and Mrs. Birtwell have an only child, Frank R., born March 19, 1880.

Like his father before him, the subject of our sketch is a Republican, and although he has never aspired to office he takes an active interest in the issues of that party. He is a wide-awake, practical and enterprising farmer, who is meeting with good success as the result of his capable management of his business affairs.

F. METZGER.

For more than three decades the subject of this sketch, F. Metzger, has been a resident of LaSalle county, making his home in Ottawa. He was born more than fifty years ago in Germany, one of the family of four children of Robert Metzger. In his youth he had the advantage of a good education in the common schools of his native land, afterward emigrated to America and since 1867 he has resided in this county, where he is extensively engaged in handling beer, which he sells to the wholesale trade, receiving a large and lucrative patronage.

At the age of twenty-six years Mr. Metzger married Miss Louise Schaefer, and they have three children—Mary, Robert G. and Joseph. The elder

son is at this writing a student in the Indiana State University. Mr. Metzger is an enthusiastic Republican, taking an active interest in public local affairs, and as a public-spirited citizen he is highly respected. He is a member of the German Benevolent Society of Ottawa.

AUGUST LOCKE.

August Locke, the master mechanic for the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, LaSalle, is a native of Prussia, Germany, and was born November 15, 1840. When he was a child of two years his mother died, and thus deprived of a mother's loving care he was taken into the home of an uncle in Dresden, Saxony, Germany, and there he was reared to manhood. His boyhood days were spent in attending the common schools and learning the trade of machinist. He worked at his trade as a journeyman for some time in the old country, and also held the position of foreman there in machine shops.

In 1872, at the age of thirty-two years, Mr. Locke came to America and located in Chicago, where he remained until the spring of 1875. In March of that year he came to LaSalle and entered the employ of the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, as a machinist, and in November, 1877, he was promoted to the position of master mechanic, which important post he still holds.

Mr. Locke was married in Germany to Miss Caroline Batzlapp, and they have had seven children, four of whom are still living.

On coming to this country Mr. Locke espoused the faith of the Republican party, and has given it his support ever since. He is a member of the A. O. U. W. and the Turnverein.

RICHARD ZIESING.

Richard Ziesing, foreman in the furnace department of the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, LaSalle, was born on a farm just north of Peru, Illinois, March 5, 1860, and is a son of Dr. Henry Ziesing, one of the leading physicians and surgeons of LaSalle county.

Dr. Henry Ziesing is of German birth and education. He was born in Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, December 21, 1829, a son of Christian and Elizabeth (Laudman) Ziesing. He completed a liberal literary education and then took up the study of medicine, following in the footsteps of his father, who was in the medical profession; pursued a course in the University of

Giessen and graduated in 1851, before he reached his twenty-second year. After one year of practice in his native land, he came to this country, locating in the city of Baltimore in 1852. A year later he removed to Chicago, where he practiced a year and a half, and whence in the fall of 1854 he came to Peru, Illinois, where he has since resided, engaged in the practice of his profession. During the civil war he served from January, 1865, to September of that year as surgeon of the Fifty-third Illinois Infantry. He is a member of the LaSalle County Medical Society, and the North Central Illinois Medical Society. Politically he is a Republican. For some twelve or fifteen years he has been a member of the board of education of Peru and has served several years as the president of the board.

Richard Ziesing was educated in the public schools of LaSalle and Peru, under a private tutor, and in the University of Illinois. While in the university he made a specialty of the study of chemistry. On leaving college in his junior year, he accepted a position as a drug clerk in a store in Peru, where he remained a year and a half, at the end of which time he entered the employ of the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, as assistant assayer, a position he held for three years. He was then transferred to the practical furnace work, of the same establishment, and is now one of the foremen of this department.

Mr. Ziesing was married in Chicago, in 1884, to Miss Minnie Hibben, and they have two children—a daughter and son—Hester E. and Richard B.

JOSEPH SCHOTT.

An example of pluck and perseverance and the just reward which is accrued to these qualities is to be found in the life of Joseph Schott, who landed in America a poor youth, without friends, money, knowledge of the language spoken here or any of the advantages which the average young man takes as a matter of course in this "land of the free." Nevertheless, he possessed the spirit of a hero and a firm determination to succeed, at the same time being willing to work and to work hard at whatever he could find to do whereby he might earn an honest livelihood; and therein lies the secret of success.

Joseph Schott and his parents, John and Hedwig (Jachcgyk) Schott, were natives of the same place, Krojanke, kreis Flatow, regierungbezirk Marienwerder, West Prussia, Germany. The father and mother spent their entire lives there, dying some years ago. John Schott held a very responsible position as gamekeeper and forester, having charge of a large tract of heavily timbered land belonging to the government.

One of eight children, Joseph Schott was born March 28, 1854, and received a good education in the public schools of his fatherland. Later he learned the trade of harness-maker, saddler and upholsterer, and when eighteen years of age left his home and friends to seek his fortune in the New World. Landing on the shores of America in 1871 he continued his journey westward until he reached LaSalle, where he was, perforce, obliged to halt, as he had but sixty cents left. Failing to secure work at his trade immediately, he accepted a position as a common laborer in the yards of the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Works, working ten hours a day at a dollar and a quarter a day. Before long he was given place in the furnace room of the plant, and the Fourth of July, 1879, was a date memorable to him by his being promoted to the post of night foreman in the same department. Faithfulness and strict attention to duty resulted in his being given the trustworthy position of day foreman in 1884, and as such he is still acting. He has never been absent a day on account of illness, and has been particularly fortunate in this respect, as altogether he has not been ill more than two weeks in his entire life. Since becoming a voter he has given his allegiance to the Republican party, whose policy, as he believes, has been largely the cause of the prosperity and high standing of this nation since the close of the civil war.

On the 23d of June, 1873, Mr. Schott married Miss Eva Petra, of LaSalle. She was born in Germany, not far from the town in which our subject's childhood days were spent, and in 1872 she accompanied her parents to the United States. Her father, George Petra, who was a carpenter by trade, died in 1895, aged eighty-three years, and her mother, who attained the same age, departed this life in 1897, both having at the home of our subject, who was a kind and dutiful son. Mrs. Schott, who is one of three children, has become the mother of eight children by her marriage. The family are identified with the Catholic church, and always lend a helping hand to those who are sick or in need of assistance.

CHRISTIAN ZIMMERMAN

A successful business career reflects credit not only upon the individual who has achieved it but also upon the community in which he has prospered. The business interests of Christian Zimmerman have been indissolubly entwined with those of Peru and LaSalle counties for more than half a century, and his name is one of the best known in this portion of Illinois.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was born and died in Germany.



W. L. Zimmerman

and his maternal grandfather, who was a farmer, was at one time mayor of the village of Horkeim, and died when in middle life, in his native land. Michael Zimmermann, father of our subject, fought in the German army, under Napoleon, against Russia, and lost a brother in that memorable campaign. The father of Christian Zimmermann was born March 12, 1787. He had two brothers and one sister, and with them grew to maturity in Germany. After farming there for a number of years he came to the United States, in 1847. Locating at first in LaSalle, he later came to Peru, where he died of the cholera, June 28, 1849. His wife, whose maiden name had been Katherina Fredericka Kuhner, was born in the Fatherland, December 18, 1785, and died at Peru, September 28, 1872. They were Lutherans in religion, and were honest, upright citizens, respected and highly regarded by all. Six of their nine children have passed into the silent land; Mina is the widow of William Scherzer, a former jeweler of Peru; and Caroline is the widow of Otto Winheim.

Christian Zimmermann was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, May 30, 1823, and received a liberal education in the government schools. He was reared on a farm, and when old enough spent two years in the regular army. In 1847 he came to America with his parents and after spending a short time in LaSalle came to Peru, where he has made his home ever since with the exception of a period of ten years,—from 1856 to 1866,—when he was the proprietor of the Zimmermann Hotel in LaSalle. Selling out in the last named year, he returned to Peru, and in 1867 embarked in the lumber business, which has since claimed his attention. He deals in various kinds of builders' supplies,—lath, shingles, doors and blinds, sash and lime,—and has an extensive trade in lumber and coal. He owns farm lands in Minnesota and elsewhere, and has been very successful in his investments. In every sense of the word he is a self-made man, and he attributes his rise to wealth and prominence to hard and persistent work and application, coupled with common sense and a desire to meet the wishes of his customers.

On the 24th of January, 1854, Mr. Zimmermann married Miss Louisa, daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Walter) Gmelich, all natives of Germany. The Gmelich family came to the United States in 1852, when the parents were well along in years, and, after visiting relatives in Ohio they came to Peru. The mother died here in 1869, aged about three-score and ten years, and the father died in 1872, when in his seventy-fourth year. They were members of the Lutheran church, and in that creed Mr. and Mrs. Zimmermann were reared; but they are now members of the Peru Evangelische Lutheran church, which they assisted in building. Mrs. Zimmermann came to America one year before her parents. The eldest son of this worthy

couple, Charley, was killed by the cars when he was a most promising young man of twenty-five years; and Robert, the third son, died at the age of sixteen and a half months. Christian, Jr., who has been in business with his father since a lad of twelve years, is now managing the affairs of the same, and has relieved his father of many of the responsibilities pertaining thereto. He wedded Anna Lassig and has two sons,—Arthur and Harry. Albert, the youngest child, is unmarried, and is a successful architect in Chicago.

Until recently Mr. Zimmermann was allied with the Democratic party, from the time that he received the right of franchise, but in 1896, believing in McKinley and the principles which he represents, he had the courage to turn his back upon his own past political record and cast his ballot for the great man of whom the whole nation is proud. For a score of years he has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Prior to his marriage he built a house on First street, and lived therein for a short time, and subsequent to his return from LaSalle he continued to dwell there until 1879. He then removed to a stone house, adjoining his present modern, beautiful home, which he built in 1894 and has since occupied. It is finely situated at the corner of Third and West streets, and is furnished with elegance and excellent taste.

CHRISTIAN ZIMMERMANN, JR.

Ever since he was a little lad of twelve years, perhaps, the subject of this article has been associated with his father in business. He is a practical man of affairs and for some time has been the manager of the extensive commercial interests of his senior, whose history appears at length in the preceding sketch.

The parents of our subject, Christian and Louisa (Gmelich) Zimmermann, have been residents of LaSalle county for over half a century and are numbered among her representative and honored citizens. Christian Zimmermann, Jr., was born in LaSalle, Illinois, January 31, 1857, and has spent his whole life in that town and in Peru. In this place he has been a resident for thirty-three years, uninterruptedly. His education was acquired in our local schools, and as soon as he was old enough he commenced working for and with his father. Their business relations have always been very harmonious and the younger man generously attributes much of his success in the financial world to the judicious training given him by the father. When the youth was found able to meet the exigencies of any

situation, the senior man gradually withdrew in favor of the son, and thus the latter has learned every department of the business. The firm deals in lumber, lath, sash, doors, blinds, etc., and in addition conducts an extensive trade in coal and other fuel. Energy and keen, shrewd business sense are marked characteristics of our subject, and year by year he has been forging to the front.

In 1892 Christian Zimmermann, Jr., built a beautiful modern home on the corner of West and Fourth streets, and fitted it with all the comforts and conveniences of the times. The lady who presides over this attractive home was formerly Miss Anna Lassig, a daughter of Gustav and Eliza (Throne) Lassig. The marriage ceremony which united the destinies of our subject and wife was solemnized in February, 1892, and two bright little boys—Arthur and Harry—are the pride of the household.

Politically Mr. Zimmermann is affiliated with the Democratic party, and socially he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He belongs to the German Evangelische Lutheran church.

J. C. CORBUS, JR., M. D.

Dr. J. C. Corbus, Jr., numbered among the medical practitioners of Mendota, is one of the native sons of Illinois, his birth having occurred at Mulligan Grove, in Lee county, on the 3d of August, 1861. He is a son of Dr. J. C. Corbus, now the superintendent of the Kankakee Insane Asylum. He was only a year old when his parents removed to Mendota, and here he was reared and educated, attending the Blackstone high school, and with a broad knowledge of the English branches of learning to serve as a foundation upon which to rear a superstructure of professional knowledge he began the study of medicine, under the able direction of his father, who carefully guided his early reading in the science. Later he entered the medical department of the University of Iowa, and on completing the course was graduated in the class of 1883.

After two years spent in practice with his father in Mendota he located in Troy Grove, Illinois, where he was engaged in the prosecution of his chosen profession for fourteen years, and then returned to his former home. Here, where he is so widely and favorably known, he has succeeded in building up a large and lucrative practice, his skill and ability being quickly recognized. It is an old saying that a prophet is never without honor save in his own country; but Dr. Corbus enjoys high honor even there also, for in the city where he was reared and where he has been known to many from

early boyhood he has won a marked prestige as a representative of his chosen vocation.

In 1890 was celebrated the marriage of Dr. Corbus and Miss Jeanie A. Wylie. In politics he is a Republican and socially is a member of the Masonic fraternity, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the order of Knights of Pythias. His genial qualities render him a social favorite, and he is a great favorite with a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

SAMUEL U. LAWRY.

Samuel Urban Lawry, a retired farmer and ex-merchant of Harding, is the present supervisor of the town of Freedom, LaSalle county. He is a native of the Empire state, born in Steuben county, New York, June 23, 1842, and came to LaSalle county with his father, James Lawry, in October, 1855. This journey was not effected as nowadays, by a fast-flying express train, but by lake to Chicago and the remainder of the way by slow-going wagons, to Harding. Mr. Lawry passed his youth and early manhood on his father's farm, without incident other than the experiences common to the freedom of boyhood life. When he reached his majority he rented land and took up the burthen of life alone. The civil war was on when he became of age and before its conclusion he enlisted in Company I, One Hundred and Forty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was on detail at Columbus, Kentucky, as clerk in the provost marshal's office, this detail succeeding that of carpenter, and he remained in the marshal's office until his discharge at the end of the war.

Upon his return he operated a corn-sheller and thresher for two years. With the funds he had accumulated up to this date, he bought the stock of goods owned at Harding by H. E. Billings. He was soon appointed the postmaster. Competition was so sharp for his competitor that he soon withdrew from the field and Mr. Lawry was seldom worried by fear of further opposition. He prospered in his new venture, maintained the good will of his patrons, remaining in business nearly a quarter of a century. He sold his interest to his partner, Willis A. Martin, with whom he had been associated since 1884, and retired from the care of mercantile life to the quiet of his farm near the village.

Our subject cast his first vote for a Republican candidate and has been identified with that party ever since. He has been chosen the school treasurer of his town for sixteen years, and has been the supervisor of his town the past seven years.

Mr. Lawry comes of English blood. His father was born in London, in 1808, and learned the pattern-making trade. He worked at the carpenter's trade in Steuben county, New York, and engaged in farming in Illinois. In 1884 he went to Kansas and died at Newton, that state, in February, 1899. He married Ann Harrison, a Pennsylvania lady, who died in Ophir township, in 1864. Mrs. Lawry also was born in England. Her children were: William, of Omaha, Nebraska; James, a farmer in Cloud county, Kansas; Walter, of the same state and county; Elizabeth, the widow of Elijah Batchellor, of Chicago; Samuel U., and Dr. Joseph, of Redding, California.

Samuel U. Lawry was married October 7, 1874, to Myra, a daughter of Freeborn Lewis. Mr. Lewis was born in New York, in 1809, and in early life was a river flatboatman on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, from Cincinnati to New Orleans. He lived in Dearborn county, Indiana, many years and was there married to Alletta Angevine, who is still living, in Sheridan, Illinois, at the age of eighty years. Mr. Lewis came to LaSalle county in 1865 and died here in 1888. His children are: Mary, wife of Quincy Wemple, of Sheridan; Ada, deceased; Mrs. Lawry and Freeborn Lewis, of Sheridan.

Mr. Lawry's children are: Carl C. and J. L. The former finished his education in the Ottawa high school in 1899, and the latter was educated in Bryant & Stratton's Business College, Chicago; he is also a stenographer at the Chicago Athletic Club.

DAVID ARENTSEN.

David Arentsen, a son of the late pioneer, Thorbjoren Arentsen, was born in South Freedom township, LaSalle county, on the old Arentsen homestead, now the property of Daniel Arentsen, the date of his birth being March 12, 1851. His early life was identical with that of other youths reared on the frontier and his school opportunities were in keeping with his time. From his father he learned the lessons of honesty and industry and by example was taught what true manhood is. When he started out in life on his own responsibility, it was as a farmer on a portion of the home farm, which later came into his possession and to which he has added by subsequent purchase and improved, until now his farm is one of the best and most attractive in the township.

Mr. Arentsen was married April 5, 1877, to Sarah Olsen, a daughter of John and Ann (Halverson) Olsen, who came to this country from Bergen, Norway, in 1860. In the Olsen family were ten children, of whom four are

now living, namely: Martha, whose first husband was Soren Eames and whose second husband was Oliver Grundy; Mrs. Sarah Arentsen; Josephine, the wife of Osman Tisdale, of Artesia, South Dakota, and Christ Olsen, of the same place. Mr. and Mrs. Arentsen have reared only one child, an adopted one, Ella Sophia Eames, a daughter of Soren and Martha Eames.

The Arentsen family are identified with the Lutheran church, and politically Mr. Arentsen is a Republican.

URBIN S. ELLSWORTH.

Urbín S. Ellsworth, of Vermilionville, Illinois, has for years been a prominent factor in the affairs of township, county and state, and is too well known to need introduction here. A work of this character, however, would be incomplete did it not include some biographical mention of him. The history of his life, in brief, is as follows:

Urbín S. Ellsworth was born on his father's farm on section 31, South Ottawa township, LaSalle county, April 19, 1851, and is a son of the venerable pioneer citizen, William A. Ellsworth, of this county.

William A. Ellsworth is a native of Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, born January 8, 1818, a son of Eliphalet Ellsworth, who was the son of a Revolutionary soldier. The Ellsworths figured among the prominent early settlers of this country. From the Connecticut branch of the family is our subject descended. One member of this family, Oliver Ellsworth, was the chief justice under President Washington, and this chief justice had a son, William Ellsworth, who was at one time the governor of the state of Connecticut. Eliphalet Ellsworth's grandfather was an ardent patriot during the American Revolution and fought the battles for independence along with his son. Eliphalet Ellsworth served a short time as a soldier in the war of 1812; after that war he settled in Pennsylvania and was for a number of years engaged in agricultural pursuits. His last years were passed in LaSalle county, and he is buried in the Vermilionville cemetery. His son, William A. Ellsworth, before he was of age came to this county, stopping first on Hopkins' Hill in South Ottawa township, where Philip Watts now resides. Here he went to work by the month, and when the canal grant came into market he claimed an eighty-acre tract of land on section 31, which he still owns. This land he improved, building thereon the first brick house erected in the county, making the brick himself. That was in the year 1844. He continued his residence here until 1856, when he removed to Deer Park. In boyhood his opportunities for obtaining an education were not of the

best and he was practically thrown upon his own resources at the age of twelve years. That he has made a success of life is due wholly to his own efforts. He has amassed a competency ample for his family needs. When a young man he joined the Congregational church, and for more than sixty years has lived consistently with the tenets of that religious body. December 18, 1845, he married Miss Lydia, a daughter of John Clark, who came into LaSalle county from Holderness, New Hampshire, she being a native of the village of Campton, that state. Mr. Clark was a Scotch-Irishman, who removed with his family to Illinois and settled in LaSalle county in 1839, the year succeeding the advent of Mr. Ellsworth. To Mr. and Mrs. John Clark the following named children were born: John, a resident of Henry county, Illinois; Charles, who died in Missouri, leaving a family there; Moody, deceased; Sarah, deceased, was the wife of John Elliott, and Lydia. The children of William A. Ellsworth are: Ada L., the wife of Ransom Bullock, of Tonica, Illinois; Urbin S.; Orin W., a druggist of Keokuk, Iowa; and Sarah, wife of James D. Selah, of Ewing, Nebraska.

Urbin S. Ellsworth remained a member of his father's household until his twenty-fifth year. He attended Jennings Seminary at Aurora, where he graduated in the classical course at the age of twenty-three, and afterward for a few years taught school in winter and farmed during the summer months. He has been identified with the farming interests of Deer Park and South Ottawa townships for more than a quarter of a century. Early he became recognized as one of the reliable men of the township and during his residence here has been connected with every movement having its welfare in view. His safe and conservative views upon public affairs brought him into notice and his services in various official capacities were required. He is a Republican. In his early political experience he filled the offices of township assessor and clerk. In 1875 he was elected a trustee of the schools of the township, and is still serving as such, now rounding out twenty-five years of service in this office. He was elected the supervisor of the township in 1888, and filled the office five years. He was on the committees on equalization, roads and bridges, to settle with the circuit clerk, and on fees and salaries. As the chairman of the committee on drainage and waterways he had much to do with shaping legislation connected with the Chicago drainage channel and always fought strenuously for the rights of the people of the Illinois valley. At this time Mr. Ellsworth was also a member of the committees on contingent expenses of the house, education, corporations, agriculture, fish and game laws and military affairs. In the fall of 1890 he was elected a minority member of the state legislature and succeeded himself as such in 1892, being the only Republican elected in the county that year. In the fall of 1894 he was elected a majority candidate by a majority

of two thousand and five hundred votes. During the session referred to he was the chairman of the drainage and waterways committee. He had in mind a measure for the improvement of the condition of the insane of the state, during his whole service, out of which the sentiment for the establishment of the Hospital for the Insane was developed. The Hospital for the Incurable Insane was also established as a result of the movement thus put under way. Mr. Ellsworth also worked for the revision of the revenue laws of the state, and for the adoption of the Australian ballot law. He was in the fight of the joint session which elected General John M. Palmer to the United States senate and helped disrupt the F. M. B. A. organization by supporting their state president for senator, which the F. M. B. A. members would not do. In the spring of 1899 Mr. Ellsworth was again elected to be the supervisor of his town and is serving on the committees on asylum, rules and settlement with the county treasurer.

Mr. Ellsworth was married December 18, 1876, to Victoria B. Gibbs. Mrs. Ellsworth's father, William T. Gibbs, was born in Chittenango, New York. He was superintendent of a reformatory at Lenox, Massachusetts, in his early life, and in 1855 moved to Aurora, Illinois, where he was for a time engaged in the milk business. In 1862 he enlisted in the Union army as a member of Company H, Sixteenth Illinois Cavalry, and was made the captain of his company. He served through the war as a gallant soldier, and at its close entered the service of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, in their shops at Aurora, where he remained until his retirement from active life in 1877. He died July 5, 1899, at the age of eighty-four years. His wife, before marriage Miss Harriet Dickerson, was born in Ulysses, New York, and their only child is Mrs. Ellsworth. Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth's children are: William B., born October 21, 1877; Ada A., September 9, 1883; and Dorothy R., May 31, 1890. Their son was educated in the State University of Illinois.

Mr. Ellsworth has held the position of consul in the camp of the M. W. A. in his township for the past four years.

ELISHA M. MERRITT.

Just half a century ago Elisha M. Merritt, a retired farmer, now living in Troy Grove, LaSalle county, came to this locality from the east, and during this long period he has made his home within the boundaries of this county, and has been actively connected with its development and progress. He is thoroughly posted in its history and geological formation, having made a special study of the subject for years. Since he retired from active labor

he has devoted much of his time and attention to collecting, classifying and arranging geological specimens and Indian relics of this region, and few persons can be considered better authority along these lines of research.

The paternal and maternal ancestors of the above-named gentleman were of Holland-Dutch origin. His grandfather Merritt was a native of New Jersey and a farmer by occupation. He lived to attain advanced years. His children were six in number, five sons and one daughter. The maternal grandfather of our subject, Isaac Ray, likewise born in New Jersey, was a farmer and had two daughters, but no sons.

The parents of E. M. Merritt were Henry and Christiana (Ray) Merritt, both of New Jersey and members of the Society of Friends. The father, who followed in the footsteps of his ancestors in the choice of an occupation, removed to New York state, where he died in 1861, aged sixty-four years. Mrs. Christiana Merritt, who was his second wife, departed this life in 1857. There were two sons and two daughters by the previous marriage, but none of them are living now. Of the three sons and three daughters born to our subject's parents, only two survive. Laura P. is the wife of Alonzo Woodford, of Victory, Cayuga county, New York.

The birth of Elisha M. Merritt occurred in Auburn, Cayuga county, New York, April 7, 1826. His boyhood was spent upon a farm, and, after finishing his elementary education in the district schools, it was his privilege to attend the local academy. He assisted his father until he was twenty years of age, when he secured employment in a hotel at Little Sodus Bay, for a few months. Then, going to Auburn, New York, he obtained a place as jailer, serving under the command of the sheriff. In 1849 he started to seek a new home in the west, and, coming to LaSalle county, worked by the month in Ophir township for a period, and then bought and improved a forty-acre farm in the same district. A favorable opportunity presenting itself, he sold that place and purchased another. This also he disposed of later, and invested his capital in a quarter-section of land in McLean county. He did not leave this county, however, but leased his farm to responsible tenants, until he sold it, in order to buy stock in the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. For the past twenty-two years he and his estimable wife have made their home in the village of Troy Grove, where they are very highly respected. He is a believer in the Prohibition party, and uses his franchise on behalf of its candidates.

The marriage of Mr. Merritt and Miss Ann L. Searls took place on the 22d of December, 1852. She is a daughter of Captain Gurdon and Eunice (Lathrop) Searls, who were natives of Connecticut. They removed to this state in 1838, and were among the earliest settlers of Rockwell, LaSalle county, there being no house between their own and Ottawa for some time.

They came west with a colony, by way of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, taking three weeks to make the trip, and coming over the Alleghany mountains in tram-cars, which had stationary engines for motive power. Mr. Searls was a successful farmer and was actively engaged in his chosen vocation until his death in 1856, when he was sixty-three years of age. After surviving him for a few years his widow passed away, in 1862, aged sixty-three years and six months. Mr. Searls was generally called by the title of captain, as he held that rank in a cavalry company during the war of 1812, and won lasting honor in that second great conflict of this country with England.

ROBERT GRAF.

Robert Graf, who for a long term of years was cashier of the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, LaSalle, Illinois, is now living retired in this city. He was born in Dresden, Saxony, Germany, November 16, 1820. In his youth he had excellent educational advantages. He attended the Kreutz-schule and the University of Leipsic, and from 1842 to 1845 studied law. For a short time he was in a law office, engaged in practice. The law, however, was not suited to his taste, and in 1852 he came to America and turned his attention to farming. His first location here was in Illinois, where he farmed one year. In 1853 he went to Wisconsin, located on a tract of land in Iowa county, that state, and there carried on agricultural pursuits for twelve years, at the end of which time he returned to Illinois. In May, 1864, he took up his residence in LaSalle. He had an acquaintance with Mr. Matthiessen, of the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, who offered him a position in that establishment, and as cashier he rendered prompt and faithful service for a period of thirty-four years, until July, 1898, when he resigned. Since then he has been living retired.

Mr. Graf has never married, but has maintained a residence at No. 1207 Sixth street, LaSalle, since 1871. While he has never mingled much in society, he is well and favorably known in LaSalle and is respected for the quiet and faithful business life he has lived. He is a member of the German Lutheran Evangelical church.

JAMES E. SMITH.

James E. Smith, one of the foremost citizens of Troy Grove, is a pioneer of this locality, and has spent about thirty-five years of his busy, enterprising life here, actively engaged in farming and other lines of industry.



R. Graf

On both sides of the family, Mr. Smith is of German descent, and both of his grandfathers were natives of Pennsylvania and belonged to the agricultural class. His paternal grandfather, James Smith, lived to an advanced age, dying in the Keystone state. He had three sons, the eldest of whom was James, the father of our subject. The maternal grandfather of our subject also attained a ripe age, and died on his Pennsylvania homestead, where he had reared his five or six children.

James Smith, the father of J. E. Smith, removed from Pennsylvania, his birthplace, to Ohio, at an early day, and came to Illinois in 1846. Here he settled in LaSalle county, buying one hundred and forty acres of land in Troy Grove township, and this property he continued to cultivate until about seven years prior to his death, when he turned his attention to the coal business. He was called to the home beyond in 1865, when he was in his sixty-fifth year. For several years he had served as supervisor of Troy Grove township, and held other local offices with credit. He favored the platform of the Democratic party, but was in no wise a politician. Both he and his wife were devoted members of the Presbyterian church, and he was an elder for a long time. She was Miss Sarah Eaken prior to their marriage, and she also was born in the Keystone state. She survived her husband several years, being over three-score and ten years old at the time of her demise.

James E. Smith, born in Wayne county, Ohio, August 25, 1830, is now the only survivor of his parents' family, as his brother and sister have been called to the silent land. He was sixteen years old when he came to Illinois, and he continued to reside with his parents until he was twenty-two years of age. He obtained a district school education and early learned agriculture in its varied forms. In starting upon his independent life he bought an eighty-acre farm in Dimmick township, and later added forty acres to the original tract. He lived there until 1861, when he removed to Mendota, and for about nine years was engaged in buying and selling grain. Then, going to Benton county, Iowa, he carried on a farm for two or three years, after which he was in the grain business at Vinton for four years or more. Then for a short time he resided in Hamilton county, and during the next six or seven years he managed a homestead of two hundred acres. This fine place, situated in Carroll county, Iowa, is still in his possession. In 1883 he returned to this state, and has since been interested in the grain and coal trade at Troy Grove. He has prospered, as he richly deserves, and bears an enviable name for business rectitude and square dealing. In all of his views he is liberal and broad-minded, and in politics he prefers to be independent, voting for the man and measure which he deems worthy of support, regardless of party lines.

The marriage of Mr. Smith and Miss Caroliné Matilda, daughter of

Leonard and Julia (Dewey) Towner, was solemnized December 14, 1853. Five children were born to them, namely: Orlando, who is married and resides in Colorado; Orange L., who died, unmarried, when about twenty-eight years of age; Harry G., who first married Maggie Boyce, and, after her death, her sister, Bessie; Sarah M., who is deceased; and Tessie M., who is living with her parents. Harry G. has two children by his first marriage, Raymond and Mattie May. He is managing an elevator at Triumph, Illinois. The mother of the above-named children departed this life in 1883, aged fifty-one years. The lady who now bears the name of our subject was formerly Celinda, widow of Erastus W. Dewey, and a daughter of William A. and Polly B. (Butler) Hickok. She had two children by her first marriage: Horace, who died at the age of sixteen years; and Mattie, who is living with her mother. The pleasant dwelling of the Smith family at Troy Grove was erected by our subject six years ago.

MATHIAS KURSCHEID.

Mathias Kurscheid, the leading merchant of Leonore, Richland township, LaSalle county, has passed the greater portion of his forty years in this county, and, as a citizen of the new town of Leonore and one of her builders, has made his influence felt in a manner conspicuously substantial and public-spirited.

He was born in New York city, in April, 1860, the son of a Rhinelander who came to the United States late in the '50s, and was killed in New York city a few years afterward, while acting as a foreman in one of the sugar factories of that city. His widow survived the shock of his sudden and terrible death but a short time, and young Mathias was left an orphan. He was taken into the home of a relative, with whom, about 1869, he came west to Illinois and located in LaSalle county. It was on a farm in Richland township, this county, that young Kurscheid obtained his first impressions of the serious side of life. As he approached manhood he turned his attention to work at the carpenter's trade, which he followed as a business for several years. His mercantile career began as a clerk for a Mr. White, and later he was with John Linder, in that capacity, in the village of Leonore. In 1889 he embarked in business alone, on a small scale, and to such an extent has his business increased that to-day he is regarded as the leading merchant of the village.

Mr. Kurscheid has identified himself prominently with the growth and progress of his town. At different times he has served as one of its councilmen, and has occupied other places of trust and honor in the management

of its affairs. In the spring of 1899 he was chosen at the general election to be the president of the village. He was one of the incorporators of the volunteer fire company of Leonore, and is its clerk; and he was a subscriber to the stock of the Leonore Creamery. Fraternally he is identified with the local camp of Modern Woodmen, of which he is the consul.

In February, 1889, Mr. Kurscheid married Miss Mary Brunsbach, a daughter of August Brunsbach, one of the foremost citizens of Vermilion township, this county, having settled here at an early day.

GEORGE W. GREINER.

One of the young, energetic business men of Tonica, LaSalle county, is George W. Greiner, who is well along on the highway leading to fortune. A truly wide-awake, enterprising citizen, he is heart and soul alive to the progress and advancement of this place, and for that reason, if for no other, he would be highly esteemed by the residents of this thriving village.

Mr. Greiner is proud of the fact that he is one of the native born sons of Illinois, and that in him two nationalities are united, as his father, Charles Greiner, was born under the French flag, while his mother, Sophia (Ehmler) Greiner, was a native of Prussia. His paternal grandfather lived and died in France, and reared twelve children. The maternal grandfather of our subject emigrated to the United States many years ago, settling in Putnam county, Illinois, where he lived until his death, at the age of about three-score and ten years. Charles Greiner came to America to seek his fortune when he was a young man, and locating in Hennepin, engaged in the bakery and grocery business during most of his active life. He died in that section of the state in 1889, when in his seventieth year, and is survived by his widow, who is a resident of Hennepin. Of their eight children six are living, and all dwell in Putnam county save George W. They are named as follows: Anna, Charles, Jennie, Ida and Charlotte. Anna is the wife of W. E. Eddy; Jennie of John Markley; Ida of W. C. Patterson; and Charlotte of H. B. Zenor.

The birth of George W. Greiner took place in Putnam county, July 18, 1869. The benefits of an excellent public school education were his, and after completing his studies he began clerking in a store. Thus occupied for several years, he gained a practical idea of business methods, and at the same time carefully accumulated a snug little capital, with which to embark in an enterprise of his own when the proper time came. In 1895 he came to Tonica and purchased the general store owned by the Miller estate, adding a meat market. He keeps a high grade of goods and transacts his business

in a thoroughly enterprising manner, his store being neat and attractive.

Fraternally Mr. Greiner is a highly esteemed member of Tonica Lodge, No. 364, F. & A. M., at the present time enjoying the honor of being master of the lodge. He also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. Politically he is independent, preferring to use his franchise for the nominees and principles which he deems worthy of support, regardless of party lines. His fellow citizens, respecting his financial ability and excellent judgment, honored him with the position which he still holds, that of village treasurer.

The marriage of Mr. Greiner and Miss Irma Boyle took place November 28, 1890. She is a daughter of Albert and Frances (Hartenbower) Boyle. Three children bless the home of our subject and wife, their names being, respectively, Earl, Frances and Veyne.

DAVID RICHEY.

David Richey, a much respected citizen and successful farmer residing on section 10, Eden township, LaSalle county, dates his birth in Muskingum county, Ohio, forty miles east of Columbus, July 31, 1822. He is a son of Nathaniel and Susanna (Kirkpatrick) Richey, natives of Pennsylvania, and one of eleven children, four sons and seven daughters, all of whom grew to maturity except one daughter, who died at the age of five years. Eight of this number are now living, namely: Mary, widow of William Bower, of Tonica; David, whose name initiates this review; Margaret Jane, widow of George B. Holmes, of Topeka, Kansas; James, of Eden township, LaSalle county; Susanna, wife of J. F. Evans, of Los Angeles, California; John, of northern Iowa; Elizabeth, widow of A. P. Landis, of Shell City, Missouri; and Nathaniel, of Redlands, California. Nathaniel Richey, father of the above named, moved about the year 1812 to Ohio, where he made his home until 1830, and that year, again imbued with a spirit of emigration, he came out to Illinois and located at Cedar Point, in Eden township, LaSalle county, where he took claim to two hundred and seventy-nine acres of government land. About 1867 he sold his land and moved to Peru. A few years later he went to Tonica, where he died in 1872, at the age of seventy-seven years and seven months. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, in the volunteer service, under Perry, and was stationed near Erie. His wife survived him a number of years, her age at death being about eighty. He was reared in the Presbyterian faith, but he and his wife, for convenience of worship, joined the Methodist church after coming to LaSalle county, there being no Presbyterian church near them. Politically he was first a Whig, then an Abolitionist and finally a Republican. He served four years as a justice of the peace.

The Richeys are of Scotch descent. John Richey, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was a native of Pennsylvania, and by occupation was a farmer. He served in the Revolutionary war, and lay a prisoner at New York when a man on each side of him was frozen to death. He, however, survived the rigors of war and lived to old age. In his family were fourteen children. The maternal grandfather of David Richey was James Kirkpatrick, a native of Ireland, who on coming to this country settled in Pennsylvania and subsequently removed to Ohio; and he died in Muskingum county, in the latter state, when well advanced in years. He, too, was a farmer, and his family was composed of three daughters and one son.

David Richey was eight years old when he came with his parents to Illinois, and since that time his life has been spent in Eden township, LaSalle county. Since 1850 he has lived on his present farm. Reared on a farm in a frontier locality, his educational advantages were limited. Altogether he attended school only about nine months. He remained a member of his father's household until he was twenty-six years of age, and on starting out in life to do for himself he bought eighty acres of land from the government, paying for it at the rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. This was wild prairie. He borrowed unbroken cattle, which he trained, and with which he plowed his land, sowing it the first year to wheat. He hauled his crop with oxen to Chicago, a distance of one hundred miles, requiring eight or ten days of good weather to make the round trip. This land he sold in 1850, and that same year bought his present farm, one hundred and sixty-three acres, which he improved, building a substantial house, barns, granaries, fences, etc. Also he owns forty acres of timber land. Mr. Richey carries on diversified farming and has always given more or less attention to the stock business, raising horses, cattle, sheep and hogs.

He was married June 28, 1849, to Miss Margaret Elizabeth Evans, a daughter of James F. and Feraby (Elam) Evans; and they are the parents of three children—two sons and one daughter—Frank, Alice and Guy Nathaniel. Frank is a practicing lawyer of St. Louis, Missouri. He married Miss Fannie Lipman and they have two children—Gida and Frederick D. Alice married John I. Salisbury, and died October 21, 1885. Guy Nathaniel died October 23, 1886. He and his wife, whose maiden name was Eva Dent, had one son—Guy Dent Richey.

Mr. Richey is a Democrat, having come to this party from the Greenback party. In early life he took an active interest in political matters. He was a member of the thirty-first general assembly of the Illinois legislature.

Speaking of his early experience in Illinois, Mr. Richey says that during the Black Hawk war they were living peaceably in their log cabin in the woods when they heard that "the Indians were coming." He moved his

family to Magnolia for a short time and then to Granville, in Putnam county, and later to a block-house near Peru. As he was a cripple he did not participate in the war. At that time there were three LaSalle county families murdered by the Indians—the Hall, Pettigrew and Davis families. Mr. Richey is one of the oldest settlers in LaSalle county.

ALFRED H. BELL.

Alfred H. Bell, the genial and popular postmaster of Lostant, LaSalle county, is one of the progressive merchants of this thriving town. He has occupied a number of local offices of trust and honor, to the entire satisfaction of everyone, and enjoys an enviable reputation for square dealing and public spirit.

John Bell, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Italy and lived to attain an extreme age, dying in Pennsylvania and leaving several children to perpetuate his name. During the war of the Revolution in this country he supplied the army with meat, and was very useful in many ways. He was a ship carpenter by trade. The maternal grandfather of Alfred H. Bell was William Henning, whose birth took place in Ireland. He fought at the great battle of Waterloo, under the Duke of Wellington, being an aide to General Crumy. Subsequently he emigrated to the United States, and after residing in the Keystone state for a number of years came to Putnam county, Illinois, where he was a pioneer. He was industriously engaged in farming until his death, at the age of seventy years. All of his thirteen children lived to maturity, and eleven of the number attended the funeral of their mother, who lived to be eighty-five years of age.

John G. Bell, the father of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania, where he followed the trade of milling, and in 1857 came to Illinois. After living at Todd's Mill for a short time he went to Ottawa, where he made his home for many years. Then one year was spent in Hennepin, and from that time until 1898 he dwelt upon a farm in Hope township. He then located in Lostant, where his death occurred June 1, 1899. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary Henning, and who was born in Ireland, is still living. She is a devout member of the Episcopal church, while her husband was a Lutheran. They were the parents of three sons and four daughters, five of whom survive, namely: A. H.; George F., of Lostant; Lulu, wife of James Patterson, of Hope township; Olive, wife of Charles Lambourne, of the same district; and Miss C. Mae Bell.

Alfred H. Bell, who was born in Putnam county, Illinois, attended the public schools of Ottawa and obtained an excellent education, as a foundation for his future career. For several years subsequent to leaving school

he worked in a flouring mill in Ottawa, together with his father; and after the latter's removal to the farm in Hope township he devoted his winters to teaching, while in the summer he worked on the homestead. A number of years were thus busily occupied, and then, leaving his brother George to superintend the farm, he came to Lostant, in 1894, and has since been a resident of the place, thoroughly identified with its upbuilding. For the first year after coming here he was associated with his uncle, James Henning, in his warehouse and elevator business, and at the expiration of the time stated he and his brother George purchased the senior man's interest, and have since conducted the business under the firm name of Bell Brothers. They possess energy and sound common sense in the management of their financial affairs, and are steadily prospering.

In 1897 Mr. Bell was appointed the postmaster of Lostant, and entered upon his duties in December of that year. He takes great pains to meet the wishes of his fellow citizens, and is highly commended for his promptness and general efficiency. For two years he served as a member of the village board of trustees of this place, and while living in Hope township he was a road commissioner for five years. Politically he is a Republican of no uncertain stamp. Fraternally he belongs to Magnolia Lodge, No. 103, F. & A. M., and is connected with Magnolia Grange. Following in the line of his early religious training, he is an Episcopalian.

WILLIAM HOCHSTATTER.

A life-long resident and highly respected citizen of Troy Grove township is he of whom the following lines are penned. By the exercise of his native talents and well directed energy he has become well-to-do, financially, and in the midst of his many business undertakings he finds time to discharge his duties as a citizen of this great republic. His success is due solely to his own efforts, and integrity and justice mark all of his dealings with others.

The parents and ancestors of our subject were natives of Germany, and both of his grandfathers lived and died in that country. His grandfather Hochstatter, who was a farmer, lived to reach his seventieth year, and reared five children. After the death of the maternal grandfather his widow came to America, passed her declining years in LaSalle county, and is now sleeping her last sleep in the old Catholic burying ground. Theodore Hochstatter, the father of our subject, was born in Prussia, and in 1846 sailed for the United States. Upon arriving in Illinois, he worked on the canal at Lockport for some time, and received a bolt of cloth in payment for his

labor, and this cloth later paid his transportation from Lockport to Troy Grove. Locating in Troy Grove township, he bought an eighty-acre farm, which he improved, and as the years rolled by he invested in other property until his possessions amounted to seven hundred and twenty acres. He was summoned to the silent land on the 12th of March, 1895, when he was in his seventy-fourth year. He had occupied the offices of road commissioner and school director for many years, and enjoyed the respect and confidence of the entire community in which he had dwelt so long. His devoted wife, whose maiden name was Christina Kratz, was born in Prussia, also, and, like himself, was a member of the Catholic church. She survived him about one year, dying at the age of seventy-five. They were the parents of three sons and two daughters, one of whom is deceased. The others are John, William, Helen, widow of Theodore Sondgeroth, and Peter, of Kellogg, Kansas.

William Hochstatter, of this sketch, was born on his father's farm in this township, September 29, 1853. He attended the district schools, the Lutheran seminary, and Henderson's high school at Mendota, and thus his educational advantages were much better than those of most of his youthful associates and neighbors. His father also gave him some timely aid, after he was married, and was starting out on the difficult pathway of independent living. With this sum—five hundred dollars—he rented a farm of one hundred acres, and purchased necessary agricultural implements and household furnishings. He continued to lease the farm for about twenty years, in the meantime, however, purchasing a quarter-section farm in 1881, and buying and selling several other homesteads. Recently he sold a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Kansas, which he had owned for some time, and he still has seven hundred and twenty acres in his possession. In addition to farming, he conducted an extensive grain business for two or more years, and built an elevator at Culton, which station was established on the Illinois Central Railroad at his solicitation. The town is located four miles south of Mendota, and three miles north of Dimmick, and the land for the site was donated to the railroad company by Mr. Hochstatter. For just a quarter of a century he has served as a school director, and has been instrumental in securing good educational advantages for the children of his township. Politically he is independent, using his franchise for the candidates and principles which he considers worthy of his support, regardless of party.

The marriage of our subject and Miss Eva, daughter of Conrad and Margaret (Schroeder) Sondgeroth, was celebrated October 25, 1875. They have become the parents of three sons and six daughters, namely: Christina, Catherine, Peter, Annie, Henry, Ella, Maggie, Benjamin and Eva, all of

whom are at home with the exception of the eldest born, Christina, who is the wife of Joseph Happ, of Calloway county, Missouri. They have two children, named in honor of our subject and wife—William and Eva.

JOSEPH J. MATERN.

Joseph J. Matern, of Tonica, LaSalle county, is in the prime of manhood, as he was born April 24, 1861. He is one of the ten children of Adam and Theressa (Anreihn) Matern, who were natives of Bavaria, Germany, and became loyal, respected citizens of the United States. The father, who has made farming his chief occupation in life, located in Putnam county, this state, in 1844, and now, after fifty-five years passed in that locality, he is living retired from the active toil in which he was engaged until recently. Beginning his career as a common laborer on farms, he prospered, on account of his industry and economy, and within a few years after landing in this country, a stranger to its people, language and customs, he had bought a farm and had made substantial improvements upon the place. He reared his sons and daughters to be useful, patriotic citizens, and the regard and respect of all who know him is his in gratifying measure. His wife, who faithfully seconded all of his plans, and was a true helpmate in every respect, was summoned to the silent land in 1895, when she was in her sixty-third year. Both have been identified with the Catholic church since childhood. Their respective fathers passed their entire lives in Germany, where they were engaged in managing farms.

Joseph J. Matern is one of the seven children of the parental household who are yet living. His brothers, Michael and Bernard, are residents of Wesley, Iowa, as also is the elder sister, Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Gates. Theressa, William and Henry are living in Mount Palatine, Illinois. Two sons and a daughter died in childhood.

Near the town last mentioned the birth of our subject occurred, and there, on his father's farm, he learned the elementary principles of business and good citizenship under the wise guidance of his elders. He remained at home, giving his aid to his father in the care of the farm until he had reached maturity, in the meantime acquiring a practical education in the local schools. His father then being well along in years, the young man took charge of the old homestead, which he continued to carry on with distinct success until 1898, the year of his coming to Tonica. Here he entered into partnership with C. F. Austin, and transacted a large business in grain, coal and tile until the spring of 1899, when he purchased Mr. Austin's interest, and is running his affairs alone at present. His business is constantly increasing, and his patrons are, without exception, on the best

of terms with him, for he is accommodating and genial, prompt in filling orders and perfectly fair and just in all of his dealings.

On the 19th of April, 1898, Mr. Matern married Miss Anna Lawrence, a daughter of Anton and Frances Lawrence, and they have become the parents of a little daughter, Irene. Mr. and Mrs. Matern are Catholics in their religious faith, as were their ancestors before them.

While living in Putnam county, our subject served for three years as the assessor of Magnolia township, and was the collector for four years, making an enviable record as a public official. He uses his franchise in favor of the Democratic party.

DAVID DAVIS.

David Davis, a retired farmer of Earlville, LaSalle county, was born in Wales, September 24, 1831. His parents were John and Maria (Davis) Davis, who were born, reared and married in that country. The father, a saddler by trade, died in early life, leaving two children: David, our subject, and Rachel, wife of L. B. Stark, of Licking county, Ohio. After his death the mother married Elias Jones, by whom she had four children,—Mary, Samuel, Elizabeth and Jane, all deceased, the son dying in the army during the civil war. The mother came to this country in 1840, with her parents, six brothers and three sisters. Her brothers were John J., Thomas J., David J., Henry J., Evan J. and Frederick J.; and her sisters Rachel, Mary and Jane. She settled in Licking county, Ohio, where she married Mr. Jones.

David Davis was nine years of age when he came to America with his mother and remained in Licking county on a farm until 1857, when he came to LaSalle county, where his uncles had located. He worked on his uncle Henry's farm for about ten years, receiving a monthly stipend, most of which was carefully saved up for the purpose of purchasing land. His first property was eighty acres of unimproved land in Freedom township, which he soon placed in a state of cultivation, making it second to none in that section. He was industrious and economical, and the habits of thrift and industry so early formed now enabled him to add to this acreage until his farm land covers some two hundred acres. His farming has been by improved methods, and the success which has marked his progress speaks well for his ideas and has placed him among the front rank of intelligent, prosperous farmers.

Mr. Davis was married February 24, 1876, to Miss Martha Wiley, of Freedom township, this county, born January 2, 1845. Her parents were Charles and Seraphina (Greenleaf) Wiley, pioneer settlers of this township,



David Davis

who came from the state of Maine in 1844. Mr. Davis is a Republican, but has never been an aspirant for official honors. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and stands high in the community.

J. C. CORBUS, M. D.

Dr. Corbus is one of the distinguished physicians of Illinois, his skill and ability winning him a marked prestige as a representative of the medical fraternity. In the progress that has been made in the science of medicine during his connection therewith is found an incentive for renewed effort, becoming familiar with all the discoveries and theories advanced by members of the profession. His knowledge of medicine is broad and comprehensive, and in its application to the needs of suffering humanity he has won the success that numbers him among the leading practitioners in his section of the state. He has recently been appointed the superintendent of the Kankakee Insane Asylum, a position which he is fully competent to fill.

Dr. Corbus was born in Holmes county, Ohio, in 1833, and after completing his literary education he determined to devote his energies to the practice of medicine. To this end he entered the Western Reserve Medical College, of Cleveland, Ohio, and was graduated in that institution with the degree of M. D. In 1855 he came to Illinois, where he has since engaged in successful practice. At the outbreak of the civil war he put aside all personal considerations and responded to the country's call for volunteers, being made assistant surgeon of the Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry. Subsequently he was promoted to the rank of surgeon, but was unable to remain at the front throughout the four years of the civil strife, owing to ill health.

Returning to the north, he resumed the private practice of medicine in Illinois, and as a physician and surgeon ranked second to but a few of the practitioners of the Prairie state. For years he was the president of the state board of charities, and was retained in that office by every governor except Altgeld since his appointment to the position by Governor Beveridge. For fifteen years he was a United States medical examiner, his thorough knowledge of medicine and anatomy well qualifying him to discharge the duties devolving upon him in that office.

Dr. Corbus is a man of broad general knowledge and is a prominent and influential member of the Republican party. For four years he served as a member of the Republican state central committee, and at all times has labored earnestly for the advancement of the welfare and success of his party. As a Knight Templar Mason he is very prominent in Masonic circles,

and as a gentleman of genuine worth and genial manner is highly esteemed in social circles.

He has been twice married. His first wife died in 1890, and in 1892 he married Mrs. Helen Ruggles.

HENRY GUNN.

Conspicuous among the successful lawyers of LaSalle county is the gentleman named above, who is a member of the firm of Gunn & Gunn, at Tonica. He was born in Montague, Franklin county, Massachusetts, December 13, 1830, a son of Windsor and Abigail (Osgood) Gunn, natives also of the Bay state. In both ancestral lines the first families in this country settled in Massachusetts about 1632. The parents of our subject had five sons and two daughters, and of these six are still living, viz.: John, a resident near Mount Palatine, Illinois; Eunice, the widow of Charles Mudge and now residing in Tonica; Henry, our subject; Levi, living in Barton county, Kansas, seven miles from Great Bend; Cyrus, living near Mount Palatine; and Mrs. Lucy Ullery, of Barton county, Kansas.

Windsor Gunn, the father, was in early life a comb manufacturer and later a farmer. He came west with his family in the autumn of 1842, locating near Davenport, Iowa, and lived there till the winter of 1849; then he came to Putnam county, Illinois, and remained a resident there till his death, which occurred in February, 1871, when he had attained the age of sixty-nine years and eight months. His wife survived till 1876, being about seventy-four years old at the time of her death. In her religious proclivities she was a Baptist, but was a member of no ecclesiastical organization. Mr. Gunn was for many years a Unitarian. In his native state he was once a captain of the state militia.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Joseph Gunn, was also a native of the Bay state, a farmer by occupation and was about seventy-five years of age at the time of his death, in Schoharie county, New York. He brought up a large number of children. The maternal grandfather of Mr. Gunn, Samuel Osgood, was also a native of Massachusetts, had six children, and died in middle life.

Henry Gunn, whose name heads this sketch, was four or five years of age when his parents moved from Massachusetts to Vermont, where their home continued to be until 1842. As he grew up he attended schools in his native village, also in Brattleboro, Vermont, a select school in Davenport and the academy and college at Mount Palatine, Illinois. He is a good Greek and Latin scholar. The expenses of his advanced education he defrayed from his own earnings. He began studying law at Mount Palatine

about 1852, and several years later was admitted to the bar, first in Iowa and in 1859 in Illinois. He began practicing in Putnam county, and after a few years came to LaSalle county and followed his profession in Mendota for a time; then he moved to South Ottawa, and finally, in 1860, he came to Tonica, where he has followed the law ever since. His many interesting experiences in the practice of his profession, as well as in many other phases of life, would fill a volume. Politically Mr. Gunn was originally an old-line Whig, one among the many thousands who became Republicans on the establishment of that party. In 1856 he addressed the public in favor of the election of John C. Fremont to the presidency of the United States. For four years he served as town clerk of Eden township. In 1868 he was elected supervisor, and he satisfactorily filled the responsibilities of that office till 1871. In 1883 he was again elected, and by re-election he continued to hold the office until 1898. For four consecutive years he was chairman of the board. For fifteen or sixteen years he was police magistrate in Tonica.

In social affiliations he was for some years an active Odd Fellow, and in 1870 he was a delegate to the state grand lodge, and also to the grand encampment; but he has not been in affiliation with the order for some time. His son Bert is a member of Tonica Lodge, No. 364, A. F. & A. M., and is at present the secretary of the lodge.

Mr. Gunn's marriage was celebrated in 1858, when he wedded Miss Cornelia L. Fisher, a daughter of Rev. Otis Fisher, a Baptist minister. Her mother was Lydia (Osgood) Fisher. By this marriage were four sons and four daughters, namely: Cyrus H., Mabel, Walter F., Edwin, Cora, Nellie, Bert and Mae L. Mabel and Edwin died in infancy; Cora became the wife of George A. McFerson and is now deceased; Nellie died in 1895, in her twenty-second year; Cyrus H. married Emma Knapp and is a farmer in Vermilion township; Walter F. married Hattie Van Tassel and lives in Putnam county on a farm; they have four children—Sallie, Fred Henry, Luna and Flossie; and Bert, the youngest son, is single and is a lawyer in partnership with his father. He completed his legal course of study before he was of age and was admitted to the bar in February, 1898. He is the present village attorney of Tonica. He and his sister Mae L. make their home with their parents.

JOHN J. WINTER.

One of the reliable citizens and substantial business men of Garfield, LaSalle county, is the gentleman of whom this sketch is penned. He has ever been sincerely interested in the growth and prosperity of this town

and county, and is entitled to great credit for the public spirit which he has manifested at all times. A review of his life will prove of interest to his numerous friends and cannot fail to be an inspiration to the rising generation—to those especially who are starting out to fight the battle of life empty-handed as he did a few years ago.

He is of German extraction and comes of two sterling Pennsylvania families. His paternal great-grandfather was a hero of the American war for independence; and his grandfather, John Jacob Winter, was a native of Germany, but at an early age became a resident of the Keystone state. Later he removed to Ohio and spent the declining years of his life on a farm in Licking county. He died when in his sixty-third year, respected and admired by all who knew him. For a number of years he had been a minister of the gospel, being identified with the United Brethren church. To himself and wife, whose maiden name was Catherine Miller, five sons and a daughter were born.

One of the sons, Daniel Winter, was the father of our subject. Born in Pennsylvania, he went to Ohio with his family in 1837, and in 1875 came to Illinois. For a wife he first chose Sarah Simmons, a native of the Keystone state, and after her death, in 1835, he wedded Susanna Ann Beabout. Three sons and one daughter were born of the first union. The daughter is now deceased, and the sons are Nicholas C., of Villisca, Iowa; David S., of Ottawa, Illinois; and John J. Mrs. Susanna Winter departed this life February 13, 1875, after which event the father made his home with our subject until the summons to the silent land came to him, January 12, 1877, when he was in his seventy-second year.

John J. Winter was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, September 19, 1832, and at the age of five years he removed to Licking county, Ohio, with his father and family, where, when old enough, he began attending the common schools. Later he pursued his studies in the local academy, after which he engaged in teaching, and was thus occupied for three terms in the Buckeye state. In 1855 he came to LaSalle county, Illinois, and for four years thereafter he taught school during the winters and worked upon farms near Ottawa in the summer. At length he concluded that he did not wish to devote his entire life to either of these vocations, and he determined to enter the commercial world. Thus for nine years we find him steadily and industriously engaged in employment as a traveling salesman for a Dayton (Illinois) woolen factory, and then for three years he was head salesman for the Cushman Manufacturing Company, of Ottawa, Illinois.

Having had this necessary business experience, Mr. Winter came to Garfield and started a lumber yard, which he managed successfully for three

years. Since 1876 he has given his entire attention to the carrying on of a general merchandising establishment at Garfield, save when he has been officiating as the postmaster of the place. He was first honored with this responsible position during the administration of President Hayes, and continued to serve until President Cleveland's election made it necessary for him to resign the duties of the office to the Democratic appointee. Needless to say, he is a stalwart Republican, and though he has never sought public office he has frequently been called upon to serve the people, as when he was elected the town clerk for one year and a justice of the peace for four years. Fraternally he belongs to Camp No. 4127, Modern Woodmen of America.

On the 1st of April, 1855, Mr. Winter wedded Martha Maria, a daughter of William and Jane (Millikin) Parkinson, who were natives of England and Pennsylvania respectively. Her father was brought to America by his parents in 1801, when he was three years old. His father, John Parkinson, also of English birth, was a farmer and kept a dairy farm in New York state for a period, then removing to Licking county, Ohio, where he died when well along in years. He had four sons and two daughters. William Parkinson removed from Ohio to Illinois in the spring of 1856 and settled in LaSalle county, on a farm adjacent to Ottawa. He died as the result of a fall from a wagon, November 15, 1860, when he was in his sixty-third year. His widow, who survived him until November, 1878, was seventy-eight years and four months old at the time of her death. Both were earnest members of the United Brethren church. The father of Mrs. Parkinson, James Millikin, who was born in the Keystone state, was of Scotch descent. He was a carpenter by trade and followed that calling until shortly before his death, which event occurred in his native state when he was advanced in years. Mrs. Mary Millikin, the maternal grandmother of Mrs. Winter, was a native of Ireland. She was a very remarkable old lady, noted for many things, among others that when she was ninety-four years old she was able to walk a mile or two without excessive fatigue, and still operated her spinning-wheel much as in the days of her prime. She died in 1856, when five months past the ninety-fifth anniversary of her birth. Mrs. Winter was one of the five surviving members of a family which originally comprised five daughters and four sons. Her sister, Margaret A., is the wife of Clark Downey, of Wenona, Illinois; Catherine R. is Mrs. William Trumbo, of Shafter, Missouri; and Sarah E. is the widow of Aaron Martin, of Wenona; while William H. Parkinson resides near the same town. Mrs. Martha M. Winter died January 15, 1900, on the sixty-eighth anniversary of her birth.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Winter was blessed with three sons and

three daughters, namely: Harry A., who married Florence Wilson and resides on a farm seven miles west of Wenona; Orrel Dell, who wedded P. H. Jennett and lives near Whitamore, Iowa; Lyman Lee, whose wife was Annie Lechner in her girlhood; William D., who chose Ida Thrasher for a wife; Sarah J., the wife of Jefferson R. Eward, of Garfield; and Susie, who died when about eight months old. The children of Harry A. are named respectively Jay W., Reuben Roy and Floyd Leslie. Mr. and Mrs. Jennett have ten children: Albert William, Walter Lee, Ora Mae, Edwin Matthew, Luella, Hugh Burnett, John Austin, Ralph, Jason and Francis. Lyman, Lee Winter, of Garfield, has four living children: Arthur J., Jennie B., Wilbur Ray and John Lawrence; and William D. Winter, also a citizen of Garfield, has two living children—Oliver Guy and Frances Emma. Mr. and Mrs. Eward are the parents of three children—Mattie Edith, Elsie Dell and Thomas James.

The wife of our subject was identified with the church of the United Brethren in her early womanhood, but of late years she has held her membership in the Presbyterian denomination. She has been a faithful helpmate to her husband, a loving mother and a helpful, sympathetic friend and neighbor, endeared to every one who knows her. Mr. and Mrs. Winter are justly regarded and highly respected by those who know them and are held as models worthy to follow.

EUGENE C. LONG.

Eugene C. Long is a well known and much esteemed citizen of Rutland township, LaSalle county, where he has spent his entire life, his birth having occurred in Rutland township, January 26, 1857. Lewis Long, his father, has been a prominent and influential citizen of the county for many years. He and his wife, whose maiden name was Emily Barber, were the parents of eight children, seven of whom are living, namely: Eugene C.; Emma F., the wife of Gaylord States, of Miller township; Charles W., of Rutland township; Ruth Inez, the wife of George Funkle, of Marseilles; Bertha A., the wife of F. Spencer, of Rutland township; and Lewis Walter and Arthur F., at their parental home.

Eugene C. Long was reared on a farm, and, being the oldest of a large number of children, early became his father's assistant. In his boyhood he was inured to the various kinds of farm work and for two or three years after attaining his majority he was connected with the brick and tile manufactory at Marseilles. Returning to the home farm, he again directed his attention to agricultural pursuits, which he has continued up to the present

time, now having full charge of the farming operations at the home place.

Mr. Long is a member of several social orders, and is an officer in the Knights of Pythias Lodge, No. 62, of Marseilles. Politically he is a Republican, but has never been an aspirant for political honors, preferring to devote his attention to the vocation in life in which he has met with creditable and honorable success.

GEORGE A. McFERNON.

An enterprising business man of Tonica is the gentleman named above, who is successfully engaged in the furniture and undertaking business. He was born in Putnam county, this state, March 29, 1848, a son of Harvey and Mary Jane (Atchison) McFerson. His father was a native of southern Ohio, and his mother of Virginia, and they had eleven children, of whom four are now living, namely: Mary Jane, the wife of Frederick Hannum, of San Francisco; Alice G., the wife of Henry Leininger, of Piper City, Illinois; George A.; and Grant, of Kewanee, this state. Harvey McFerson, a farmer, came to Illinois in 1840 and settled in Union Grove, Putnam county, where he faithfully engaged in his calling until 1855, when he came to LaSalle county, locating in Eden township, upon a quarter section of good land which he had purchased, and he followed agricultural pursuits there until 1877; then he moved to Tonica, where he passed the remainder of his life, quitting the scenes of this world in 1878, April 26, at the age of sixty years. His first wife, the mother of our subject, died in 1864, November 14, aged forty-seven years. In her religious sympathies she was a Congregationalist, while her husband was a Universalist. In his political views he was a Republican, and in public position he for a time held the office of supervisor of Eden township, and also that of assessor and other public positions. For his second wife he married Martha E. King, who is still living, and by this marriage there were no children.

The paternal grandfather of Mr. McFerson, Alexander McFerson, was also a native of the Buckeye state, of Scotch ancestry, and died in his native state, in middle life, being killed by a kick from a horse. He had three sons and two daughters. The history of the maternal grandfather of our subject is not known.

George A. McFerson was seven years old when the family of which he was a member moved to LaSalle county, and he was reared to the heavy work of the farm until twenty-two years of age, attending school during the winter seasons. In 1869 he married and bought a farm of one hundred

and sixty acres in Wabaunsee county, Kansas, and followed farming there for five years. (This farm he still owns.) He then returned to LaSalle county, in the winter of 1874, and was employed as clerk by his father-in-law, James S. Underhill, in a hardware store, for a period of five years, and then he purchased his present furniture store, where, in addition to his business of dealing in furniture, he also is an undertaker. He is a well known and highly esteemed citizen of this county, having been a resident here ever since he was seven years of age excepting when he was in Kansas.

In his religion he is exemplary, being a member of the Methodist church; and he is also connected with Tonica Lodge, No. 364, A. F. & A. M.; of Peru Chapter, No. 60, R. A. M.; Peru Council, No. 12, R. & S. M.; of St. John's Commandery, No. 26, K. T.; and of the Mystic Workers of the World. Of the commandery he was the presiding officer for four years, and was then elected generalissimo, in which office he faithfully served until 1898; and he was senior warden for a number of years. He was the master of the blue lodge for three years. He is also a member of the Eastern Star lodge. Politically he is a Republican, and he has served as town clerk of Eden township for several terms.

On the 16th of December, 1869, he was united in marriage with Miss Maria Underhill, daughter of James S. and Jane (McLean) Underhill, and they have one son, Charles A., who is a conductor on the Illinois Central Railroad, and married Sophia Westmeier. Mrs. George A. McFerson died February 28, 1880, at the early age of twenty-nine years; and for his second wife Mr. McFerson chose, March 12, 1895, Miss Cora C. Gunn, a daughter of Henry and Cordelia (Fisher) Gunn. There were no children by this marriage. Mrs. McFerson died January 12, 1898, at the age of twenty-nine years, a pious and exemplary member of the Methodist church.

JOHN KENNEDY.

John Kennedy, a farmer residing on section 10, Groveland township, LaSalle county, Illinois, has been identified with this county for a period of forty-one years, and is well known as one of its respected and influential citizens.

Mr. Kennedy is a native of Ireland. He was born in county Queens, October 9, 1836, a son of John and Margaret (Call) Kennedy, both natives of the Emerald isle, the former of county Queens and the latter of county Carlow. To John and Margaret Kennedy were born seven children, three sons and four daughters, four of whom are living: Jane, the widow of

Edward Brennan, of Carlow, Ireland; Mary, the wife of John W. McGarvey, of Sherrington, Canada; Margaret, the wife of Patrick Cooglan, also of Sherrington, Canada; John, whose name introduces this sketch. The father, who was a farmer, came to America with his family in the year 1850 and located on a farm eight miles south of Utica, New York, where he died in 1855, at the age of forty years. His wife's death occurred about one year before his.

William Kennedy, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, reached the extreme old age of one hundred and eight years, and his death was then caused by falling from his horse while going to a fair. He was the father of one son and five daughters. The maternal grandfather of our subject also died in Ireland, at a ripe old age. Both were farmers.

John Kennedy spent the first fourteen years of his life in Ireland, reared on a farm and educated in the common schools, and accompanied his parents to America, settling with them in New York, where he remained until after his father's death. Then he went to Chicago and entered the employ of the Burlington Railroad Company, but remained with that road only a short time. We next find him in La Porte county, Indiana, where for one year he worked by the month on a farm. Then he came to Marshall county, Illinois, and in 1858 to LaSalle county, where he continued as a farm hand, working by the month, until 1864. That year he enlisted in Company B, One hundred and Fiftieth Volunteer Infantry, and served one year. While in the army he took part in a number of skirmishes but was in no heavy battles.

After the war Mr. Kennedy settled in Woodford county, Illinois, where he lived one year, at the end of that time removing to Rutland, LaSalle county. Here he rented a farm, which he cultivated a short time, and then bought eighty acres in Groveland township, near Pleasant Valley school-house, which he still owns. Afterward he bought forty acres, where he now lives, and later added another eighty-acre tract. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and has been fairly successful in his operations, his career showing conclusively that in this country an energetic young man can by honest industry and good management win success.

Mr. Kennedy was married December 4, 1870, to Miss Mary Ann Golden, a daughter of Patrick and Mary Golden; and the fruits of their union are thirteen children: Margaret, Ann, William, Mary, John, Jane, Thomas, Frank, Rose Ellen, Emma, Julia, Kate and Daniel. All of the children except the three oldest daughters are at home, and two of these, Margaret and Ann, are married. Margaret is the wife of William Akens, of Chicago. Ann married John Burns, also of Chicago, and they have one child, Mary.

Mr. Kennedy's parents were devout members of the Catholic church,

and he and his wife also are Catholics, their membership being in Sacred Heart Catholic church of Rutland. Believing that "new times demand new measures and new means," Mr. Kennedy has changed his political views. He was first a Republican, then a Democrat, and is now an independent. As a citizen he stands in high esteem.

JOSHUA G. GAY.

For just half a century Joshua Guilford Gay was actively engaged in business in Ottawa, and is now living retired, after an extremely busy, useful life. He has used his means and influence to the lasting welfare of this, his chosen place of abode, fostering local industries and improvements, and all that has gone toward the upbuilding and prosperity of the community.

The Guilfords and Gays were numbered among the early Pilgrims of New England, and many distinguished representatives of both families have flourished in the United States and have brought additional honor to the names they bore. The Gay family was founded in the vicinity of Boston, Massachusetts, by one John Gay, who was a native of England, and in each generation of his posterity there was a John, named in his honor. Philip Thomas Guilford, our subject's maternal ancestor, emigrated from England to this country in 1640. He located in Virginia, where he died, and subsequently his widow and son removed to Massachusetts and settled upon a strip of land on the seashore which was later styled Guilford's Point. The son grew to manhood there and several generations of his descendants were born, lived and died in the old Bay state. The maternal grandfather of our subject was Simeon Guilford, who, with five of his brothers, served through the Revolutionary war. He was one of the guards in whose keeping the celebrated Major Andre was placed subsequently to his capture. One of the Guilford brothers lived to attain the extreme age of ninety-three years. Simeon Guilford married a Miss Hayden and reared a large number of children.

The birth of Joshua Guilford Gay occurred in Pittsfield, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, December 11, 1821. He is one of the six children of Willard and Electa Gay, the others being Willard and Lemuel Bingham, who are deceased; Rev. William Moore Gay, who is a Congregational minister, now located in Georgetown, Massachusetts; Electa M., who is unmarried and is a resident of Boston; and Mrs. Catherine D. Hayden, whose husband, Henry Hayden, died in 1896, since which time she has lived with her son at Colorado Springs.



J G Gay

The boyhood of Joshua G. Gay was spent in his native town, where he was a student in the public schools until he was seventeen years old. His father was a carriage-maker by trade, and the youth assisted him in his business for some time, later going to New Haven, Connecticut, where he served an apprenticeship to the carriage-maker's trade. In 1846 he came west, and for about one year worked at his calling in Chicago. Then, coming to Ottawa, he entered into partnership with William Palmer, who was engaged in the manufacture of wagons, and continued in partnership with that worthy citizen for some three years. The ambitious young man, having accumulated a little capital by economy and good management, then opened a small shop of his own and commenced manufacturing carriages and various kinds of light road wagons. He was alone until 1870, and employed quite a force of men during the last years. The following decade he was associated with Colonel B. S. Porter in business, that gentleman retiring from the firm in 1880, when his interest was purchased by Simeon G. Gay, who is the eldest son of our subject, and who for the past two years has been the sole proprietor of the enterprise which was founded nearly half a century ago by his esteemed father. The firm known as Gay & Son, for seventeen years, built up an extensive and remunerative business and a very desirable reputation for square dealing and for excellence of vehicles turned out in its factory. The plant is equipped with the best modern machinery, and high-grade work is invariably to be found in every department of the factory.

The marriage of J. G. Gay and Miss Ann M. Aldrich, of Warsaw, Illinois, was celebrated May 18, 1851. Her father, Mark Aldrich, was a pioneer at Warsaw, which town he laid out in 1846. Years afterward he went to California, and then to Arizona, where his death occurred. Mrs. Ann Gay departed this life in 1868, and of the four sons born to herself and husband two have entered the silent land, namely: Willard and Frederick W. Simeon G. and Joseph W. are well known business men of Ottawa. For his second wife Mr. Gay chose Mrs. Olive W. Ashley, of Springfield, Massachusetts, their marriage taking place November 21, 1873; and a son and daughter were born to them, namely: Nellie M., who died in infancy, and Burton Albro, who is yet at home. By her former marriage, to Lester Ashley, Mrs. Gay has one daughter, Mabel E., who is now the wife of Alfred Michell, of Dallas, Texas.

In his political faith Mr. Gay is a stalwart Republican. Coming from stanch old Puritan stock, he naturally adheres to the Congregational denomination, to which his ancestors belonged, and for a number of years he has officiated in the capacity of deacon in the Ottawa church. All worthy religious and philanthropic enterprises find a friend and assistant in him,

and many a needy person has had cause to bless and remember his name, though his deeds of helpfulness are quietly performed and rarely known to the public.

DANIEL PETERSON.

The subject of this sketch, although a native of the Buckeye state, has been identified with Illinois all his life, having been brought here by his parents in his infancy. He is a resident of Tonica, engaged in the stock business, and is one of the substantial and leading citizens of the place.

Daniel Peterson was born in Harrison county, Ohio, April 21, 1835, a son of Isaac and Mary (Bush) Peterson, natives of Ohio. In the Peterson family were ten children, four sons and six daughters, six of whom are now living, namely: Daniel, the direct subject of this review; Nancy Jane, the wife of B. F. Whittaker, of Nebraska; John L., of Putnam county, Illinois; William A., of Red Wing, Minnesota; Ruth, wife of A. S. Bickle, of North Chillicothe, Illinois; and Elizabeth D., unmarried. Isaac Peterson, the father, was a farmer. He left Ohio in the fall of 1835 and brought his family west to Illinois, selecting a location in Putnam county and buying at that time forty acres of land. To this tract he subsequently added until he had a fine farm of two hundred acres and some timber land, and on this farm he reared his family and passed the rest of his life. He died in January, 1875, at the age of sixty-eight years. His wife survived him five or six years and at the time of her death was about seventy-four. In her religious faith she was a Methodist.

Turning back another generation for a glimpse of the grandparents of Mr. Peterson, we find that his grandfather, Daniel Peterson, was of Holland-Dutch descent, was one of the early pioneers of Ohio, and from there in the spring of 1835 came to Illinois and settled in Putnam county, where he died at about the age of seventy-five years. He was a farmer, and his family comprised five children. Grandfather Bush, Mr. Peterson's grandfather on his mother's side, was a native of Ohio and lived and died there, being well advanced in years at the time of his death. He had several sons and two daughters, and he, too, was a farmer.

Daniel Peterson, the immediate subject of this sketch, as above stated, was brought to Illinois in his infancy, and his life was spent in Putnam county up to 1892, when he moved to Tonica. His educational advantages were those only of the district schools. Reared a farmer, he naturally engaged in agricultural pursuits when he reached his majority and started out in life to do for himself. For four or five years he farmed some of his father's land on the shares. Then he bought eighty acres of improved land, and

later he and his brother John bought out some of the heirs in the old homestead, and they two farmed together from 1870 for a number of years. They now own four eighty-acre tracts and a forty-acre piece of land in Putnam county, and have two hundred and eighty-one acres of timber land. In 1892 they rented their farms, and Daniel moved to Tonica, where he has since bought a home, located in the southwest part of town; and since the above date he has been engaged in the stock business, dealing chiefly in hogs.

Mr. Peterson has been twice married. November 6, 1856, he wedded Miss Mary J. Inks, a daughter of Thomas and Matilda Inks, and their union was blessed in the birth of six children, one son and five daughters, viz., Mary Matilda, Martha Jane, Emma Ella, Isaac, Willetta and Edna. Mary Matilda died at the age of thirty-three years. She was the wife of Donald Dagger and had two children, Blanche and Cora. Martha Jane is the wife of George Ford, of Putnam county, Illinois, and they have one child, Joy. Emma Ella married W. L. Skeel and lives at Sandwich, Illinois. The other children, Isaac, Willetta and Edna, died in infancy. The mother of these children passed away May 12, 1870, at the age of thirty-six years, a Presbyterian. December 17, 1874, Mr. Peterson married Miss Elizabeth M. McClung, a daughter of William McClung. There are no children by this marriage. Mrs. Peterson is a member of the Congregational church.

Politically Mr. Peterson is a Democrat, as was his father before him. While in Putnam county he served four years as the supervisor of Hennepin township, and has always taken an intelligent and commendable interest in public affairs.

WILLIAM OSMAN.

William Osman is probably the oldest representative of newspaper interests in Illinois, having been connected with the Free Trader at Ottawa for more than half a century. He was born near Gratz, Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, on the 19th of June, 1819, and is a son of Robert and Catherine (Schreiber) Osman, the former of English and the latter of German lineage. The father was the owner of a farm of three hundred and sixty acres in Pennsylvania, one hundred acres of the place being mountain land. Between the ages of seven and thirteen years our subject attended school through the short winter seasons, his privileges being thus afforded in private schools of the neighborhood. He learned to read and write and also completed Pike's arithmetic, but the greater part of his education has been obtained through reading and study outside of the school-room. At the age of thirteen he entered the office of the *Morgenroethe*, a German newspaper established by Jacob Baab at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He served a six-

years apprenticeship to the printer's trade and afterward pursued his studies for a short period in Gettysburg College, but on account of his limited means was forced to abandon his text-books. In the fall of 1839 he went to Philadelphia, where he was employed as a compositor in the establishment of L. Johnson & Company, stereotypers, with whom he remained until the spring of 1840.

Subsequently he worked as a journeyman in Harrisburg and in July, 1840, started westward, traveling by way of Philadelphia, New York, Albany, by railroad to Syracuse, thence by the Erie canal to Buffalo and by the great lakes to Chicago, where he took a stage for Ottawa, arriving on the 1st of August, 1840. He began working for Weaver & Hise, proprietors of the Ottawa Free Trader, doing various kinds of work in the office, including the writing of editorials. He was an employe of that firm until 1842, when he purchased the interest of George F. Weaver, thus entering into partnership with Mr. Hise, under the firm name of Hise & Osman. That connection was continued until 1848, when Moses Osman, a brother of our subject, purchased the interest of Mr. Hise. The partnership between the brothers continued until 1856, when our subject became sole proprietor, conducting the business alone until 1867, when he entered into partnership with Douglas Hapeman, a relationship that was maintained until 1888, when Mr. Hapeman retired and Mr. Osman admitted his sons to an interest in the business. One of them, William H. Osman, is still connected with his father. During the greater part of his time for fifty-eight years Mr. Osman has written the majority of the editorials for the Free Trader and has made the paper one of the leading journals in his section of the state. It has always been a pronounced Democratic paper, staunchly advocating the principles of the party during the greater part of the time, save only in 1896, when it advocated the gold standard in opposition to the Chicago platform on free silver.

During the Mexican war Mr. Osman served from May, 1846, until July, 1847, as a volunteer in Company L, First Regiment of Illinois Infantry, under the command of Captain T. Lyle Dickey and afterward under the command of Captain B. M. Prentiss. He entered the service as a private but arose to the rank of quartermaster sergeant of his regiment. The only battle the regiment was engaged in and in which Mr. Osman of course took part, was the battle of Buena Vista, February 23, 1847, in which General Zachary Taylor, with four thousand five hundred men, so signally defeated the Mexican army of twenty thousand men under Santa Ana.

Mr. Osman has served for two terms as the postmaster of Ottawa, filling the position from 1856 until 1860, and again from 1887 until 1891. He served during two sessions, 1853-4 and 1856-7, as an engrossing clerk of

the house of representatives in the Illinois legislature, and in 1854 was for some six months a clerk in the interior department at Washington; but other than this he has held no public office excepting some very minor ones.

On the 28th of November, 1848, Mr. Osman was united in marriage to Miss Mary Hise, a sister of his former partner, John Hise, of Ottawa. Four children, two sons and two daughters, were born to them, but their first child, a daughter, died at the age of two years. The others are still living. One son is now assistant editor of the *American Miller* at Chicago, and the other son is associated with his father in business. Socially Mr. Osman has been connected with the Masonic fraternity, but has never taken a very active part in its work. For fifty-nine years he has been the editor of the *Free Trader*, and his long connection with the paper makes him the pioneer in journalistic work in this state. At all times he has labored to advance the interests of the community which he represents, and Ottawa has found in him a progressive and valued citizen who enjoys the high regard of her leading people.

JAMES BANE.

A native of Marshall county, West Virginia, born December 30, 1840. James Bane is a son of Nimrod and Leanna (Bowers) Bane, who were among the pioneers of Illinois, settling in Marshall county in 1850. The father was a son of Jesse Bane, a farmer, who was born in Pennsylvania, of English descent. He participated in the war of 1812 and instilled the same principles of patriotism that animated him into the minds of his several children. He passed the later years of his life in West Virginia, his death occurring when he was about sixty-five years of age. The maternal grandfather of our subject, Henry Bowers, likewise was a native of the Keystone state, and was of German extraction. He, too, followed agricultural pursuits, and reared a large number of children. He was about three score and ten years of age when claimed by death, in 1845.

Nimrod Bane, who is still living, is a native of Greene county, Pennsylvania, as was also his wife. They were the parents of nine children, eight of whom were sons. Five of the number are living at this writing, namely: Henry, of Greenwood county, Kansas; James; Ephraim, of Reno county, Kansas; Jacob, of Springfield, Illinois; and Joseph, of Morris county, Kansas. As previously stated, the father removed to this state almost half a century ago, and locating upon a farm of eighty acres in Marshall county he proceeded to improve and cultivate the place, which he transformed into a

very desirable homestead. For a number of years they dwelt in the vicinity of Robert's Point, where the children received excellent educational advantages. The devoted wife and mother was summoned to the better land in 1876, when she was in her sixty-second year. She adhered to the religious faith of her ancestors, being a Lutheran. Of late years the father has made his home with his children. He is a Republican, and has ever taken an active part in the affairs of his own locality.

James Bane, whose name heads this sketch, has resided in Illinois since he was about ten years old, and in 1856 he became a citizen of LaSalle county. Here he worked for farmers for several years, or until the civil war was well under way, when he offered his services in the defense of the stars and stripes. Becoming a member of Company H, One hundred and Fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, he continued at the post of duty to which he was assigned until there was no longer need of his aid, the war having ended. He took part in many of the leading and decisive battles of the war, among them being Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge and Hartsville, Tennessee. He then went with Sherman on the world-famed march to the sea, and participated in important campaigns in Georgia, North and South Carolina, and finally went to Richmond and thence to Washington. He was captured at Hartsville, but was soon exchanged, and a second time, at Walden's Ridge, Tennessee, fell into the hands of the Confederates—General Joe Wheeler and his forces. At last he was paroled, and in his possession to-day is the parole which was signed by the adjutant-general of the officer just mentioned. After having served three years, lacking two months, he was mustered out of the Union army, in June, 1865, and returned home.

Making a permanent settlement in LaSalle county, Mr. Bane bought a farm of eighty acres in Groveland township, and six years later sold that place. He then leased farms for six years, after which he bought his present homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, two and three-quarters miles northeast of Dana, in Groveland township. As long ago as 1856 he broke prairie on this farm, and at that time there were but a few houses in the township. He is practically a self-made man, as he began earning his own livelihood when he was very young, and has had to rely solely upon himself. He attended the old style subscription schools to a limited extent, in his boyhood, and is in the main self-educated. Fraternally he is a member of Long Point Lodge, No. 552, A. F. & A. M.; a non-affiliated member of Rutland Chapter, No. 112, R. A. M., and Rutland Council, No. 52; and belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic, his membership being with Rutland Post No. 292. For three years he acted in the capacity of high priest of Rutland chapter and for a like period he was master of

the Rutland blue lodge. In his political creed he is an ardent Republican.

The marriage of Mr. Bane and Miss Eliza Jane White was solemnized February 6, 1867. She is a daughter of John and Mary Ann (Whetzel) White. Eleven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Bane; nine of the number being sons. Austin H., now of Livingston county, Illinois, married Annie Dunbar, and has three children, Stella, Oakley and Alta. Anna Lee married Silas Blakely and has one son, James. They are residents of Jasper county, Iowa. Arthur J. wedded Cora Bailey, and dwells at Long Point, Illinois. William Orville died at the age of five years and five months. Charles C. at present is in the employ of a farmer of this locality, and all of the younger children are at home, and comprise Herbert C., Gilbert S., Emily H., Edward S., Robert LeRoy and DeWitt Clinton. Mr. and Mrs. Bane, both of whom are members of the Methodist church, have conscientiously performed their duty toward their children, church and community, and are eminently deserving of the genuine esteem in which they are held by everyone.

THOMAS MARSHALL.

Thomas Marshall, a prosperous farmer of Groveland township, LaSalle county, has been the architect of his own fortunes, and from a humble beginning has steadily advanced toward an influential position in the community where his lot is cast.

He is a son of Robert and Elizabeth (Moats) Marshall, and was born in Ohio county, Virginia, November 10, 1826. His father was born on the Atlantic ocean, while his parents were on their way to America, from their old home in Ireland. Mrs. Elizabeth Marshall was a native of Maryland, and was married in that state. Her father, William Moats, was a prosperous farmer of the same state, where he passed his entire life, and reared a large number of children to be useful citizens. After their arrival in this country, the parents of Robert Marshall located upon a farm in Maryland, and there he grew to manhood and learned the trade of a weaver. Later, he removed to the vicinity of Wheeling, West Virginia, and resided upon a farm there until death released him from his labors. He was then about seventy-five years of age. His wife survived him many years, and had attained the extreme age of ninety-eight years at the time of her death. They were adherents of the Baptist creed, but were not identified with any church in West Virginia. Mr. Marshall was a highly respected citizen of his community, and, true to his patriotic principles, he enlisted in the defense of his country in the war of 1812, though he was not called upon to participate in any battle. Of his fourteen children only five are now living, namely:

Jacob, of Stillwater, Oklahoma; William, of Wood county, West Virginia; Susanna, widow of James Pritchett, of Dana, Illinois; Thomas, of this sketch; and Mrs. Elizabeth W. M. Croft, of Streator, this county.

Thomas Marshall, whose home is on section 35, Groveland township, was born in Ohio county, West Virginia, November 10, 1826. He was reared to the pursuits of an agriculturist, and received his education in the district schools. For a number of years he lived in Wood county, West Virginia, and it was not until 1864 that he came to Illinois. His father gave to him, as he did to each of his boys, a tract of one hundred and fifty acres of timber land. After clearing twenty acres of this property, Thomas Marshall sold the farm for one thousand dollars, and it was soon after this event that he became a resident of Livingston county, Illinois.

On the 19th of August, 1855, Mr. Marshall married Bessie, daughter of William Henry and Susan (Geddy) Curgenvin, all natives of England. The father died in that country, at the age of twenty-two years, when Mrs. Marshall was seven months old, and his widow married again, and accompanied her second husband to America. They took up their abode in Wood county, West Virginia, where he died at the age of sixty years. His widow survived him, dying near the town of Rutland, Illinois, in 1874, when she was sixty-two years of age. She was a Baptist in her religious faith, and was a lady of exemplary life and amiable character. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Marshall was the Rev. Nicholas Geddy, a minister in the Methodist denomination, and her uncle, Nicholas Geddy, Jr., was a successful legal practitioner and solicitor in London, his address being the Mansion House. Mrs. Marshall was a child of six years, when she came to the United States, and her early years were spent in Wood county, West Virginia.

Nine children blessed the union of our subject and wife, six of the number being sons. The eldest, William Henry, of Dana, married Annie Evans, and has six living children, Charles, Grace, Jenkins, Harry, Oscar and Ray. Nicholas Geddy, the next son, living three miles from Dana, chose Lizzie Huckins for his wife, and has five children, namely: Charlotte, George, Lucy, Ethel and Ralph. Milton Thomas died when fourteen years of age. Wesley, whose home is near Rutland, Illinois, wedded Mary Cunningham, and their only child is called Bessie. Susan Victoria died when two and a half years old. Harriet May, who became the wife of Loren Burton, of Scotia, Nebraska, is the mother of five children: Bessie, Jennie, Grace, John Thomas and Robert Ray. James Franklin wedded Emma Marshall, a second cousin, and their pleasant home near Dana is graced by the presence of their two sons, Roscoe and Russell. Bessie Rose, also living near Dana, is the wife of John Luther Boyd, and their three children are named

respectively Bessie, Eva and Clark. Robert, the youngest child of our subject, is at home and assists in the management of the farm.

When Mr. Marshall came to Illinois with his wife and four children, thirty-five years ago, he purchased forty acres of land in Livingston county, east of Dana, and during this long period he has dwelt in the neighborhood of the town and been closely associated with the development of this section of the state. In the course of time, after making substantial improvements upon his original farm, he invested in two additional tracts of forty acres each. This property he later sold and in its stead bought one hundred and thirty acres of land situated southwest of Dana, across the line, in LaSalle county. Here he has continued to reside until the present time—some twenty-three years. He is a stanch Republican, but has never sought nor desired public office. Mrs. Marshall, who has been a true helpmate, a loving wife and mother, is a member of the Methodist church, and is held in the same high regard by every one, as is also her husband.

WILLIAM G. WILSON.

William Grundy Wilson, one of the respected citizens of Lostant, Illinois, is a native of this state and dates his birth in Putnam county, May 31, 1846.

Mr. Wilson is a son of Garrison and Ann (Dugan) Wilson, natives of Kentucky and Pennsylvania, respectively. In their family were nine children, five sons and four daughters, and of this number seven are now living: Elizabeth D., wife of D. C. Hull, of Canton, South Dakota; Matilda A., wife of H. L. Hammitt, also of Canton; William G., of Lostant, Illinois; Mary A., widow of Daniel Kemp, of Streator, Illinois; Thomas M., of Chicago; Robert T., of Granville, Illinois; and Edward H., of Lostant. Garrison Wilson, the father, was a farmer. He came to Illinois in 1829 and located in Putnam county, being a boy at that time and accompanying his parents hither. Their settlement was in Magnolia township. There he grew to manhood and married and reared his family, and there also the evening of his life was passed. He died at the age of seventy-two years. His widow still survives and lives in Lostant with her sons. She is a Presbyterian, while he was a Methodist. In politics he was in early life a Whig and later a Republican. He was a soldier in the Black Hawk war, serving under Captain Hawes.

The Wilsons are of Scotch origin. Thornton Wilson, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, came from Kentucky to Illinois in 1829, and

as already recorded made a settlement in Putnam county. His life was spent in agricultural pursuits, and he lived to a venerable age. In his family were five sons and two daughters. He is buried at Princeton, Illinois. The maternal grandfather of our subject was Robert Dugan, a native of Ireland, who came to America and settled in Pennsylvania; later moved to Ohio, and about 1833 came to Putnam county, Illinois, and settled on a farm. He was nearly eighty years old at the time of his death. His family comprised six members, three sons and three daughters.

William G. Wilson was reared on his father's farm in Magnolia township, Putnam county, and that was his home for forty-four years, he having traveled considerably, however, in the meantime. In 1893 he moved to Lostant, LaSalle county, and he and his brother Edward H. and their mother live together in Lostant. He owns eighty acres of improved land in Putnam county, and his mother owns one hundred and ninety-five acres.

Mr. Wilson is a member of Magnolia Lodge, No. 103, F. & A. M. Politically he is a Democrat.

AARON GUNN.

Aaron Gunn, deceased, was a native of Montague, Massachusetts, having been born at that place April 4, 1806. He came to LaSalle, Illinois, in the early days and made his home, about the year 1838, at No. 1174 Creve Coeur street, where he lived until his death, March 12, 1897. From 1870 he enjoyed the distinction of being the earliest settler residing in LaSalle. He was a man good and true whose personality was strongly felt in the community and whose presence was a magnetic influence for good. He died in the ripeness of age, with the consciousness of a life well spent and much good accomplished, but his death cast a gloom over the city and surrounding country that will not soon be dissipated. The words of wisdom and guidance that fell from his lips have led many to choose the "straight and narrow way" in their walk through life, and his counsel and help in times of trouble are remembered by scores of others, who think of him with grateful hearts.

Aaron Gunn was of Scotch descent, and the name is still prominent in certain parts of the Scottish Highlands, where it is frequently found. It is thought the family in this country sprung from Jasper Gunn, a physician who came to America in 1635, from county Kerry, in the ship *Defence*. One of his descendants, Nathaniel Gunn, was one of the original proprietors of the town of Montague. Elihu Gunn, Aaron Gunn's father, was one of



Aaron Gunn

eight brothers; one died at the age of sixty-five years; the others all lived to be over seventy; one reached his one hundred and second year, another was ninety-eight, while the father of our subject was eighty-eight at the time of death.

Young Aaron worked on his father's farm until he was about twenty-four, when he determined to see something of the great west, and in the fall of 1830 made a trip to central Michigan. He was so well pleased with the prospect of that country that he returned to his father's in order to make arrangements to remove permanently to the west. In the spring of 1831 he joined a company who styled themselves the "Hampshire Colony," and who left Albany, New York, by way of the Erie canal, on May 7, 1831, and arrived at Buffalo ten days later. There, much to their disappointment, they learned that the boats did not go to Chicago (then Fort Dearborn), and they were compelled to be content with a passage to Detroit. When they reached that point they made arrangements with a schooner to take their goods later, and then hired teams to convey them overland to Lake Michigan. Among the company were eight young men who were unmarried and whose baggage consisted only of their trunks. These, in the order of their ages, were John Leonard, John P. Blake, Aaron Gunn, Amos C. Washburn, Christopher C. Corse, George Hinsdel, E. Hinsdel Phelps and Charles C. Phelps. When the party reached Mottville seven of these young men bought two "dug-outs" of the Indians, lashed them firmly together, side by side, launched them, loaded in their trunks, and paddled down the St. Joseph river until they reached its mouth. Going to the site now occupied by the city of South Bend, where a French-Indian trading post was then kept by a man named Coquillard (pronounced Cut-te-aw), they hired a man and ox team to haul themselves and luggage six or eight miles across the country to the Kankakee river, which they reached at sundown on the first of June, 1831. Their boats were once more launched and they paddled down the Kankakee and Illinois rivers to Illinois Town, now LaSalle, reaching it on the 9th of June, 1831, and landing at a point just below the mouth of the Big Vermilion. Here was an Indian trading post kept by one Crozier, father of the late Amaza Crozier, of Utica, Illinois. This place was called Shippingport, and the same man had charge of the post-office, the first in LaSalle county. The white population at that time consisted of three men and one woman at LaSalle. At this time the Indians were showing their treacherous disposition and hostile feelings toward the white men, and many a narrow escape from their treachery were experienced by these pioneers.

The Black Hawk war occurred the year following the arrival of the Hampshire colony, and in this war Aaron Gunn served in the militia under

Colonel Strawn, being mustered out after twenty-nine days' service. This war scattered the Hampshire colony to various parts of the country, and Mr. Gunn sold his claim, located at La Moille, to Moses A. Bowen, father of Colonel Bowen, of Mendota. He then entered a claim in Putnam county, not far from the Quakers' yearly-meeting house. This claim he sold later, to Joseph Hoyle, the first Quaker settler in the Clear creek neighborhood. In 1835 he entered the west half of section 10, in the town of LaSalle, which he made his home, and upon which he resided for almost fifty-nine years. He was industrious and painstaking in his work and converted his land into most desirable farm property.

In 1833, while attending religious services conducted by a Cumberland Presbyterian preacher named Mitchell, he was led to accept divine guidance in his daily life, and this conversion brought about a radical change in his whole character. From that hour it became his great object to pattern his life after that of the Savior and to aid in the uplifting and betterment of humanity. His zeal in the cause of religion would allow of no lukewarm measures, and he felt that he must take an active part in the cause that lay so near his heart. At that time there were no churches in that section of the country, services being held by traveling preachers who occasionally visited that region. He was a Baptist in belief, but as no organization of that faith had as yet been started he united with the Methodists, believing the Lord would understand and appreciate the work, whether it was carried forward under the banner of one denomination or another. It was not an easy matter at that time to find men who were able to preach the gospel, and the Methodists readily received him as one of their most earnest workers. They were not slow in recognizing his ability, and he held a prominent place in their meetings for several years, preaching at various points in his section of the state, and by his example and teaching influencing many to leave their burdens at the Cross and seek the better way. He had charge of the circuit one year, covering the territory east to Morris, north to Dixon, and back to the Hennepin neighborhood. He was the first Protestant minister to settle in LaSalle, and was one of the founders of the first Protestant church organized there. This was the Baptist church, which was organized about 1839. He had been actively associated with the Presbyterians in Peru for some time previous to this. He always spoke of the many pleasant associations connected with his Methodist ministry, and the remembrance of them always afforded him the keenest pleasure. When the Methodists organized in LaSalle, in 1851, he was greatly interested in the movement and assisted them by giving their first minister a home in his own household, without charge, for the seven months of his pastorate. After reaching the age of fifty years he seldom made public addresses,

although his interest in the moral growth and development of those around him was in no measure abated. He was a man of singular purity of heart and simplicity of manner, and it has been impossible to find in his life anything of personal reproach or weakness; strong and dignified, he won the sympathy and friendship of all with whom he came in contact, and his career is a matter which reflects credit to his adopted city. He was generous and extended his charities alike to all deserving objects, regardless of their nationality or beliefs; it was only necessary that he should know the help was needed to insure its speedy arrival. His strong personality was so impressed on the community that it will be felt for many years to come, and it is but natural that his death should be regarded as a public calamity, although he had nearly rounded out the century of life before he heard the call, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

May 14, 1837, Aaron Gunn was married to Miss Nancy Winters, a daughter of Obadiah and Elizabeth (Prillaman) Winters, and a granddaughter of Moses Winters and Jacob Prillaman. Moses Winters was a native of New York and reached the extreme age of ninety-four years. Jacob Prillaman was of German descent and died in advanced years. Obadiah Winters was a native of New York, but when a young lad went to Virginia, where he grew to manhood and married Elizabeth Prillaman, who was born in Richmond, that state. Mrs. Gunn was born in Miami county, Ohio, July 31, 1806, and is now in her ninety-fourth year. Seven children were born to herself and husband, namely: Jennett, wife of George A. Elliott, of LaSalle; Moses W., also of this city; Lucy, wife of Heman B. Chapman, of LaSalle; Lydia C., deceased; Elizabeth Sarah, wife of F. L. Ayers, of Augusta, Kansas; Aaron Elihu, deceased; and Esther Belle, wife of T. A. Williams, of Tallahassee, Florida. They also reared a pair of twins, Clarence and Clara Bradley, the latter being the wife of Harry Turner, a contractor and builder of this place. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1887, and at the time of Mr. Gunn's death had been married nearly sixty years. Mrs. Gunn was of the same religious views as her husband, and both were ardent abolitionists, and she is now also a firm believer in the principles of prohibition. She is a woman of strong Christian character and has an abiding trust and faith in her heavenly Father, a faith that is shared alike by her children and grandchildren.

Mr. Gunn was a Whig, but later became an adherent of the Republican party, although he was never a politician. The emoluments of a petty-office holder offered no inducements to him. His depth and breadth of character made him a safe standard to follow, while his ready sympathy and

simple eloquence caused him to be in frequent demand when death had claimed his own and the loved one was to be laid away; then did his voice offer comfort to the bereaved while his words led their thoughts to that better land and prepared them to so live as to be ready for the final summons. The portrait of Mr. Gunn given in connection with this brief mention of his career, is from a photograph taken of him in his eighty-third year.

ALVA WINANS.

The subject of this sketch is a retired farmer and one of the highly respected citizens of Dana, Illinois, and as such his life history is of interest in this work, and is as follows:

Alva Winans was born on the Hudson river, in the town of German-town, Columbia county, New York, December 28, 1826. His parents, Alva and Eva (Hover) Winans, were natives respectively of Canaan, Massachusetts, and Columbia county, New York, and in their family were nine children who lived to be grown, five of whom are now living: Orrin, Alva, Robert Bruce, Lavina (the widow of Lyman Utter, of Lewiston, Idaho), and Mary (the widow of John L. Boyd, of Groveland township, LaSalle county, Illinois). Their father, a farmer, about 1855 came out to Illinois and located on a farm in Groveland township, LaSalle county, where he bought a farm of eighty acres. He died here in 1871, past the age of seventy-three years. His wife was about seventy-two at the time of her death, which occurred three years after his. Both were members of the Advent Church. During the war of 1812 he enlisted in the service of his country and went down to New York city to enter upon active duty, but the war closed shortly afterward and he never participated in any engagements. He filled various township offices.

The subject of our sketch has in his veins a mixture of Danish and German blood, the former coming through his paternal ancestors and the latter through his maternal. Grandfather Lewis Winans was a native of Canaan, Massachusetts, and was by occupation a farmer. He died in New York state, over seventy years of age. His family comprised four sons and two daughters. The maternal grandfather of Mr. Winans, Andrew Hover, was a native of New York, and although a farmer by occupation was a man of considerable education and was well versed in law. Being of German descent and a German scholar, he was frequently called upon by his German neighbors to draw up papers of various kinds for them. He was drowned in the Hudson river, when over seventy years of age. He was in a row

boat with two other men and three women, when they were run into by an old scow, and all the lives in the row boat were lost. Mr. Hover was the father of fourteen children.

Alva Winans was reared to farm life in Columbia and Monroe counties, New York, and also for a time lived in Greene county, that state. He spent three years on the river and Atlantic ocean; ran from New York to Philadelphia on the steamer *Kennebeck*, and was one year on the steamer *Roanoke*. Then he spent another year as a farmer in New York, and in 1853 came west to Illinois. Buying a yoke of cattle, he began breaking prairie in Marshall county, having bought eighty acres of land in La Prairie township, this state. This land he sold not long afterward, and in 1856 he came to LaSalle county and bought one hundred and fifty-seven acres in the northwest quarter of section 2, Groveland township, which he improved from raw prairie and which he still owns, it now being operated by his youngest son. Mr. Winans resided upon his farm until March, 1898, when he retired from the active duties of life and has since been living quietly in a pleasant home in Dana.

He was married January 1, 1853, to Miss Delia Sickles, a daughter of Christopher and Julia (Jenks) Sickles, natives of New York state. She is one of a family of six children, four of whom are now living, the other three being Emeline, the wife of John Phillips, of La Prairie township, Marshall county, Illinois; Edward, of Chillicothe, Illinois; and Julia, the wife of Porter La Zelle. Mrs. Winans' maternal grandfather was Thomas Jenks. He was a native of New York, was a farmer by occupation, and lived to a ripe old age. He was the father of twelve children, of whom Mrs. Winans' mother was the eldest. Mrs. Winans came with her parents to Illinois in 1850, the family settling in Marshall county, where she was reared. Her father died in Chillicothe, Illinois, October 10, 1889, on his eighty-fifth birthday. Her mother died in February, 1887, at the age of eighty-two years. They were members of the Baptist church.

Mr. and Mrs. Winans have had twelve children, six sons and six daughters, three of whom died in infancy. The following is a brief record of the other members of the family: Daniel married Mary White, lives in Groveland township, LaSalle county, and has three children—Cassie, Dio and Belle; Ira, unmarried, is the proprietor of a livery stable in Dana; Ellsworth married Ida Cox and lives on a farm in Groveland township; Eva, wife of James Hayter, of Newton, Jasper county, Iowa, has two children—Lulu and Beryl; Julia, wife of Richard White, of Pocahontas county, Iowa, has eight children—Ernest, Chloe, Ethel, Pearl, Harvey, and Leo, Lila and Lela (triplets); Belle, a resident of Newton, Iowa, has been twice married, by her first husband, George Griffin, having two children, Amy and Alva, her pres-

ent husband being William J. Crawford; Ida, the wife of James Justice, of Newton, Iowa, has two children—Guy and Bernice; Ella, the wife of Allen Martin, of Dana, has six children—Edna, Alva, John, William, Agnes and Doris; and Bernice, the wife of William Mathis, of Los Angeles, California.

Politically Mr. Winans is a Democrat. He has filled some local offices, such as roadmaster and school trustee.

JAMES S. FOOTE.

Owning and occupying one of the fine farms of LaSalle county, located on section 11, Hope township, is found the subject of this sketch, James S. Foote, one of the substantial and highly respected farmers of the county. For a period of fifty years Mr. Foote has been identified with LaSalle county, and as one of its representative citizens it is fitting therefore that some personal mention should be made of him in this work.

James S. Foote was born in the town of Milton, Saratoga county, New York, May 6, 1833, and is a son of Daniel A. and Mary D. (Prior) Foote, natives of Connecticut, and Massachusetts respectively. He is one of six children—four sons and two daughters, three of whom are now living, the other two being Caroline P., the widow of Elijah Dimmick, of Dimmick Station, Illinois; and Dauphin K., of Downer's Grove, Illinois. Daniel A., the father, was boss carpenter and farmer, owning two or three farms in Saratoga county, New York. He died in that state in July, 1849, at the age of sixty-six years. His widow survived him some years and came out west to Illinois, with her son James S. She died in Tonica, Illinois, about 1861, at the age of sixty-eight years. Both parents were members of the Presbyterian church.

On both the maternal and paternal side Mr. Foote is of English descent. His grandfather, David Foote, of Washington, Connecticut, married Esther Averill, of Preston, that state, and was a lieutenant colonel in the army of the Revolution, engaging in the battles of Stillwater, New York and Danbury, Connecticut. He died June 13, 1806. The maternal grandfather of our subject, John Prior, was a soldier in the war of 1812, serving also as a lieutenant colonel. Both these men were farmers in their vocation, and reared large families of children. Nathaniel Foote, the original ancestor of the Foote family in America, landed in this country as a passenger from the famous Mayflower.

James S. Foote spent the first sixteen years of his life in Saratoga

county, New York, his days being passed not unlike those of other farmer boys, assisting in the farm work in summer and in winter attending the district school. Farming has been his life occupation. In September, 1849, he came to Illinois and located in Eden township, LaSalle county. Here for two years he was a wage worker, employed by the month. At the end of that time he purchased a team and began farming operations of his own. Buying one hundred and eight acres, on time, at the rate of thirty dollars an acre, he built a small house and gave his diligent efforts to the improvement of his property. This farm he subsequently sold and then bought eighty acres in Hope township, which he improved and which he still owns. Also, he has from time to time invested in other land and at this writing has four other farms, containing respectively eighty, fifty-eight, one hundred and twenty-nine and one hundred and forty acres, the last named tract being south of Lostant.

Mr. Foote is a man of a family. Mrs. Foote, formerly Miss Caroline A. Crandall, is a daughter of Otis and Eliza (Lake) Crandall. Mr. and Mrs. Foote have four children, namely: Edward J., Hettie E., Emma M. and Fred L. Edward J. married Miss Luella Bailey, lives south of Lostant, and has four children, Jay, Celia, Elmer and Ralph. Emma M. married Clarence Oug, of Eden township, LaSalle county, and they have three children, Ralph, Fred and Harry. Hettie E. and Fred L. are at home. Mrs. Foote is a member of the Baptist church.

Politically Mr. Foote is a Republican and has served a number of years in local offices. He was a school director many years, nine years was road commissioner, and is now serving his fourth term as a justice of the peace. Fraternally he is identified with the A. O. U. W.

JEFFERSON W. LEININGER.

The well known and much esteemed citizen whose name heads this sketch and who is a retired farmer of Tonica, Illinois, has been a resident of LaSalle county for a period of forty-two years, and has maintained his home in Tonica since the spring of 1884. A sketch of his life is of interest in this connection, and briefly is as follows:

Jefferson W. Leininger was born in Stark county, Ohio, August 4, 1837, the son of pioneers of the Western Reserve. His parents, Jacob and Elizabeth (Slusser) Leininger, were natives of Pennsylvania. In their family were eleven children, nine sons and two daughters, of which number three are now living: George, of Stark county, Ohio; Jefferson, whose name

heads this review; and Henry, of Ford county, Illinois. The father was by occupation a farmer. He went from Pennsylvania to Ohio in 1812 and settled in Stark county, where he lived until 1857, when he came with his family to Illinois and located at Cedar Point, Eden township, LaSalle county. At this last named place he was engaged in farming until the time of his death. His first purchase of land in Eden township was two hundred and twenty-four acres. Afterward he bought three hundred and twenty acres in the same township, three hundred and twenty acres in Mendota township and three hundred and twenty acres in Lee county. He made his home on the original farm he bought in Eden township until his death, which occurred in 1872, when he had attained the age of seventy-four years. He was a self-made man. In his youth he had no educational advantages, three days being the extent of his schooling. His widow died in 1896, at the age of eighty-eight years. Both were Methodists.

Of the grandparents of our subject, we record that his paternal grandfather was George Leininger, a native of Pennsylvania and a descendant of German ancestors. He died in Stark county, Ohio, over seventy years of age. In his family were four sons and four daughters. The maternal grandfather of Mr. Leininger was John Slusser, likewise a native of Pennsylvania. He was one of twelve men who came with their families from Pennsylvania to Stark county, Ohio, in 1812, all making the western journey together. John Slusser passed the rest of his life and died in Stark county. He was the father of several children.

Jefferson W. Leininger spent the first twenty years of his life in his native county, reared on his father's farm and educated in the district schools. Then in 1857 he accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois, and he remained a member of the home circle until he was twenty-three. After his marriage, which event occurred in 1861, his father gave him a little start in a piece of land, a part of an eighty-acre tract. To this the young man added by the purchase of an adjoining tract, making in all one hundred and sixty acres, which he improved and on which he made his home for thirty-two years. He still owns this farm. Also he owns one hundred and sixty acres in Dakota, and a like amount in Nebraska. He carried on farming operations, meeting with success in his undertakings, until he retired in March, 1884, and moved to Tonica. Here he has seventeen acres, on which he built a comfortable and attractive home, and where he and his good wife are living surrounded with all the comforts of life.

Mr. Leininger was first married September 17, 1861, to Miss Harriet Rank, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Hull) Rank. She died in 1892, at the age of fifty-two years, leaving no children. His present wife, whose maiden name was Alcena Early, he wedded October 1, 1896. She was born

in Van Buren county, Iowa, and her parents, James C. and Susanna (McDaniel) Early, were both natives of Indiana, and the parents of nine children, three of whom are deceased. The parents removed to Iowa at an early day, but later returned to Indiana and there Mrs. Leininger was reared; but in after years her parents returned to Iowa, she accompanying them. Her mother died in 1882, aged fifty-three, and her father, now seventy-eight, resides in Iowa with a daughter. Mrs. Leininger taught school seven years in Indiana, and then thirteen years in the graded schools of Iowa, teaching mostly in Farmington and West Branch, that state. She and Mr. Leininger were married near Bonaparte, Iowa. She has been a member of the Baptist church since the age of sixteen, her people being adherents to the faith of this church. Mr. Leininger is a member of the Methodist church, and in politics a Republican.

GEORGE W. FORD.

George W. Ford, the son of the late pioneer Joseph F. Ford, was born in Freedom township, LaSalle county, Illinois, in 1848, his birthplace being the Swenson farm, five miles southwest of the village of Harding. He had the advantage of a common school education, and at the age of twenty years began life on his own account. For three years he rented land of his brother Frank and afterward lived on rented farms in Waltham, Ophir and Freedom townships, renting of different parties, for about twenty years. His accumulations were slowly made and it was not until 1891 that he decided to purchase a farm. He then selected a tract of land a short distance east of the village of Prairie Center, which he has since owned and occupied.

Joseph F. Ford, the father of George W., was born in the state of Maine; was a wheelwright by trade and helped to make the first water wheel used in Lowell, Massachusetts. Also he helped to build the first trucks that were used under the first cars on the Boston & Maine Railway. Having a brother in the west, he was induced to come to Illinois, and on his arrival here he settled on the farm above mentioned in Freedom township, LaSalle county, where he passed the rest of his life and died, his death occurring in 1867, at the age of sixty-three years. His wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Whitcomb, bore him eleven children, and is now deceased. Their children in order of birth were as follows: Frank, who died in 1892; Emma, the wife of Milton Courtright, of Sheridan, Illinois; Josephine, the wife of Daniel Beckwith, of Ottawa, Illinois; Eugene Q., a prominent farmer of Freedom, Illinois; George W.; Mary E., Eva and Nina—the last three of Ottawa.

George W. Ford was married December 25, 1871, to Miss Sophia Butler, daughter of the well known Captain Ed Butler, a soldier of the Mexican war, and a sister of the prominent and prosperous farmer, Benjamin J. Butler, of LaSalle county. The Butlers came from the state of Maine and settled in LaSalle county, Illinois, some years after the arrival of the Fords. Mr. and Mrs. George W. Ford have four children: Gordon C., Sarah, Nettie and Ben Jack.

The Fords have affiliated with the Republican party, and while they have filled some of the town offices when called upon to do so they have not gone out of their way to become candidates for any office, preferring to remain private citizens and devote their energy to their own chosen vocations.

ALFRED I. HARTSHORN.

On the roll of LaSalle county's pioneers we find the name of this gentleman, who since an early period in the development of this section of the state has been a resident of the county and has borne an important part in the work of upbuilding and progress. In mercantile circles and agricultural lines he has not only won individual success, but has also advanced the general welfare, and at all times has commanded the respect and esteem of his fellowmen by reason of his upright and honorable life. Mr. Hartshorn is a representative of one of the oldest American families, for his ancestry may be traced back to 1633, when a representative of the family came from England, taking up his abode in Connecticut. Oliver Hartshorn was a Revolutionary soldier and valiantly aided in the cause of American independence. He was born November 1, 1760, and his wife, whose maiden name was Pettengill, was born May 2, 1759. They were farming people, who reared sons and daughters named Oliver, Royal, Ira, Asa, Mrs. Clarissa Armstrong, Miranda, Sophronia, wife of John White, and Eliza.

Of this family Ira Hartshorn was the father of our subject. He was born in Lisbon, New London county, Connecticut, June 3, 1793, and died in LaSalle county, Illinois, September 17, 1859. He served for a short time in the war of 1812 in his native state, and was connected with business affairs there as a merchant and hotel proprietor, and in New York was the manager of a stage route. February 4, 1818, he was united in marriage to Joanna Burnham, a native of Lisbon, Connecticut, who was born July 30, 1796. They located in Cazenovia, Madison county, New York, but a year or so later removed to Lebanon, that state. In 1836 Mr. Hartshorn made a prospecting tour through the west, and in 1837 brought his family



A. J. Hartsborn

to Illinois. He was first a resident of Joliet, where he secured employment in a sawmill, but in 1837 he entered a claim of government land, which he afterward developed into a fine farm, making his home there for two decades. That property is now owned by his son, Alfred. Mr. Hartshorn died September 17, 1859, at the age of sixty-six, from disease contracted that year while on a prospecting tour at Pike's Peak. His wife was a lady of strong character and many virtues. She remained on the old homestead until 1866, and afterward lived with her children until her death, which occurred February 14, 1875. In his political views Mr. Hartshorn was a Democrat in early life, but after his removal to Illinois became a supporter of the Free-soil party. He was well known to the pioneer settlers of LaSalle county and performed an important part in transforming its wild prairie land into a tract of rich fertility. Ira and Joanna (Burnham) Hartshorn became the parents of nine children: Joshua P., who was born December 10, 1818, is now a resident of Cass county, Iowa; Erasmus Darwin, born June 4, 1821, resides in California; Alfred I. is the next in order of birth; Pliny, born August 26, 1825, is living in LaSalle; Calvert, born July 25, 1827, is a resident of Ouarga, Illinois; Mary, born March 1, 1830, is the widow of Eli Strawn and resides in Chicago; Lucy, who was born March 17, 1832, is the widow of A. M. Niles and lives in Ulysses, Nebraska; Lydia, born November 28, 1835, is the wife of R. V. Downing, of David City, Nebraska; and Charles Bishop, born June 23, 1838, died at Shiloh, Tennessee, during the civil war, while serving as a member of the Fourth Illinois Cavalry. Of these children the youngest one was born in LaSalle county, the others having been born in New York.

Alfred Ira Hartshorn is a native of the Empire state, his birth having occurred in Lebanon, Madison county, on the 22d of May, 1823. He came with his father's family to LaSalle county in 1837, when fourteen years of age, and there are few residents of the county who have lived longer within its borders than he. His educational advantages were limited, but in 1840 he spent about six months as a student in an advanced school in Princeton, Illinois, paying his way by the expenditure of his savings from the proceeds of farm work, at which he was employed in 1838-9. In 1841 he and two brothers secured a claim of canal land, which was subsequently purchased at a sale of canal lands, and is still the property of him whose name introduces this review. By other acquisitions from time to time Mr. Hartshorn became the possessor of much property, principally farming land, the total aggregating one thousand and four acres. His old homestead embraces five hundred and sixty acres, all in one body. In 1854 he rented his farm and engaged in the coal trade, shipping the first car-load of coal that was sent on the Illinois Central Railroad from LaSalle, which fact is of interest from an

historical point of view. He continued in that business successfully until 1860, when he returned to his farm and devoted himself to agriculture and stock-raising. Progressive methods characterize the management of the place, and the neatness and thrift which pervades the home farm is an indication of the careful supervision of the owner.

Mr. Hartshorn had been three times married. On the 1st of January, 1849, he wedded Miss Teresa Culver, a native of New York, who died in 1850, leaving one child, that died in infancy. On the 10th of December, 1856, he married Amelia A. Dean, a native of Kentucky and a daughter of Alfred Dean. She died in November, 1869, leaving three children,—George A., Frederick P. and Teresa, wife of Charles L. Diesterwey, of LaSalle. In 1897 Mr. Hartshorn was again married, Miss Mary Watson becoming his wife, and they have one son, Asa.

George A. Hartshorn, the eldest son, is numbered among the native residents of LaSalle county, his birth having occurred here in October, 1857. He acquired a high-school education in the town of LaSalle and then pursued a commercial course in Bryant & Stratton's Business College, of Chicago. Since attaining his majority he has devoted his energies to the operation of the Hartshorn homestead in Waltham township, and is one of the enterprising and progressive agriculturists of the community. He was married July 5, 1885, to Miss Minnie Mitchell, daughter of William Mitchell, and they now have four interesting children,—Amelia, Ira, Floyd and Walter. In his political views George Hartshorn is a stalwart Democrat, and has several times been honored with local positions of trust and responsibility. The first township office he held was that of school trustee, in which capacity he served for fifteen years. He has also filled the position of justice of the peace and town collector, and in the spring of 1896 he was elected to his present position, that of supervisor, to succeed the Hon. John Wylie. He is now acting as a member and chairman of the county asylum committee on the board of supervisors, and exercises his official prerogative to support all measures and movements which are calculated to benefit the entire community. He is known as a valued citizen and a progressive young business man, and in LaSalle county has many warm friends.

In his political views Alfred I. Hartshorn has been a lifelong Democrat, loyal to his party and holding its traditions sacred; but from the financial principles of that branch of the party which advocates a free coinage of silver he is a dissenter. He has been one of the prominent gold Democrats of his part of the state, and in 1896 was a delegate to a convention at Chicago which led to the national convention at Indianapolis that nominated Hon. John M. Palmer for the presidency on the sound-money platform. Though he has always been actuated by motives purely patriotic and borne an active

part in public affairs, he has never sought political preferment or accepted any political office. His ability as a man of affairs is of a high order and his advice has often been sought in matters involving very important interests.

RUSSELL E. STANFORD.

Russell E. Stanford, who is well and favorably known throughout LaSalle county, is a worthy representative of two of the pioneer families of this county. His father, Emory Stanford, a native of New York state, located at Lowell in 1838, and constructed the old water-power mill at that point. In his early manhood he was engaged in contracting and building, but his later years were devoted to agriculture. About 1849 he purchased a farm situated four miles south of Lowell, and there he spent the remainder of his days, dying when in his seventy-second year. He was much honored and looked up to in his community, was the first supervisor of Vermillion township, at one time was the trustee of the school fund and a member of the local school board. Politically he was a stanch Republican, and prior to the civil war was a strong Abolitionist. His father, Jonathan Stanford, was a native of Vermont and of English extraction. He supported the American cause, however, and served in the army for supremacy of the young republic on this continent. He removed to the state of New York, where his death some years subsequently occurred, after he had reached the age of three-score years.

The first wife of Emory Stanford was a Miss Emeline Cantine, and their only child, Susan, married Henry Loomis, now of Dakota county, Nebraska. The mother of the subject of this article was Mary, the daughter of Jacob Elliott, who came from one of the early colonial families of Massachusetts, in which state his own birth took place. He removed to the Empire state, and at an early period came to LaSalle county, in company with a man by the name of Seeley. They bought the water-power mill at Lowell and were interested in various local industries here. Mr. Elliott died when in his prime, leaving several children. Mrs. Mary L. Stanford was born in New York state, and by her marriage to Emory Stanford she became the mother of seven sons and a daughter, of whom but three survive, Russell E., Sarah M., wife of Justin Hall, of Urbana, Illinois; and John Franklin, who resides near Chatsworth, this state.

The birth of Russell E. Stanford took place in Lowell, LaSalle county, October 11, 1842, and from that time until February, 1898, he dwelt in Vermillion township, all but six or seven years of this period being spent on his father's old homestead. When he had arrived at man's estate, he

rented a quarter-section of this property of his father, and the first land owned by him was the undivided half of a tract of eighty acres, adjoining the old home place. To this he later added about forty acres, which he cultivated in connection with the land owned by his father. After the death of that honored citizen, he purchased the homestead and now, after buying another eighty-acre tract of one of the heirs, his farm comprises two hundred and forty acres. This place is an excellent one, improved with good buildings and all of the accessories of a model farm. Mr. Stanford continued to operate the farm until a little more than a year ago, when he retired, having amassed a competency sufficient for his remaining years. He has bought a pleasant house in the southwestern part of the village of Tonica, and is enjoying a well earned rest from the arduous labor which has hitherto engrossed him.

Everything affecting the welfare of this community has received the earnest attention of Mr. Stanford. For three years he was the supervisor of Vermillion township, for seven years or more he was a road commissioner, and for many years he served as a school director. In his political belief he is a Republican.

In February, 1866, Mr. Stanford married Miss Rebecca Downey, who died May 10, 1868, aged but twenty-two years. She was a devoted member of the Congregational church, and was loved by all who knew her. She left one child, Emory H., who is married and for years was engaged in teaching, but at present is in business in Tacoma, Washington. On the 11th of January, 1872, Mr. Stanford was united in marriage with Miss Mary, a daughter of Israel and Mary (Burgess) Hutchinson. Three children were born to our subject and wife, namely: Bertha E., Mary Eva, and Florence Ella, all of whom are receiving good educational advantages and are yet at home with their parents.

DANIEL BASSETT.

Honored and highly esteemed by everyone who knows him, Daniel Bassett, of Groveland township, LaSalle county, is a sterling representative of two of the oldest families of New England, and possesses many of the traits of character for which his sturdy ancestors were renowned. He adheres to the same high principles of daily life, upholds the same ideas of religion and religious liberty, and has the same love for the cause of education and every power making toward the uplifting and progress of the race.

In tracing his lineage it is found, by old records, that his ancestor, William Bassett, emigrated from England to Boston, Massachusetts, in 1639, and located at a village called Hamden, about three miles north of New

Haven, Connecticut. He married a Miss Ives. They had one son, John, who was born in 1653, and died February 8, 1714. He served in the state militia, and, being appointed as captain of a company of New Haven troops, always afterward went by the title of Captain Bassett. He married Mercy Grigson, and their son John, born in 1691, became a personage of influence in his time. He represented the town of New Haven in the state legislature for a number of sessions, and was appointed cornet of a company of home guards. He owned considerable property, and was highly respected. He died March 27, 1757, aged sixty-six years. His wife was Elizabeth Thompson, and one of his children, John, was born in 1717, married Sarah Eaton, a granddaughter of the first governor of the New Haven colony, and died when sixty years of age, February 12, 1777. Their son, Levi, born in 1747, married Mabel Atwater, and had five children, namely: Esther, Eaton, Lyman, Sallie and Leverett. He departed this life September 6, 1816, when sixty-nine years old.

Leverett Ives Bassett, the father of our subject, was born in Litchfield county, Connecticut, and died on the same old homestead where he first saw the light. He married Linda Holt, a native of the same county, and they led the peaceful, industrious lives of agriculturists. Her father, Daniel Holt, also a Connecticut farmer, came from one of the oldest families in that state. His ancestor, William Holt, came from England and was one of the early settlers of New Haven, and was one of the seven persons who signed the New Haven constitution on the 1st of July, 1664. He died at Wallingford, Connecticut, September 1, 1683, aged seventy-three years. Daniel Holt, above mentioned, was the eldest of twelve children, and was born in East New Haven, July 5, 1767. On the 12th of January, 1789, he married Hannah, a daughter of Joseph and Hannah Holt, born August 17, 1767, and died December 14, 1839. They were the parents of five children, namely: Daniel, Hiram, Jeremiah, Hannah and Linda. Daniel Holt, who died June 23, 1834, when in his sixty-eighth year, removed to Northbury (subsequently, Plymouth, and now Thomaston) in 1789, and thence to Harwinton, where the remainder of his life was spent. Mrs. Linda (Holt) Bassett was born May 23, 1800, and died on Christmas day, 1854. Later Leverett I. Bassett wedded Hannah, sister of his first wife, and she lived to attain the extreme age of one hundred and one years. Mr. Bassett was called to his reward, April 4, 1863. Of ten children born in his family, four were sons, and of the entire number six survive, namely: Daniel, our subject; Levi; Annis, the widow of Stiles Hotchkis; Mary, the wife of William W. Clemence; Mrs. Lois B. Coe, of Connecticut; and George, of Cleveland, Ohio.

The birth of Daniel Bassett took place in the country where so many

generations of his forefathers had passed the span of life, the date of this event being February 16, 1823. He grew to manhood on a farm and received a very "common" school education. In August, 1852, he was united in marriage to Miss Amy Elvira Barker, a daughter of Daniel and Amy (Pardy) Barker, and one week afterward the young couple started for the new home which they were to found on the broad prairies of Illinois. They located near West Hallock, Peoria county, buying a quarter-section of land, to the cultivation of which Mr. Bassett devoted his chief energy for many years. In 1865 he removed to his present homestead in Groveland township. Here he has owned, previous to allotting to his children, five hundred and sixty acres, finely improved, having a substantial dwelling and other farm buildings, and all of the comforts and conveniences deemed necessary in modern life. Mr. Bassett has been an industrious, hard-working man, useful in his community, upright and just in all of his transactions, and is wholly worthy the high esteem in which he is held.

For almost forty-six years, Mr. Bassett found a faithful companion and sharer of his joys and sorrows in the person of his devoted wife. She was a lady of rare Christian virtues, and was loved by all who knew her. As is her husband, she was a consistent member of the Congregational church, and nobly strove to do her duty toward all mankind. She received the summons to the mansions above in April, 1898, when she was in her seventy-second year. The three children of Mr. and Mrs. Bassett are: Annis Elvira, Owen B. and Ella A. The elder daughter married Joseph Bane, since deceased, and their children are named respectively Daniel Hubert and Ira Owen. Owen B., the only son of our subject, is unmarried, and resides at home. Ella A. first married Wiley Marshall and had one child, Edna, and is now the wife of C. R. Hinton.

Mr. Bassett has kept posted in all of the public affairs of this country, deeming this the duty of every patriotic citizen, but he has never been an aspirant to official distinction, and has resolutely kept aloof from politics. Since becoming a voter he has cast his ballot for the nominees of the Whig and Republican parties.

AMOS W. MERRITT.

Amos W. Merritt, of the firm of Merritt & Bangs, general merchants, Lostant, Illinois, claims Ohio as his native state, his birth having occurred in Belmont county, June 29, 1843. He is a son of Henry P. and Margaret M. (Wilson) Merritt, natives of Pennsylvania. Their family was composed of eleven children, seven sons and four daughters, of whom nine are now living: Amos W., whose name introduces this sketch; John E., of White

City, Kansas; Isabel W., wife of I. P. Wierman, of Lostant, Illinois; Hannah B., wife of Sewell Gatchell, of Freeport, Illinois; Mahlon L., of Roberts, Illinois; Charles H., also of Roberts; Maggie J., wife of George B. Hager, of Ottawa, Illinois; Isaac E., of Buckley, Illinois; and George L., of Roberts. The father of this family learned the trade of wagon-maker in early life and followed it until he was forty years of age, from that time on giving his attention to farming. He went with his parents from Pennsylvania to Belmont county, Ohio, when he was seven years old, and grew to manhood and married in that state. In 1853 he moved to Illinois and located in Magnolia, Putnam county, where he had a wagon shop for four years, until 1857. That year he came to LaSalle county and bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Hope township, partly improved at the time of purchase. It was principally upon this farm that he reared his children. He lived there until 1882, when he moved to a place near Wenona and lived there twelve years. He died April 13, 1896, at the age of seventy-eight years. His widow is still living, now in her eightieth year, her home being in Lostant. She is a member of the Society of Friends, as also was he. Politically he was a Republican, and at different times held several township offices, including that of supervisor.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was John Merritt. He was a Pennsylvanian, a dealer in boots and shoes, and died in the prime of early manhood, being only twenty-five years old at the time of his death. He left a widow and three little sons. On his mother's side Mr. Merritt's grandfather was Amos Wilson, a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1794. Mr. Wilson was twice married. His first wife, Hannah Brown, a native of Pennsylvania, and whose father was an Irishman, he married in Pennsylvania, and by her had five children. The family moved to Ohio and located on a farm in Belmont county in 1826, and the same year the wife and mother died, at the age of twenty-six years. In 1828 Mr. Wilson married Miss Anna Morris, by whom he had nine children. They came to Illinois in 1851 and located in Putnam county, on a new farm, where he passed the rest of his life, and where he died January 15, 1881, in his eighty-seventh year.

Amos W. Merritt was ten years old when he came with his parents to Illinois, and he has lived in Hope township, LaSalle county, since 1857. His youthful days were passed not unlike those of other farmer boys, assisting in the farm work and in winter attending the district schools. When he started out in life on his own responsibility it was as a farmer on rented land. He continued farming until 1888, when he moved to Lostant. The following year he was appointed postmaster. While filling this office, in 1890, he engaged in the grocery business, and the following year took in as a partner M. H. Bangs, his brother-in-law, the firm becoming Merritt & Bangs. They

then added a stock of dry goods, boots and shoes, making a complete general store, and have since kept a well assorted stock of general merchandise. They have established a good trade among the leading citizens of the town and surrounding country and are ranked with the enterprising up-to-date business men of Lostant.

Mr. Merritt was married December 30, 1875, to Miss Sarah A. Bangs, daughter of Samuel L. and Margaret (Howard) Bangs, the former a native of England, the latter of Massachusetts. Mrs. Merritt is one of five children—two sons and three daughters—and she has one sister and two brothers living, namely: Jennie, wife of Dr. A. H. Hatton, of Peru, Illinois; J. Edward, superintendent of the township high school, Pontiac, Illinois; and Mark H., in business with Mr. Merritt at Lostant. Mr. and Mrs. Merritt have no children. For several years previous to her marriage Mrs. Merritt was a popular and successful teacher, teaching at Rutland and Lostant and for a short time in the academy at Fallsboro, LaSalle county. She was Mr. Merritt's assistant in the postoffice during the four years and a half he filled that position. Religiously she is a Methodist and fraternally a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Mr. Merritt being identified with both the F. & A. M., Tonica Lodge, No. 364, and the O. E. S. Politically he is a Republican. In addition to the office already named, he has served in other local offices, such as those of township assessor, member of the village school board and member of the village board of trustees.

EDWARD H. BOYLE.

Now living retired, in the town of Lostant, LaSalle county, is Edward Harrison Boyle, one of the sterling pioneers of this county and state. In his youth he experienced the hardships of life on the frontier, and during his entire life he has been industrious and public spirited, desirous of promoting the welfare of his community.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was David Boyle, who was born in Virginia and was of Irish descent. He was a farmer by occupation, and came to Illinois at an early day. He reared several children and died when in the prime of manhood. The maternal grandfather, Thornton Wilson, a native of Kentucky, was of Scotch descent. He came to this state in 1825, and first located near Elkhart Grove and Springfield. At the end of five years he removed to a farm in Putnam county, where he died in March, 1835, leaving a large family to mourn his loss.

The parents of Edward H. Boyle were Abner and Matilda (Wilson) Boyle. The father was born in Bedford county, Virginia, and was but three years old when his parents removed to Kentucky, settling in Todd county,

where he grew to manhood. In 1828 they came to Illinois, and, for a few months lived in Danville. In the spring of 1829 they went to Putnam county, where Abner Boyle took up a quarter-section of government land. Improving that place he continued to dwell there until the autumn of 1882, when he retired, and made his home in Lostant until his death, in March, 1886, when he was in his seventy-ninth year. His widow, whose death took place in 1892, was almost ninety years of age at that time. She was a devoted member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. Mr. Boyle was a typical pioneer, undaunted by obstacles, hard-working and hopeful. He participated in the Black Hawk war, and was active in all of the affairs of his community for years. Several times he served as a supervisor in Putnam county. In former years he was a Whig, and later was identified with the Republican party. At the time that he settled on Ox Bow prairie, in 1829, he and his brothers built a cabin of rough logs, rudely piled together, the roof made of "shakes." The spaces between the logs were unfilled, and windows and chimneys were not required, as all of the cooking was performed out of doors. The first season, in addition to building this simple cabin, they planted and raised twenty acres of corn, the yield being from fifty to sixty bushels to the acre. This corn was conveyed to the mills on the Mackinaw river, fifty miles away, and, with a plentiful supply of venison, the hardy pioneers fared quite comfortably the ensuing winter. Their needs were few and simple, and they really enjoyed their quiet, humble life. In 1830 Mr. Boyle was appointed postmaster of Ox Bow, by President Pierce. It cost twenty-five cents to send letters in those days, and the work of postmaster was so nominal that Mr. Boyle soon resigned. He frequently made trips to Chicago with wheat, receiving only forty cents a bushel. The first circuit court convened in Putnam county was held on the first Monday in May, 1831, and, in accordance with the law, the county commissioners had selected the house of Thomas Gallagher, on the bank of the Illinois river, about a quarter of a mile above the trading post kept by Thomas Hartzell, as the place where the court should be held. On the appointed day the people of that section assembled, and as no clerk had as yet been provided the judge appointed Hooper Warren and fixed his official bond at two thousand dollars, his sureties being John Dixon and Henry Thorn. The sheriff then gravely announced that the court was considered in session, and the grand jurors were duly chosen and sworn in. They were as follows: Daniel Dimmick, Elijah Epperson, Henry Thomas, Leonard Roth, Jesse Williams, Israel Archer, James Warnock, John L. Ramsey, William Hames, John Strawn, Samuel Laughlin (foreman), David Boyle, Stephen Willis, Jeremiah Strawn, Abraham Stratten and Nelson Shepherd. After the division of Putnam county, the first election held was on August 1, 1834, the

officials to be elected being a member of congress, a justice of the peace, and a constable for each precinct. The vote was small, and each voter called out the name of the person whom he desired to take the office, the clerk writing this down, opposite the name of the voter, in the poll book. This election was held in Sandy precinct, at the houses of Jesse Roberts, John H. Shaw and Abner Boyle.

Edward Harrison Boyle, who was born in Hennepin, Illinois, February 14, 1837, was one of six children, two sons and four daughters. Two of the number are deceased; William A. resides in Burton, Kansas; Caroline is the widow of John Griffith, and lives in Lostant, and Artemesa, the youngest, lives with her brother, our subject, neither of them ever having married. William A. is a hero of the civil war, as for nearly three years he was a member of Vaughn's battery, was stationed at Little Rock for some time, assisted in taking that city, and was in the command of General Steele.

In his boyhood, E. H. Boyle attended the district schools of Putnam county, and always dwelt with his parents as long as they lived, giving them loving, filial care and attention, especially in their declining years. Since 1882 he has resided in the village of Lostant. At the time of his father's death his estate of some eight hundred and fifty acres was divided among the heirs. He and his sister, whose interests, plans and aims are one, own the home property in Lostant, and six hundred and thirty acres of fine farm land, three hundred and ten acres of which is situated in Putnam county and half a section in LaSalle county. Mr. Boyle is a loyal citizen, striving to do his duty toward his country and community, and since he arrived at his majority he has deposited his ballot in favor of the nominees and principles of the Republican party.

JOHN R. LAMBERT.

John R. Lambert is a self-made man, and his example is well worthy of emulation by the rising generation. His success is but another testimony to the oft-repeated fact that a young man of good common sense, industrious and economical habits, and with upright principles, is certain to prosper, if he perseveringly attends to business and faithfully carries out the plans which he carefully decides upon in the first place.

The parents of John R. Lambert were Joel and Sarah (Reed) Lambert, both natives of Kentucky. The father was a son of Benjamin Lambert, of German lineage, a native of Virginia and an early settler in Kentucky. He was a farmer, and besides was a local minister, devoted to the old-school Baptist creed. He lived a worthy, useful life and passed



J. R. Lambert

to his reward at a ripe age, his death taking place in Indiana. The father of Mrs. Joel Lambert was John Reed, who likewise was born in Virginia and who was a hero of the war of 1812. He was of Welsh descent and a typical frontiersman, a pioneer of Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois. To this state he came in 1830 and his death took place in Knox county when he was well along in years.

Joel Lambert accompanied his father's family to Indiana and to Knox county, Illinois, nearly seventy years ago. He bought eighty acres of land in Warren county later and there passed his last years, his death occurring in 1840, when he was in his prime, being but thirty-eight years of age. His widow, Mrs. Sarah Lambert, survived him more than half a century and died in 1890, when seventy-five years of age. Both were members of the Baptist church. In the early days of Illinois' statehood, Mr. Lambert belonged to what was known as the light-horse cavalry, a state military organization. Of their two sons and three daughters two are deceased, and those surviving are John R., James A., and Ann Jane, the widow of Coleman Hailey, of Peoria. In 1845 Mrs. Lambert became the wife of Hartwell Hailey, and their two children were Lida, who died when in her seventeenth year; and Ara, who married L. T. Broadus and is now a resident of Horton, Kansas.

The birth of John R. Lambert occurred in Knox county, Illinois, October 12, 1836, and owing to the death of his father when he was quite young he was thrown upon his own resources earlier than he otherwise would have been. In 1845 he went to Putnam county and twenty years later he came to LaSalle county. When he left home to earn his own livelihood he had but six dollars, and this he had made by working for neighbors. As soon as he could do so, he commenced renting a farm in Putnam county, and at the end of two years came to this county, where, after renting land for a year, he bought eighty acres, in Hope township. This place was partly improved, and some time afterward he sold it, investing his capital in a quarter-section farm in the same township. Later he disposed of that place also and since then has owned the old homestead in Hope township, which is now carried on by his son. As the years rolled by he prospered, and on several occasions he bought more land until he now owns four hundred and eighty acres, two hundred and forty being in Eden township and the rest in Hope township. Besides accomplishing this, he assisted each of his two sons in the purchase of a quarter-section of land. He has made substantial improvements on his property, expending large sums of money for this purpose.

Throughout life Mr. Lambert has adhered strictly to just and upright methods, and in consequence he enjoys the good will and esteem of all

who have had dealings with him. Nor has he neglected his duty as a citizen, and for many years officiated as town clerk, school trustee or director on the school board. Politically he is a Democrat.

On the 3d of September, 1847, Mr. Lambert married Miss Emily E. Hiltabrand, daughter of George and Elizabeth (Gunn) Hiltabrand. She was summoned to the better land in 1886, when in her forty-sixth year. Edward F., the elder son of our subject and wife, married Julia Borngasser and has four living children, namely: Vey, Edward, Fern and Norman. Edward F. Lambert is an energetic young business man of Tonica, being the present proprietor of a large lumber yard here. George H. Lambert, the younger son, is managing the old homestead belonging to his father. His wife was formerly Mary Weber, and their four children are Nora, Merlin, Harold and Vernor. Following in the footsteps of their ancestors, our subject and his wife early identified themselves with the Baptist church, contributing liberally toward its support and actively aiding in the noble work of uplifting humanity.

FREDERICK W. MATTHIESSEN.

Frederick W. Matthiessen, secretary of the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, LaSalle, Illinois, is a native of Germany, born in 1835. He was educated in Germany and graduated in mining engineering at the University of Freiberg, in that country. Mr. Matthiessen and E. C. Hegeler were fellow students at the University of Freiberg, and in 1857 they came to the United States together. Their purpose was to gain practical experience in mining engineering, and accordingly went to Mineral Point, Wisconsin. While at that place they observed the great waste of zinc ore, and conceived the idea of engaging in the smelting of zinc. They came to LaSalle, Illinois, in 1858, selecting this city as a location on account of coal facilities. They began smelting in 1858, and their first operations were hardly more than experimental, the ore being obtained from Wisconsin. As soon as the success of the venture was demonstrated, the works were enlarged, again and again enlarged, until to-day the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company operate the largest plant in the United States, with several millions of dollars invested and a business that has steadily increased until it has reached an enormous volume. In 1866 the rolling-mill department was added. In 1874 the company began to mine its own coal, of which an enormous quantity is necessarily used. Thus it is observed that many coal miners have found employment through the company. A large number of workmen are employed in the zinc works, and to this industry the growth of LaSalle is largely indebted. Of the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company it can

be truthfully said to its credit that workmen have been well paid for their labor and have been in more than one way shown consideration. Among the laborers employed no strike was ever inaugurated.

In 1881 the company began the manufacture of sulphuric acid, and in this department of the business wonderful progress has been achieved and an immense volume of profitable business transacted. The zinc ore is brought principally from Missouri. First, it is desulphurized in the acid works, where tons of acid are made daily. Then the process of smelting takes place, and many tons of spelter are produced each day, and rolled in the rolling-mills into sheet zinc. The first street railway in LaSalle, which was nominally owned by an independent company, was really an appendage to the zinc works, Messrs. Matthiessen and Hegeler paying a certain sum annually for the use of the tracks for the purpose of conducting freight to and from the works.

The zinc company was incorporated in 1871, Messrs. Matthiessen and Hegeler holding the greater part of the stock, the latter president and the former secretary.

Mr. Matthiessen has been and is connected with and interested in several other business enterprises. He was interested in the LaSalle Pressed Brick Company and now has interest in the Western Clock Manufacturing Company, of LaSalle. In the growth and development of LaSalle no other citizen has taken greater interest than has he. The city owns a fine electric light plant and water works system, which was gained through the generosity of Mr. Matthiessen, who purchased and gave them to the city. Educational facilities in LaSalle have been increased through his manifested interest and efforts, assisted by other progressive citizens. From 1887 to 1897, a period of ten years, he served as mayor of the city, and declined further election to this office.

In his personal relations Mr. Matthiessen is unostentatious and considerate. In business affairs, to his foresight and sagacity, his extraordinary success may well be attributed. His has been a business career well rounded with success.

In 1864 Mr. Matthiessen married Fannie Clara Moeller, in Mineral Point, Wisconsin.

JOHN NICHOLSON.

It is always a pleasure to see true merit suitably rewarded, to behold the prosperity of those who eminently deserve it, as does the subject of this review. At an early age he learned one of the great lessons of life, that there is no "royal road" to wealth, and as he was not above work he toiled

industriously until he won not only a snug little fortune, but also the esteem and confidence of the people with whom he has been associated for many years. Work, the true friend of mankind, has developed his latent resources and brought out the strong, self-reliant force of his character.

John Nicholson of this sketch bears the same Christian name as did his two grandfathers. His father's father, a carpenter, was born near the village of Lowder, Westmoreland, England, and passed his entire life there, dying at an advanced age, as did also his wife. They were the parents of four children. John Moffatt, the maternal grandfather, was born, lived and died in England, and for nearly seventy years was actively engaged in the milling business. He had several children, only one of whom was a son. He was signally a patriarch at the time of his death, as he had seen about ninety winters ere he was summoned to his reward.

The parents of our subject were John and Elizabeth (Moffatt) Nicholson, natives of England. The father pursued his calling, that of shoemaking, in the English isle until 1860, when he crossed the Atlantic, accompanied by his wife and a daughter. He came to Lowell, LaSalle county, where he lived retired until his death about five years later, when he was in his sixty-seventh year. He was survived about eight years by his widow, and four of their seven children have also passed to the better land. John, William, and Elizabeth, Mrs. Joseph Warner, are all living in Lowell. The parents were devout members of the Episcopal church.

John Nicholson was born in Westmoreland, England, April 10, 1831, and when he was fourteen years old he was apprenticed for a term of seven years to the miller's trade. Having thoroughly mastered this calling, he proceeded to devote his energies solely to this line of business until he retired some ten years ago. In 1855 he came to the United States, and at once located in Lowell, where he has dwelt for the long period of forty-four years. During the first two years, he worked in the mill here at a small salary, after which he grew more ambitious and rented the mill himself, running it with very fair success from the beginning. Later he purchased the mill property and in time bought some excellent farm land. The story of his business career may be briefly summed up as follows: He was honest and just in all of his transactions, courteous and accommodating to his patrons, and strictly reliable and punctual always. He still owns three hundred and seventeen acres of land and several substantial residences in Lowell. For nearly twenty years he served as a school director, and for five years he was the supervisor of this township. Politically he is rather independent, but in national elections usually favors the Democratic party.

In September, 1863, Mr. Nicholson married Miss Martha, daughter of Benjamin Huss. They have three children—a son and two daughters.

Alvin W. married Cynthia Haldeman, and has six children, namely: Ralph A., Alice V., Vincent R., J. Allen, Edna L. and Elmer Dewey. Margaret Nicholson is unmarried and resides with her parents, and Harriet is the wife of Joseph Dodd, of Farwell, South Dakota. In their religious faith, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson adhere to the creed in which they were reared, the Episcopalian.

BRUCE C. MILLER.

Bruce Clawson Miller, a successful agriculturist of Eden township, LaSalle county, has been the architect of his own fortunes, as he started out in the battle of life empty handed and by the exercise of his native powers has won an honored place and an assured competence for his later years.

The parents of our subject, Seymour and Polly (Clawson) Miller, were natives of New York state. They had four children, but one son and one daughter have died and only Bruce C. and Dwight, of Prattsville, New York, survive. The mother died when our subject was a small boy, and the father subsequently married her sister, Lydia, and had one child by that union. After her death he wedded Harriet Goodsell, and in his old age, as death had once more deprived him of a companion and helpmate, he married Mary Goodsell, a sister of his third wife. He was of Irish descent, and his father, John Miller, a farmer, was born in New York state. He passed his entire life there, dying when upward of three-score and ten years. The father of Mrs. Polly (Clawson) Miller also was born in the Empire state and followed agriculture as a means of livelihood. Seymour Miller learned the carpenter's trade, which he pursued to some extent, later managing a farm and running a hotel. His whole life was spent in Greene county, New York, the place of his birth, and he reached the age allotted to man, three-score and ten. He was a conscientious, upright man and was a worthy member of the Baptist church.

The birth of Bruce C. Miller took place in Greene county, New York, July 24, 1836. He remained with his father, working on the farm and in the hotel, until he had reached his majority. Desiring to locate permanently in the west, he came to Illinois in 1862 and for some time worked for a farmer in the vicinity of Tonica. At length he had saved sufficient capital to buy a farm of eighty acres in Livingston county, but this being in the nature of an investment, he did not go there to live. A few years later, he rented a homestead in LaSalle county, selling the other place, and at the end of seven or eight years he purchased his present farm of one hundred and fifty acres, which he had previously leased for three years. In time he added another tract of forty acres to his original farm, but this property he

afterward sold. Since 1877 he has lived upon his now well improved homestead one mile east of Tonica, on section 24, Eden township. Altogether he owns three hundred and ten acres, one farm of a quarter-section being in Franklin county, Iowa. He is engaged in general farming and stock-raising, and has been very successful, as he justly deserves.

On the 15th of April, 1876, Mr. Miller married Miss Sarah Scott, a daughter of William and Nellie (Hill) Scott, who were natives of Ohio, and farmers by occupation. Mrs. Miller's grandfathers, likewise, were born in the Buckeye state, and her mother's father participated in the war of 1812. Mrs. Miller had one sister, who is deceased, and her only brother, Mitchell Scott, who was sergeant in a company of an Ohio regiment of volunteers during the civil war, is now a resident of Ayr, Nebraska. Four children were born to our subject and wife, Willie, who died when about twelve months old, and Ralph, Verna and Roy, who are yet at home. Mrs. Miller's parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and she consequently was an attendant at the services of that denomination. In his political belief Mr. Miller is a Democrat, but he devotes little of his time to public affairs, as his business and domestic interests take the first place in his heart.

ISAAC RAYMOND.

One of the venerable and highly honored citizens of Tonica is he of whom the following sketch is penned. For forty-four years he has dwelt in this immediate locality, thoroughly interested in its development and prosperity, and doing his full share toward the transforming of the unbroken prairie into the garden spot of the west, as it is to-day.

In tracing his history it is learned that he comes of fine old Puritan stock on the paternal side, his grandfather, Abraham Raymond, having been a native of Connecticut and a farmer by occupation. His last years were spent in New York state, his death taking place when he was more than seventy years of age. Of his large family, Isaac Raymond, born in Saratoga county, New York, became the father of our subject. In his young manhood he was a blacksmith, later he was engaged in merchandising in Brooklyn, and his last years were spent in agricultural pursuits. After he had carried on a farm in Saratoga county for some years he came to Illinois, and died in Tonica in the eighty-fifth year of his age. His first wife, Esther, was, like himself, born in Saratoga county, New York, and in the Empire state her death took place in 1842. She was a daughter of John Hayes, a native of New York state, and of German descent. He, too,

was a tiller of the soil, reared a large family and attained a ripe age. For his second wife, Isaac Raymond chose Ann Underhill, who died before he came to Illinois. She was the mother of two children that survive, namely: Clara, widow of Eugene Hamer, and Harriet, wife of Leonard Perry. Isaac, Jr., and his brother, John H., of Odell, Illinois, are the only children of the marriage of Isaac and Esther (Hayes) Raymond. The father served as a justice of the peace for a long period, and in politics was first a Whig and later a Republican.

The birth of Isaac Raymond occurred on the old homestead in Saratoga county, New York, December 18, 1830. His education, begun in the district schools, was completed in the excellent schools of Brooklyn, and subsequent years of observation and experience added to this until he became the broad-minded, well informed man to whom his numerous friends have looked for counsel for many years. After leaving school he returned to his native county and rented land there for several years, engaging in its cultivation. In 1853 he went to California, leaving New York on a steamer and going by the isthmus of Panama route. A year later he returned home, this time coming by way of Nicaragua. In 1855 he came to Illinois, locating in Eden township, LaSalle county; and though he had no capital at the time of his arrival here he industriously worked for others, saving his wages. After renting farms for four years he bought a homestead of eighty acres, three miles southwest of Tonica and partly improved the place, which he then sold and invested the proceeds in another farm of like acreage, but nearer town. In time he added to the original tract other land, thus making his place one of two hundred and twenty-five acres. He built a good modern house and made other substantial improvements on his homestead, which is now carried on by his son Frederick, his only child, a young man of excellent business ability.

The first marriage of Isaac Raymond was to Mrs. Mary Underhill, nee Brandow, who died in 1892, leaving one son, Frederick. On the 1st of March, 1894, Mr. Raymond wedded Mrs. Lou M. Cox, the widow of Davis G. Cox and a daughter of William B. and Mary Jane (Harris) Magee. By her previous marriage Mrs. Raymond had one daughter, Lulu M., who died when seventeen years of age. Her parents were natives of Wilmington, Clinton county, Ohio, and early settlers in Illinois, coming in 1840 from Ohio to Princeton, and later to Eden township. Here the father died in 1886, aged sixty-eight years, and the wife and mother is yet living and residing in Tonica.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond are members of the Congregational church, the being a deacon and a trustee. Politically he is affiliated with the Republican party. For about ten years he served in the capacity of township

assessor; for one term he was the collector for his district, and was a school director in Tonica twelve years, discharging his duties in a thoroughly satisfactory manner to all concerned.

OLIVER M. KELLEY.

Oliver M. Kelley, grain and stock buyer and dealer in farm machinery, at Dana, Illinois, is one of the prominent business factors in the town in which he has lived for the past four years. A resume of his life is as follows:

Oliver M. Kelley was born in Morris, Illinois, February 5, 1857, a son of Alfred and Louisa (Ferguson) Kelley, natives of Ohio. In the Kelley family were seven children, four sons and three daughters, all of whom, with one exception, are still living, namely: Sara A., the widow of Lloyd Wright; Franklin P., of Peoria, Illinois; Oliver M.; Inez, deceased; Alice, wife of Andrew McBride, of Livingston county, Illinois; Willard, of Groveland township, LaSalle county; and Presley, of Dana. Their father was a farmer who came from Ohio to Illinois in the year 1855, locating at Morris and carrying on farming operations there for eight years. He then came to LaSalle county and purchased eighty acres of land in Groveland township, where he lived until a few months before his death. He died in 1895, at the age of sixty-eight years. His widow still survives him and makes her home in Dana. She belongs to the "Holiness" organization.

James Kelley, the grandfather of Oliver M., was a native of Ohio and lived and died in that state, his age at death being about ninety years. He was the father of seven or eight children. Grandfather Ferguson also was a native of Ohio. He was a shoemaker and farmer, passed his whole life in the Buckeye state, and was sixty years old at the time of his death. He had several children.

Oliver M. Kelley was seven years old when his parents moved to LaSalle county. Reared on a farm, he naturally engaged in farming when he started out in life for himself. At first he rented land, next worked by the month, and then for two years farmed at home. After his marriage he rented in this county, remaining here thus occupied for several years, and then moved to Nebraska. He remained in that state, however, only one year, at the end of that time returning to Groveland township, LaSalle county, where he resumed farming and continued the same seven years. In 1895 he decided upon a change of occupation and came to Dana and engaged in the grain, coal, live-stock and farm-implement business, and the past year has also run an elevator at Leeds.

September 28, 1882, Mr. Kelley married Miss Jessie Mooney, a daughter of John and Lucinda (Ramsey) Mooney. They are the parents of six children, four sons and two daughters, namely: John C., Mary G., Roscoe M., Hurless L., Cassius O. and Leota.

Mrs. Kelley is a member of the Christian church. Fraternally Mr. Kelley is identified with Rutland Lodge, No. 163, I. O. O. F., and also with the M. W. A. Politically he has always been a Democrat. He served as school director in Groveland township several terms, and is now serving his fourth year as a member of the village board of Dana.

JUSTIN W. RICHARDSON.

The publisher of the *Tonica News* and the *Lostant Local*, at Tonica, Justin W. Richardson, is one of the chief builders of the material interests of Tonica. He was born in Lexington, Kentucky, March 31, 1836, a son of Henry and Lucy (Fisher) Richardson, both natives of Massachusetts. These parents had six children, of whom four are now living—Justin W., Lunsford P., William F. and George Herbert. The father in earlier life was employed in the woolen mills of Lowell, Massachusetts, and moved to Lexington, Kentucky, on account of poor health, and after a residence of two years at that place removed to Illinois, locating on a farm near Bloomington. In 1852 he moved into that city and conducted a grocery the remainder of his life, his death occurring in December, 1872, when he had attained the age of sixty-five years. His wife died in 1858. Both were members of the Congregational church. For a number of years Mr. Richardson was treasurer of the board of education of Bloomington. For his second wife he was united in marriage with Mrs. Caroline Robertson, a native of Vermont, and she still resides in Bloomington.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Gideon Richardson, was a native also of the Bay state and a soldier in the Revolutionary war. He was of English descent, and had thirteen children. Mr. Richardson's maternal grandfather, John Fisher, was the operator of a machine and blacksmith shop in Lowell. He also was of English ancestry, had two children, and died at the age of sixty-nine years.

Justin W. Richardson was brought up on his father's farm near Bloomington from the age of one year to sixteen, meanwhile attending the district school in the winter. At length he enjoyed the opportunity of attending the university at Bloomington, and afterward he taught school for seven or eight years. Next he was employed on the Bloomington *Pantagraph*.

as a reporter, and also on the Journal. In 1863 he went to Peoria and became associate editor of the Peoria Transcript; later he was city editor of the Quincy Whig and Republican, which position he filled for a period of four years. Then for a time he was again engaged in the pedagogical profession and in work on the Bloomington papers, and then two years in newspaper work in Farmer City. In the fall of 1872 he came to Streator, next went to Millington, where he remained two years, and then for three years was in Sheridan, still engaged in newspaper work.

In February, 1878, he came to Tonica and re-established the Tonica News, which he has ever since conducted as a local weekly gazetteer, with the success that only comes of intelligence and enterprise.

Politically he is a Republican; was postmaster at Millington a short time, and has been village clerk here in Tonica for six years; he has been a resident of this place twenty-two years. He is a member of Tonica Lodge, No. 364, A. F. & A. M.; of Tonica Lodge, No. 298, I. O. O. F., and with his wife is also a member of Rebekah degree order. In religion both himself and wife are members of the Methodist church.

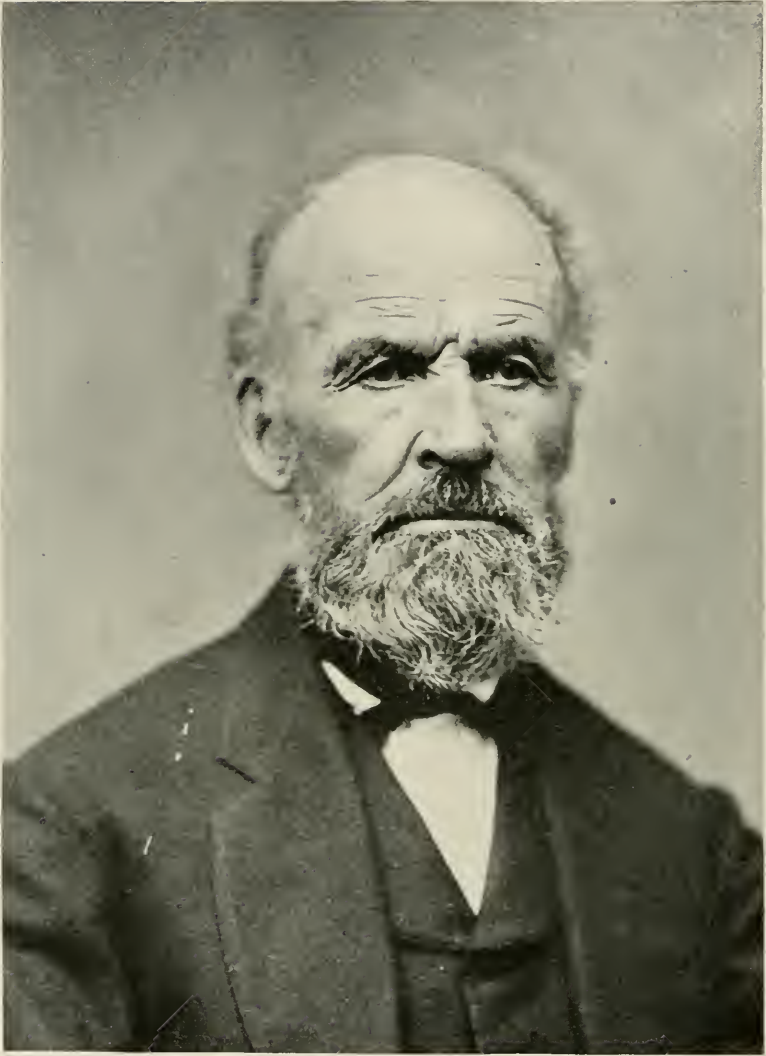
On the 25th day of June, 1878, Mr. Richardson was united in marriage with Miss Adelaide S. Partridge, the daughter of L. H. and Maria A. (Seaver) Partridge. They have had a son and a daughter—Raymond and Alma.

JAMES C. BROWN.

To the memory of a distinguished citizen, a man of sterling worth, integrity of purpose and purity of ambition, this biographical sketch is recorded.

November 2, 1802, in Brandon, Vermont, a son was born to Micah and Phoebe (Merriam) Brown. He was given the name of James C. Brown, and it is of him that we write. His father was a native of Connecticut and his ancestors were of Welsh origin. Micah was a major in the war of 1812 and did active service in that conflict. He resided in Brandon and died there in 1863, at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. His wife, Phoebe Merriam, was of an old New England family and laterally related to Ethan Allen, the famous Revolutionary general.

James C. Brown obtained a liberal education in his native town, and early in life took up the study of medicine, in which he graduated at the Medical College of Castleton, Vermont. Deciding to seek his fortune in the west, Dr. Brown removed, in 1830, to Zanesville, Ohio. Here was begun his professional and business career. In his profession Dr. Brown



J. Ler Brown



Ann Q Brown

won an enviable reputation, and in business achieved far more than ordinary success. In 1851 he became a citizen of LaSalle, Illinois, and here he died June 12, 1883, in the eighty-first year of his age.

In tracing the career of Dr. Brown, we find that he was a regularly enlisted soldier of the war of 1812, though then but ten years of age. His duty then was to keep the roll-book for his father, Major Brown. Here we catch a gleam of his character. From early childhood he was fond of books and study. He became not only a proficient and skillful physician, but also a well-informed man, conversant with a multitude of subjects. Like Abou ben Adhem, "he loved his fellow men," and with those whose good fortune it was to know him there was no lack of respect and esteem for him. In support of any principle he believed to be right, he was fearless and courageous. Such men are likely to receive determined opposition, and this was true of Dr. Brown. In the early agitation of Abolitionism he took a bold stand against slavery, and at a time and in a vicinity wherein his stand on this great question was very unpopular. So bitter was the opposition given him that it militated much against his professional and business interests, and especially in social circles. Nothing daunted him, however, and he even held on to his views all the firmer. He never aspired to public or political life, yet he was a staunch Republican.

As observed above, he came to LaSalle in 1851. Here he practiced medicine until 1855, when on account of failing health he gave up the profession. He became interested in the banking business, in connection with the old First National Bank of LaSalle, in the history of which we find him serving as its president in 1865. Becoming displeased with the business plans incorporated in the management of the bank, it was purchased by him, in 1872, and merged into a private bank and placed under the management of his sons, James P. and William C. Brown, who conducted it until 1880, when it was sold, its purchasers merging it into the present LaSalle National Bank.

Dr. Brown was a consistent Christian. For years he was a leading spirit in the Congregational church of LaSalle. He was twice married. His first wife, nee Elizabeth Tupper, died a few weeks after her marriage. Subsequently the Doctor married, in Zanesville, Ohio, Ann Day, who was born in South Hadley, Massachusetts, April 9, 1813. She is now in the eighty-seventh year of her age and is still a remarkably well preserved woman. Mrs. Brown's life has been an exemplary one, and she has reared an interesting family. Her children are: Mrs. Elizabeth B. Adams, of Indianapolis, Indiana; James P. Brown, a banker, residing in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Henry D. Brown (deceased), born in Ohio, January 26, 1839, died in Omaha, Nebraska, September 10, 1896, was for years a prominent

dry goods merchant of LaSalle; William C. Brown, and Mrs. Mary Kate Page, residing in LaSalle. The oldest child, Albert, died aged eight months.

William C. Brown was born in Utica, Ohio, April 6, 1842, and was educated at Illinois College, Jacksonville. For several years he was in the coal business in LaSalle. Then from 1869 to 1874 he was assistant treasurer of the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad. On resigning this position he entered the banking business in LaSalle. In 1880 he became a partner in the Collins Plow Company, of Quincy, Illinois. While in the factory he met with an accident, breaking both of his arms, and for nearly three years thereafter was disabled from business. For ten years (up to 1895) he was sales agent for the Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, of LaSalle, but is now living a retired life, residing in Chicago.

October 22, 1868, he married Margaret, daughter of James Cowie, a prominent pioneer in the coal business in LaSalle. Mr. Cowie was a native of England, born in 1805; came to the United States in 1840; once resided in West Virginia, and later in LaSalle, Illinois, for several years, and died in West Virginia in 1886. He was a competent business man and an esteemed citizen, and to him much of the development of the LaSalle coal fields is to be attributed. To Mr. and Mrs. William C. Brown the following children were born: Annie (deceased), James C., Margaret (a teacher), Mabel and William C., Jr.

Mr. Brown and family are communicants of the Congregational church, and in politics he is a Republican.

CHRISTIAN G. SAUER.

Christian G. Sauer, a grain dealer and one of the representative business men of Dana, Illinois, is a native of this state, born in Bureau county, July 19, 1851. He is of German and French descent, his father, George A. Sauer, having been born in Germany; his mother, whose maiden name was Dorothy Swartz, in Strassburg, France. In their family were ten children, seven of whom are now living: Rudolph G., of George, Iowa; Louisa, wife of Theodore Monk, of Livingston county, Illinois; Christian G., whose name heads this sketch; George A., of Rutland, Illinois; Lizzie, wife of L. M. Holland, of Washington, Illinois; William, of Hartley, Iowa; and Mary, the wife of J. A. Mingers, of Minonk, Illinois. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sauer came to America in childhood and were reared and married here. It was in 1836 that he landed in this country, with his father and family, their settlement being in Bureau county, where he grew up and where, later, he bought a farm of eighty acres, for which he paid one hundred dollars. He afterward owned

at one time about two or three thousand acres in Illinois and Iowa. He moved to Livingston county, Illinois, in 1865, lived there until 1884, and then moved to LaSalle county, settling in Groveland township, one mile west of Dana, where he still lives. His first wife, the mother of our subject, died about 1883, at the age of fifty-seven years. She was a devoted Christian and a member of the German Lutheran church, to which he also belongs. He married for his second wife Miss Lottie Strasburg, and by her has three children—Lillie, Rosie and Minnie. Politically the senior Mr. Sauer has always affiliated with the Democratic party, to which his son, Christian G., has also given support.

The paternal grandfather of Christian G. Sauer was Rudolph Sauer. He came to America, as already stated, in 1836, bringing with him his family and coming in company with his brother George. In the old country he was a shoemaker and dealer, but after his settlement in Bureau county, Illinois, he turned his attention to farming. He died in that county, at the age of seventy-seven years. To him belonged the distinction of serving in the army under Napoleon. Of his family, two sons and two daughters reached adult age. Grandfather Swartz, Mr. Sauer's grandfather on his mother's side, was a native of France. He was one of the pioneer settlers of Lacon, Illinois, where he reared his family of ten children. He was eighty-four years of age at the time of his death.

Turning now to the direct subject of this sketch, Christian G. Sauer, we record that he was reared on his father's farm in Bureau county, in summer passing his boyhood days in assisting in the farm work and in winter attending the district school, held in a log house. When he became a man and engaged in farming for himself it was on a rented farm in Livingston county. About 1882 he bought three hundred and twenty acres in Lyon county, Iowa; afterward purchased another three hundred and twenty acres in that county—six hundred and forty in all—which he still owns. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres in Groveland township, LaSalle county, and has some land in Kansas. Since 1877, with the exception of four years, he has been in the grain business in Dana. His first home in Dana he built in 1882, in the northern part of town, and in 1898 he rebuilt on the same location, his present home being a delightful and attractive one.

January 13, 1879, Mr. Sauer married Miss Matilda Gingerich, a daughter of Joseph Gingerich, and they have three children—Charles B., Jessie M. and Clark.

Mrs. Sauer is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. As already indicated, Mr. Sauer clings to the political faith in which he was reared, and from time to time he has filled numerous local positions of prominence and trust. He was the supervisor of Groveland township eight years, and

for a number of years he was a school director. He has long been a member of the village board of Dana, and for about ten years has been the president of the board. His residence in LaSalle county covers a period of twenty-three years, and few men throughout the county are better known or more highly respected than he.

HENRY F. HARTENBOWER.

The gentleman whose name appears above is a leading business man of Tonica, dealing in agricultural implements, threshers and engines. He was born in Magnolia township, Putnam county, Illinois, April 11, 1849, a son of Christian and Jerusha (Hiltabrand) Hartenbower. His father was a native of Wittenberg, Germany, and his mother was born in Tennessee. They had seven children, six of whom are living, namely: Henry F., George F., Emily, wife of G. J. Williams, of Eagle Grove, Iowa, William F., John E., of Tonica, Illinois, and Catherine, the wife of Albert Grant. The father of these children, a farmer by occupation, emigrated to America in 1836, locating in Putnam county, where he followed agricultural pursuits until 1852, and then moved to Hope township, LaSalle county, settling upon a quarter section which he had purchased. To this he subsequently added by further purchases until he had at one time five hundred and seventy acres. It was here that he reared his children and lived until 1886, when he moved to Tonica, where he now lives retired, his son William cultivating the old farm. In his political sympathies he has always been a Democrat, and in public position he has been road commissioner for many years. In religion he and his wife are Baptists.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Christian Hartenbower, a native of the fatherland, was a shoemaker by trade, and came to America in 1836, settling in Putnam county, in Magnolia township, where he followed his trade. He finally died in LaSalle county, at the home of his son, aged about seventy-six years. He had seven children. The maternal grandfather of Mr. Hartenbower, George Hiltabrand, was a native of North Carolina, of German descent, and a farmer by occupation. He emigrated to Illinois in 1829, settling in Putnam county, had a large number of children, and died at the old homestead, aged about sixty-eight years.

Mr. Hartenbower, the subject of this sketch, was brought up in LaSalle county from the year 1852, reared to the heavy duties of the farm, attending the public schools in the winter. When a grown man he rented for himself a farm of one hundred and seventy acres, for six years, and then bought a hundred acres in Hope township, which he cultivated till 1889,

then sold it and moved into Tonica, where he has since made his home. Here he began work in the employ of the firm of R. A. Radle & Company, in their implement store, and afterward for J. E. Morris, and in 1893 he bought out the stock of Mr. Morris and ran business alone until 1896, when he associated with himself G. W. Hartenbower, since which time the firm name has been H. F. & G. W. Hartenbower. These men have a fine reputation as honest and reliable dealers and industrious and enterprising citizens of their chosen town.

Politically Mr. Hartenbower, our subject, has always been a Democrat, and in fraternal relations he is a member of Tonica Lodge, No. 364, A. F. & A. M.

He was married on the 15th of February, 1872, to Miss Mary Hutchings, a daughter of Martin and Mary (Bolton) Hutchings, and they have been blessed with five sons and five daughters, whose names are, in order, Mary J., Charles F., Clara J., Edna, Roy B., Fred, Ella, Nell, Harold and Marion. Mary J. became the wife of Ozer Keller, lives in Coffeyville, Kansas, and has two children; Charles F. was a soldier in the Spanish-American war, a member of the Fifth Illinois Volunteers, and is unmarried; Edna married Burton Thompson and resides in Henry, this state; and the other children are at their parental home.

GEORGE L. AUSTIN.

The town of Rutland, LaSalle county, has a no more enterprising business man and public spirited citizen than George L. Austin, who has served in various local positions of responsibility and trust, always acquitting himself of the duties devolving upon him and meriting the approbation of every one concerned.

He is a son of Seneca S. and Sarah H. Austin, who are represented elsewhere in this work. He was born in Greene county, New York, July 25, 1847, and spent eight years of his life there. In 1855, he came to Illinois with his parents, and for the succeeding five years he lived in Stark and Bureau counties. Then returning to the Empire state, he remained there for several years, completing his education. In 1868 he again came to this state and resided in Bureau and LaSalle counties, assisting his father in farming a portion of the time for several years. He had learned the machinist's trade at Albany, New York, in 1866, and for seven years he was occupied in work along this line of endeavor, with good results. In 1876 he purchased an interest in his father's general store at Rutland, the

firm being Austin & Son, for thirteen years or more. At the end of that period the young man purchased his father's share of the enterprise, and since then has conducted it alone. On the 15th of April, 1899, his store and nearly all of his stock of goods were destroyed by fire, but, nothing daunted, the energetic proprietor opened a store in temporary quarters, within a week after the unfortunate occurrence, and is now building a handsome brick block, of two stories and basement, an opera-house being above the stores.

In company with his brother, Chester Y. Austin, Mr. G. L. Austin owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, two miles and a half from Rexford, Sheridan county, Kansas. He is very successful as a business man, and is on the high road leading to assured wealth. He is looked up to and his judgment relied upon in financial and public matters, and after serving as a member of the village board of trustees for some time, he acted in the capacity of president of the same for a year. He also was the treasurer of the township for some four years. Formerly he was active in the Masonic order, but has a letter of demittance from the lodge, and still keeps his membership in the Odd Fellows society. Politically he uses his franchise in behalf of the Republican party.

On the 13th of February, 1881, Mr. Austin married Miss Kate D. Shull, daughter of Frederick A. and Sarah M. (Barger) Shull. They have become the parents of three daughters and a son, namely: Leslie, Fern, Caro and Ruth. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, he being one of the trustees, and is one of the most zealous workers in the cause.

CYRUS H. SMITH, M. D.

The successful physician to-day must possess not only a peculiar fitness for the profession in innate qualities of mind and heart, but also must be thoroughly equipped for his calling by a long, systematic course of study and training under the tutelage of old, experienced medical men, who have been chosen for the responsible task on account of their prominence and success in the treatment of some particular form of disease. The public is to be congratulated that the lines are constantly tightening around the profession, to the end that only thoroughly competent physicians and surgeons will be permitted to minister to the sick and suffering in the near future. Already noticeable reforms have been inaugurated—the years of preparation required have been increased and rigorous examinations must be passed ere a diploma is awarded the student. Thus the young physician

of this decade possesses a much better foundation for future success than did his predecessors, being conversant with modern discoveries in the science of disease and its treatment.

Dr. Cyrus H. Smith, a well known physician, surgeon and druggist of Tonica, comes of an old and respected Kentucky family, his paternal grandfather, William F. Smith, having been born in Warren county, that state. He was of Scotch-Irish extraction, and during the war of 1812 fought in the army of this young republic against the mother country. He owned a large plantation and was a slaveholder, like the most of his neighbors. His entire life was spent in his native county, where he died at an advanced age, leaving several sons and daughters.

James B. Smith, the father of the Doctor, was born in the Blue Grass state and in 1839 came to Illinois. For a year or two he resided in Warren county, but in 1841 he settled in Knox county, where he passed the rest of his days, engaged in farming. He was summoned to the silent land in 1887, when in his seventy-seventh year. His devoted wife, Elizabeth A., a native of Pennsylvania, survived him a few years, dying in January, 1898, when sixty-five years of age. She was one of the two daughters of Isaac Burns, whose home was near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. For a time he was a stage-driver, running between Baltimore and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and few men in that part of the country were better known or more thoroughly respected.

Dr. Cyrus H. Smith, who was born on his father's farm in Knox county, this state, April 3, 1869, is one of the younger children of the parental family. Of his six brothers and three sisters, nine are yet living, Hattie, the youngest, having died at the age of eight years. John L. and Robert M. are citizens of Superior, Nebraska; Henry F., of Abingdon, Illinois; James B., of Knoxville, Illinois; George W. and Charles E., of Galesburg, Illinois; and Mary A., the wife of Albert Kennedy, and Laura R., Mrs. Frank R. Reynolds, reside in Abingdon, this state.

The boyhood and youth of the Doctor were quietly spent on his father's farm, his early education being gained in the district school. At nineteen he entered Hedding College, at Abingdon, where he pursued the higher branches of knowledge for four years, after which he went to Chicago and in 1890 was graduated in the Illinois College of Pharmacy. During the following year he was engaged in the drug business at North Henderson, Illinois, in the meantime taking up the study of medicine. Going to Chicago in 1892, he was graduated in Rush Medical College three years later, since which time he has practiced his profession at Tonica. In 1898 he opened a drug store here, which he conducts in connection with his professional practice. He has been very successful in his undertakings, and enjoys the

high opinion of his medical brethren, as well as that of his patients and the general public. He belongs to the county and state medical societies, and in every possible manner keeps himself posted in the progress of his profession. Socially he is a member of Tonica Lodge, No. 364, F. & A. M., and belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. In his political creed he is a true-blue Republican.

The marriage of Dr. Smith and Miss Glenna Peabody was celebrated January 28, 1892. The young couple have three charming little daughters, named respectively Dorothy, Agnes and Glenna. Mrs. Smith, who is a daughter of William and Mary (Rogers) Peabody, is a lady of attractive personality, refined and well educated, and an active member of the Baptist church.

SAMUEL PATTERSON.

Among the prominent early settlers and well-to-do farmers of LaSalle county is Samuel Patterson, who resides on his farm on section 36, Vermilion township. A resume of his life is as follows:

Samuel Patterson was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, November 10, 1839, a son of Stephen and Elizabeth (Bane) Patterson, natives of Pennsylvania; and of their three daughters and one son he is the only one now living. Stephen Patterson, the father, was a farmer. He came from Pennsylvania to Illinois in 1857 and located in Vermilion township, LaSalle county, where he bought three hundred and ten acres of land, partly improved, and where he passed the rest of his life and died, his death occurring here May 25, 1874, at the age of sixty-eight years. His wife, a member of the Presbyterian church, died in 1845, aged about thirty-five. Politically he was a Democrat, and at different times filled acceptably a number of township offices.

The Pattersons are of Irish origin and the family was represented in this country at an early day. William Patterson, the grandfather of Samuel, was born in Pennsylvania and passed his life in that state, engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, with the rank of captain. He died at the age of seventy-five years. In his family were five children. Mr. Patterson traces his ancestry on the maternal side to Germany. His grandfather, Jacob Bane, was a native of Pennsylvania; by occupation was a farmer and miller; was the father of twelve children; and died when past middle life.

Samuel Patterson spent the first eighteen years of his life on his father's farm in Washington county, Pennsylvania, receiving his education in the dis-

trict schools, and in 1857 came with his parents to Illinois. He has lived in LaSalle county ever since. After his marriage, which event occurred in the early part of 1867, he rented land of his father and carried on operations in that way for a few years. He then bought sixty acres in Eagle township, which he afterward sold, investing the proceeds in one hundred and sixty acres in Vermilion township, his present place, where he has lived since 1876.

February 14, 1867, was consummated the marriage of Samuel Patterson and Harriet Geer. Mrs. Patterson is a daughter of Nathaniel and Eliza Maria (Clark) Geer, natives of Connecticut. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Patterson—two sons and five daughters, namely: Nellie, Elizabeth, Charlotte, James, Roy Stephen, Evaline and Bertha Louisa. Nellie is the wife of Frank Leslie, of Eldora, Iowa, and they have three children—Warren, Nina and Cora. Elizabeth married B. U. Hiester, of Farm Ridge township, LaSalle county, and they have one child, John Paul. The other children are still members of the home circle. Mr. and Mrs. Patterson are members of the Episcopal church, of which he is a vestryman, an office he has filled for sixteen years.

Politically he is a Democrat. For about twenty years he has served as school director, and was at one time elected a justice of the peace, but did not accept the office.

Of Mrs. Patterson's parents, Nathaniel and Eliza Maria (Clark) Geer, it has already been stated that they were born in Connecticut. The history of the Geer family can be traced back to the Mayflower, when two brothers came over from England, one of them, David, being the great-grandsire of Mrs. Patterson. He was known as Deacon David Geer. He settled in Kent township, Litchfield county, Connecticut. Of him it is recorded that "he was gentle in spirit, of suave manner, and secured the strong affection of all who knew him." He was a Congregationalist and a zealous and devoted Christian. Among the Geers of this country were Jarvis Geer, of New York city, a high churchman in the Episcopal church, and his cousin, Welcome Geer. The latter died in Litchfield county, Connecticut, in 1833. He was by occupation a surveyor, and was at one time a captain in the state militia.

Mrs. Patterson's father's mother was Sylvia (Bishop) Brown. The Browns were represented in the Revolutionary war, and John Brown, of Rehoboth, the founder of the family in this country, was prominent in the government of Plymouth colony. His son James married Lydia, a daughter of John Howland, of the Mayflower, a copy of whose will, as well as that of his son Jabez, is in the Yale library at New Haven. Nathaniel Brown's birth is also recorded in the Rhode Island record as the son of Hezekiah

Brown, who was born in Barrington, Rhode Island, in 1739. Thus Mrs. Patterson belongs to the ninth generation of the family in this country. The Bishops came from John Bishop, of Guilford, Connecticut, who came to this country with the Whitfields.

JOHN E. HARTENBOWER.

LaSalle county is to be congratulated on the possession of business men and financiers whose enterprise, ability and integrity have contributed in a large measure to the prosperity which this section of the state enjoys. Of this class John E. Hartenbower is a prominent representative. He is one of the leading citizens of Tonica, who not only stands high in the financial world here, but is equally esteemed in the social, political and official circles of the town and locality.

On both the paternal and maternal sides our subject is of German descent and has inherited many of the sterling and reliable qualities of the Teutonic race. His grandfather, Christian Hartenbower, came to the United States from Wertenburg, Germany, and settled in Putnam county, Illinois, but died in LaSalle county, about 1875, when almost four-score years of age. He followed the shoemaker's trade in Germany, and in America he gave his attention chiefly to agricultural pursuits. His wife, Catherine Kolbin, died when Christian, Jr., the father of our subject, was two years old. When he was thirteen years of age his parents left their home at Kirchheim, on the Neckar river, in Wertenburg, and came to the New World. He was born February 4, 1825, and on their emigration he accompanied the family and with them became a resident of Putnam county, where he resided for fifteen years. On the expiration of that period he came to LaSalle county, where he purchased eighty acres of land in Hope township, and as the years passed by he added to his possessions until at one time he owned nearly eight hundred acres of excellent farming property. For the past seventeen years he has made his home in Tonica, and for ten years has lived retired from business cares. In former days he was not only engaged in general farming, but also bought and shipped livestock. He chose for his wife Miss Jerusha G. Hiltabrand, who was born in Tennessee, August 22, 1825, and was the eldest of twelve children of George and Elizabeth (Gunn) Hiltabrand. Her father was born near Camden, Pennsylvania, in June, 1799, and was of German lineage. He was reared in North Carolina until 1818, when he removed to Robinson county, Tennessee, and in 1828 he came to Tazewell county, Illinois. The following spring, however, he settled in what is known as Ox Bow, Putnam county.



J. E. Hartenbower

During the Black Hawk war he served as a sergeant in Captain William Haws' company of mounted volunteers, belonging to the Fortieth Regiment, Fourth Brigade and First Division of the Illinois militia. He was mustered out of the service at Hennepin on the 28th of June, 1832. At one time he purchased four quarter-sections of government land, for which he paid a dollar and a quarter per acre, and by the aid of his sons improved the property which is now estimated to be worth one hundred dollars per acre. Long before his death he was a wealthy man and an extensive land-owner, and, although he suffered many hardships and privations in the first years of his residence in this state, in his last years he was enabled to secure all the necessities and many of the comforts and luxuries of life. He died October 20, 1870, aged seventy-one years.

Seven children blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hartenbower, namely: Henry F.; George F.; William F.; Emily, who is the wife of G. J. Williams, of Eagle Grove, Iowa; John E.; Catherine C., wife of A. B. Grant, of LaSalle county; and Simeon, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Hartenbower are members of the Baptist church and are held in the highest regard by all who know them.

The birth of J. E. Hartenbower occurred on the parental farm in this county, March 18, 1864, and his childhood and young manhood were passed within five miles of Tonica. He supplemented a district school education by a course at Eureka College, in Woodford county, this state, and subsequently was occupied in teaching for some four years. Later he clerked in a drug store, and in 1887 his connection with the Tonica Exchange Bank began. After acting as a clerk for a period, he became the cashier, and is now the senior member of the firm of Hartenbower & Hiltabrand, owners of this popular banking institution. Austin Hiltabrand was the junior partner for a few years, but since 1896 George D. Hiltabrand has occupied that position in the firm. The Tonica Exchange Bank has transacted business under that title for the past twenty years, and possesses the confidence of the community, as the policy of the gentlemen at its head is conservative, methodical and eminently trustworthy.

Mr. Hartenbower is interested in real estate in this locality, as well as in the west. For twelve years he has been the special agent of the Union Central Life Insurance Company, of Cincinnati, and also handles fire insurance. He is a director in the LaSalle State Bank, of LaSalle. For the past five years he has been a member of the Tonica public school board, and is now acting as its clerk, and was the clerk of the town for three years, township collector for two terms, and since 1887 has been a police magistrate. Politically he is independent, though his vote is usually given to the Democratic party.

In the fraternities our subject belongs to Tonica Lodge, No. 364, A. F. & A. M., of which he is a past master; Peru Chapter, No. 60, R. A. M.; St. John's Commandery, No. 26, K. T.; and Peoria Consistory, thirty-second degree, Scottish-Rite Masons. He also is identified with Tonica Lodge, No. 298, Odd Fellows; Kaiser Camp, No. 707, M. W. of A.; Marshall Lodge of the Knights of Pythias, at Wenona, Illinois, and with his wife, is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. His marriage to Miss Jennie E., born May 13, 1864, a daughter of James A. Lambert, was solemnized November 28, 1886, and they have two children, Emily J., born July 20, 1888, and J. Delwin, born November 14, 1893.

Mr. Hartenbower is a natural musician, and is the leader of the Tonica Woodmen Brass and Reed Band, comprising twenty-two members. As may be inferred, he is one of the most popular men in this section of the county, few being in greater demand in all business, social or public enterprises, and his name seems to be all that is needed to make a success of any local undertaking.

DAVID GRANT.

Forty-four years ago David Grant cast in his fortunes with the people of LaSalle county, and during all of this period he has dwelt in Eden township, where he stands high in the estimation of old time acquaintances and every one else in general who knows him. He is a self-made man, having amassed a competence by enterprise and persistent industry, and now, as the evening of his life draws near, he has abundant means to pass in comfort his remaining years.

As Marsby Grant, the father of our subject, died when the latter was but two years old, but little is known of the family history on the paternal side. Both he and his father before him were natives of Vermont, and the maternal grandfather of David Grant, a Mr. Kemp, was from the same state, and was a soldier in the war of the Revolution. He removed to New York state, where he died at about ninety years of age. He was a farmer by occupation and reared his six children to the same pursuit. Three sons were born to Marsby and ——— (Kemp) Grant, but only Edward and David survive.

The birth of David Grant took place in Saratoga county, New York, February 18, 1828. He spent his boyhood in that locality, receiving a good public school education. Believing that the west offered greater opportunities to a young man, he came to Illinois in March, 1855, and for three or four years rented land in Eden township. He then bought two acres of ground and erected thereon a one-story frame house, fourteen by twenty-

four feet in dimensions, and a small straw-thatched stable. Having thus made a start, he worked early and late toward the accomplishment of more ambitious things, with the result that he was soon able to buy a quarter section of land. This place he sold at the end of two years, in 1864, and in the following spring he removed to his present homestead. This finely improved farm, situated on section 36, comprises one hundred and sixty acres, well adapted for a general line of crops grown in this region. In addition to owning this place, he has a good dwelling house in Bloomington, Illinois. He takes a patriotic interest in the welfare of his community, and votes the Democratic ticket, but he has never been an aspirant to public office.

Just before coming to this state to found a new home and make a position for himself, Mr. Grant was married, on the 9th of February, 1855, to Miss Jane Humphries, who has been a faithful helpmate. They became the parents of three daughters and five sons, Robert, David H., Annie E., Mary E., Sarah J., James H. and Thomas I. (twins) and Charles W. The two last mentioned are unmarried, and David H. died when but ten months old. The others are married and are settled in homes of their own. Robert chose Miss Jane Kent for his wife, and they have one daughter. Their home is in Chicago, where the father is engaged in the livery and feed stable business. Annie became the wife of Frank Miner, since deceased, and their two children are named Arthur and David H. Later she wedded a Mr. P. S. Crites, by whom she has one son, and their present home is in the vicinity of Las Animas, Colorado. Mrs. Mary E. Wright resides at Storm Lake, Iowa, and Sarah, Mrs. Samuel Jamison, the mother of two children, lives near Utica, LaSalle county. James married Miss Edna A. Fairchild, and their only child is Eddie Grant. Mrs. David Grant is a member of the Baptist church and is a most exemplary lady, loved by all. Both she and our subject are highly esteemed in this community, where they commenced their happy married life together, and none of their old neighbors begrudge them the prosperity which now crowns their busy, industrious lives.

JOHN WHITE.

Since the middle of the century John White has been identified with LaSalle county, Illinois, and since 1866 he has owned and occupied his present farm on section 14, Groveland township.

Mr. White is a native of the Old Dominion. He was born in Frederick county, Virginia, in the year 1814, a son of John and Elizabeth (Carper) White, both natives of Virginia. In the White family were eleven children,

six daughters and five sons, and at this writing six of that number are living, namely: John, whose name initiates this review; Elizabeth, the widow of Thomas McCombs, of West Virginia; Jane, the widow of Ezekiel Caldwell, of Peoria county, Illinois; Ellen, the widow of David Lutz, of West Virginia; Amanda, the wife of Jerrie Null, of Marshall county, West Virginia; and Alfred, of Clyde, Kansas. The senior John White was a farmer and teamster, and for many years drove a team from Baltimore to Pittsburg and Wheeling, making regular trips. The last two years of his life were spent in Peoria county, Illinois, where he died, at the age of seventy-three years. His wife's death occurred in West Virginia six years before his. They were Presbyterians in faith.

William White, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was a native of Virginia, who moved to Kentucky in the early history of that state. He had a small family. The maternal grandfather of our subject was William Carper. He was of Dutch descent, was the father of two sons and three daughters, and died in his native state, Virginia, when past middle life.

When John White, the direct subject of this review, was ten years old his parents removed with their family from the eastern part of Virginia, to what is now known as West Virginia, where he lived until 1850. That year he came to Illinois, making the journey by way of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, and landing at Lacon. He first located nine miles east of Lacon, where he rented land for six years. The next four years he rented land in Osage township, LaSalle county, and following that was five years on a rented farm in Groveland township. In the spring of 1866 he bought his present home farm, one hundred and sixty acres in Groveland township, which he has since occupied, carrying on general farming operations.

In 1839 Mr. White married Miss Mary Ann Whetsel, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Darnell) Whetsel, whose life was happily blended with his from that time until 1883, when she died at the age of sixty-three years. She was a consistent member of the Christian church, as also is Mr. White. To them were born eleven children—three sons and eight daughters, all of whom reached adult age except two that died in infancy; and the grandchildren of this worthy sire now number forty, and the great-grandchildren twenty. Of Mr. White's children we record that Rachel, the widow of Egbert Dresser, has six children, Chauncey, Orrie, Fred, Elmer, Charles and Corie; Margaretta, the wife of George Studyman, lives in Compton, Newton county, Arkansas, and their six children are Sylvester, Sene, John, Lucinda, Ellis and Grant; Elizabeth, the wife of Henry Bane, of Eureka, Kansas, is the mother of six children, Ida, Alvin, Mary, Nellie, John and Frank; Jane, the wife of James Bane, of Dana, Illinois, has ten children, Austin, Annie, Arthur, Herbert, Charles, Gilbert, Loretta, Richard, Roy

and Clinton; Mary Ann, the wife of Daniel Winans, of Dana, Illinois, has three children living, Cassie, Dial and Belle; Nellie, the wife of John Clegg, of Leeds, Illinois, has one child, Curtis; James, who married Carrie Austin, has one child, Henry; Richard, who married Julia Winans, has eight children—Ernest, Chloe, Ethel, Pearl, Harvey, and Lelah, Ida and Leo (triplets), and Frank, who married Dora Yohe, and has one child, Roy.

Politically Mr. White is a Democrat.

SENECA S. AUSTIN.

Nearly forty-five years ago this honored citizen came to Illinois, and for almost a quarter of a century he has dwelt in the town of Rutland, LaSalle county. His life has been an exceptionally active and useful one, and though actuated by a proper amount of ambition and desire for success, he has ever kept in view the higher aims which should animate mankind, and has nobly striven to fulfill what he believed was his chief mission. As he looks back along the pathway he has pursued for just eighty years, he can have but few regrets, for the majority of his mistakes have been errors of judgment, not of deliberate choice, and his heart has been filled with love and sympathy for his fellow men and a genuine desire to aid them by every means in his power.

He is one of the five surviving children of Daniel and Betsy (Drigg) Austin, who were natives of New York state and Connecticut respectively. Four of their children have passed to the better land, and those who remain are named as follows: Seneca S.; Harriet, the widow of Curtis Rogers, of Utica, Illinois; John, a citizen of Greene county, New York; Alphonsine, the wife of Curtis Lacy, of Greene county, New York; and Louisa, who resides in the same county and is the wife of Isaac Smith. The father, Daniel Austin, was a successful farmer of that locality, where he died in 1875, at the age of nearly eighty-two years. His widow's death took place seven years later, when she was in her eighty-sixth year. Both were devoted members of the Christian church. Jeremiah, the father of Daniel Austin, was a native of the Empire state, a weaver by trade and a farmer to some extent. He had two sons and three daughters, and lived to an advanced age. The father of Mrs. Betsy Austin was John Drigg, a native of Connecticut. He was a brick and stone mason and a plasterer by trade. His children were six in number—two sons and four daughters.

The birth of Seneca S. Austin occurred on the parental homestead in Cairo township, Greene county, New York, August 4, 1819. He early mastered the details of agriculture and attended the old fashioned subscription

schools of that early period. After he reached his majority he followed the usual custom of learning a trade, and at length was pronounced an excellent blacksmith, but he soon abandoned that pursuit and resumed farming, to which he gave his energy until 1875.

On the 15th of October, 1843, a momentous event occurred in the history of Mr. Austin, as on that day Miss Sally Lake was united to him in wedlock, and during the many years which have come and gone since then she has, indeed, been a faithful sharer of his joys and sorrows. Her parents were Godfrey M. and Permelia (Edwards) Lake, natives of the Empire state and farmers by vocation. The father was of Dutch descent, a son of William and Mary (Miller) Lake, of old New York families. The latter, Mrs. Mary M. Lake, reached the remarkable age of one hundred and ten years. Godfrey M. Lake died at his home in New York, February 3, 1887, when six months over eighty-two years of age, and his widow, who died in 1895, was then ninety-one years and four months old. Mrs. Sally Austin is one of their nine children, only three of whom have crossed to the other shore. Mary B., now of Grand Rapids, Michigan, first married Edmund Spring, and after his death she became the wife of Peter Day. Ann C. is the wife of Henry Risedorph, of Cairo, New York. George and William H. Lake reside in Greene county, New York, and Lydia R., the youngest, is the wife of Ezra Thorn, of Greenville, New York.

Three children—Daniel M., George L. and Chester Y.—blessed the union of S. S. Austin and wife. Daniel M., of Rutland, chose Jennie Cooper for a wife, and their children are named Addie, Clara and Clifford. George L. wedded Kate Duffield Shull and their four children are Leslie, Fern, Caro and Ruth. He is a general merchant at Rutland, and is represented elsewhere in this work. Chester Y. married Nora Briggs and their three children are Clem, Ollie and Bernice. Their home is in Streator, and he is employed as a distributing bill agent of the Santa Fe Railroad Company. Concerning Daniel M. Austin, we may add that he enlisted in the United States army when he was twenty-one years of age and was out on the frontier three years. He has a farm of eighty acres two miles east of Rutland, but, his health failing about five years ago, he rented his land and has since lived in Rutland. Chester Y. Austin was formerly a telegraph operator at various points, and now he is employed in a different capacity by the Santa Fe Railroad Company.

In 1855 S. S. Austin came to Illinois with his wife and three children, locating on a farm in Stark county. He experienced the hardships of the pioneer on these western prairies, and was obliged to break the hitherto uncultivated ground with the great plows and the yokes of oxen, according to custom. In 1858 he removed to Bureau county, and after two years

more of western farming he returned to his native state, where the conditions were in many respects more favorable. He remained there for eight years, and then came back to his old farm in Bureau county. Four years later he located in Rutland, where he has since made his home. He bought property here and was engaged in the lumber business for two years. During the ensuing thirteen or fourteen years he, in partnership with his son George, was engaged in general merchandising. Then selling his interest to his son, he retired to enjoy the competence which he had justly earned.

When residing in Bureau county, Mr. Austin was one of the school trustees, and has served in the same capacity since coming to Rutland. He also served as township clerk when he dwelt in Stark county, and at all times has taken a commendable interest in the community wherein his lot was cast. He and his estimable wife are members of the Christian church, and have hosts of sincere friends in various parts of the country.

CHAUNCEY JONES.

During the forty-five years of Chauncey Jones' residence in Illinois he has been a witness of remarkable changes, as the wild prairie yielded to the cultivation of the hardy pioneers, and fertile farms and thriving villages sprang into existence, and the "prairie schooners," conveying little parties of home-seekers, gave place to the swift-moving trains, with their thousands of passengers, carried to and fro. He has been no idle on-looker, but has faithfully contributed his share toward the prosperity which this state and its inhabitants now enjoy, and as his footsteps lead toward the declining sun of life he may look back, without regrets, feeling that he has performed his entire duty and efficiently filled his place in his generation.

Ezra Jones, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was a native of New Hampshire and of Welsh descent. He was a miller by trade, and died when in the prime of life, leaving six or seven children. The maternal grandfather was William Dodge, also a native of New Hampshire, and a cabinet-maker and owner of a sawmill. He reared a large family and lived to attain an advanced age.

John, the father of Chauncey Jones, was born and grew to maturity in New Hampshire. There he mastered the trade of cabinet-making, and in 1837 he settled in Ohio, his home being in the town of Woodstock, Champaign county, for the ensuing eighteen years. In 1855 he came to Illinois and thenceforth lived in Long Point township, Livingston county. He was summoned to the better land in 1869, surviving his wife about one year. Both were members of the Free-Will Baptist church, and were highly es-

teemed members of society. Mr. Jones was a Democrat until the time when the disturbed condition of the country led to the organization of the Republican party, when, espousing its noble doctrines, he ever afterward was affiliated with it. Mrs. Jones was born in New Hampshire, and in her girlhood bore the name of Polly Dodge. She became the mother of six children, five of whom were sons. Only three survive, namely: Chauncey, David C., of Mahaska county, Iowa, and Enoch P., a citizen of Minonk, Illinois.

The birth of Chauncey Jones occurred in Wilmot, New Hampshire, October 29, 1830. He was seven years of age when his father removed to Ohio, and prior to reaching his majority he lived on farms and in the town by turns. He received a common-school education, and in 1854 started out independently, entering eighty acres of land at Long Point, Illinois. He improved that property, which he still owns, and in addition to that he owns two other tracts of eighty acres each, in the same locality, and a farm of similar size in Lee county. He continued to carry on his agricultural pursuits in Livingston county until 1891, when he retired, and coming to Dana bought a house, which he remodeled and beautified, making his home here ever since.

His marriage to Miss Sarah A. Bane was solemnized July 23, 1851, and, after more than two-score years of joys and sorrows shared together she was summoned to the silent land by the angel of death, December 27, 1893. She was a daughter of Absalom and Sarah (Downey) Bane. Mr. and Mrs. Jones had the following named five children: Polly L., the eldest daughter, first married William Tullis and after his death became the wife of John Stanley, of Lee county. By her first union six children were born, namely: Susan, Boyd, William, Annie, Rena and Charles. Sarah Etta, the second child of Mr. Jones, died at the age of one year. Annetta, the third born, is the wife of Ezekiel Marshall, of Groveland township, and has two sons—Orville and Howard. George B., the older son, died at the age of thirty-four years, unmarried; and William H., the younger son, married Inez Kelly and had two children—Elsie and Curtis. His wife died and afterward he wedded Miss Mary Knox, and their twin boys are named respectively John K. and Chauncey. The home of this family is in Long Point township, Livingston county.

On the 1st of November, 1894, Chauncey Jones was united in marriage with Miss Sophia Cartwell. They are members of the Christian church and have many sincere friends in Dana and elsewhere.

Politically Mr. Jones is a true-blue Republican. He has served as a police magistrate for three years, and for nine years acted in the capacity of road commissioner. He is conscientious in discharging every obligation

of citizenship, and merits the favorable regard which is generously accorded him. Education of the young is a subject which he deems well worthy of his serious attention, and for one term he served as a school director.

ISAAC LOCK.

Vermilion township, LaSalle county, Illinois, counts among its esteemed citizens and respected farmers the gentleman whose name initiates this sketch—Isaac Lock.

Mr. Lock is a native of Ohio. He was born in Preble county, October 15, 1822, a son of Philip and Elizabeth (Wolf) Lock, natives of Maryland, and he is the only one now living of their family of eight children, four sons and four daughters. Philip Lock was by trade a shoemaker, but was for a number of years engaged in farming. He was one of the pioneers of Preble county, Ohio, where he cleared and improved a farm, and where he died, at the age of fifty years. His widow survived him a number of years and came west with her youngest son to LaSalle county, Illinois, where she died at the age of seventy-two years. Both Philip Lock and his wife were members of the Lutheran church.

The Locks are of German origin. Henry Lock, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Maryland and lived and died in that state. He was a farmer. Of the maternal grandfather of Isaac Lock, whose name was John Wolf, we record that he was a native of Maryland, and at the time of his death was eighty years old. He was the father of nine children.

Isaac Lock was reared on his father's farm in Harrison township, Preble county, Ohio, and received his education in the district school near his home. After his marriage, which occurred in 1844, when he was twenty-two years of age, he settled down in Ohio and carried on farming there for six years. He then moved over into the neighboring state of Indiana and located on a farm eight miles from Winchester, where he lived two years. In 1846 he came to Illinois. His first location here was on a farm in Ridge township, LaSalle county, where he lived four years. At the end of that time he rented his present farm, one hundred and sixty acres, on section 34, Vermilion township, which three years later he purchased and on which he has since lived, devoting his energies to its cultivation and improvement, with the result that he has one of the most desirable farms in his locality.

Mr. Isaac Lock was married October 9, 1844, to Miss Susan Hapner, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Ellis) Hapner, and the fruits of their union were four children, namely: Milton, Minerva, Amanda and Isaac E. The three first died in early life. Isaac E. married Miss Mary Hauenstein, a

daughter of Philip and Maggie (Klag) Hauenstein, and they have two children—Ira Allen and Courtland. Mrs. Susan Lock shared the joys and sorrows of life with her husband for more than half a century, and at the ripe age of eighty years and ten months passed away, February 2, 1899.

Adhering to the religious faith in which he was reared, Mr. Lock is a Lutheran. Politically he affiliates with the Republican party. By honest industry and careful management he has secured a competency for old age, and now that the evening of life has come he is in the enjoyment of comfort and plenty.

J. E. PORTER.

J. E. Porter stands at the head of one of the leading industrial concerns of Ottawa. Everywhere in our land are found men who have worked their own way from humble and lowly beginnings to places of leadership in the commerce, the great productive industries and the management of the veins and arteries of the traffic and exchanges of the country. To this class belongs Mr. Porter, and to-day he stands among the representative business men of LaSalle county, enjoying not only the fruits of his toil, but also the respect and esteem of his fellow men, for his reputation is unassailable.

The Porter family is of Irish lineage, the great-grandfather of our subject, in company with two brothers, having sailed from the Emerald Isle in the early part of the seventeenth century to become members of a Massachusetts colony near Boston, where two of the three brothers reared their families. John Porter, the grandfather of our subject, was the eldest child of his father's family and was born January 7, 1756. He emigrated westward, locating in Washington county, Pennsylvania, where he married a Miss Hossack, a lady of Scotch parentage who was born November 17, 1758. They had six sons and three daughters, the youngest child being Joseph, the father of J. E. Porter. He was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, in 1798, and during the war of 1812 assisted in taking care of the wounded and other unfortunate soldiers, although only a lad of fourteen summers at the time. On attaining his majority he sought a home in the west, becoming a resident of Adams county, Ohio, in 1822. There he formed the acquaintance of Miss Eliza Moore, and on the 1st of April, 1824, they were married. She was born February 27, 1805, near Lexington, Virginia, and died June 22, 1840. Her father, David Moore, was born May 10, 1773, and was a son of Captain John Moore, one of the noted families of Moores that furnished so many valiant soldiers to Virginia regiments during the Revolution. His wife, Ann Ewing, was born June 18, 1782, and was a member of the Ewing family that also took an active part



J. E. Porter.

in the war for independence. Joseph and Eliza Porter became the parents of five sons and two daughters, of whom two are now living: Joseph E. and a sister, Sarah E., now the wife of Henry Moffett, of Ransom, Illinois.

Joseph E. Porter, the only living male representative of this family, was born in Brown county, Ohio, May 1, 1831, and has lived in Ottawa for the past forty-five years. On the 22d of March, 1860, he married Miss Margaret Hossack, daughter of John Hossack, who was the eldest son of John and Margaret (Forsythe) Hossack. He was born in Elgin, Scotland, December 6, 1806, and went to Canada when twelve years of age. His wife, Martha Hossack, was the eldest daughter of Cord Lens, who was born in Germany, in 1786, his wife being Ann Lens, who was born December 4, 1786, and was a daughter of William and Ann Gilly, nee Banks, of England. Mr. and Mrs. Lens were married in England in 1810, but soon afterward removed to Scotland, where Martha was born, November 28, 1813. In 1818 they emigrated with their family to Quebec. Mr. and Mrs. Hossack were married in Quebec, Canada, in 1833; in 1838 removed to Chicago, and in 1849 took up their abode in Ottawa, where Mr. Hossack engaged in merchandising, dealing in lumber and grain. He purchased the latter commodity from the farmers and shipped it by rail to Chicago.

There were born to Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Porter, eight children: Eliza-beth, born March 7, 1861, married William F. Jacobs, February 18, 1890; Jessie F., born November 16, 1862, married George W. Yentzer, November 15, 1888; Lincoln Ewing, born February 26, 1865, married Anne Combs, May 23, 1889; Annie L., born June 5, 1867, married Arthur S. Hook, June 10, 1892; Josephine, born April 30, 1870, married Charles P. Taylor, October 31, 1894 (all the above mentioned now living in Ottawa, Illinois); John H., born January 4, 1873, and now living at Buffalo, New York; Louise C., born July 14, 1876, still at home; and Sidney S., born September 18, 1880, is at school.

It was in the fall of 1852 that Joseph Porter came from Ohio to Ottawa. He was first employed as a clerk by J. G. Nattinger, who was at that time one of the leading merchants of the city, but Mr. Porter did not see a favorable outlook for a clerkship, and being of an inventive turn of mind, he gave his attention first to the study of the daguerreotype art in 1854, and was one of the first inventors of photography. This he followed for a number of years. Visiting his father's farm during the fall of 1856, he was called upon to assist in storing away the hay, the work at that time being done by the common pitchforks and manual labor. Thinking that better methods could be secured he at once entered upon the work of inventing an easier way for storing hay, and as a result produced the famous Porter Hay Carrier, which has gained for him a national reputation as an inventor

and manufacturer of hay tools, and in that occupation he has continued since 1869. Being without capital he at first began manufacturing them by hand, doing all of the work himself. After working until he had a sufficient quantity on hand he would make a tour of the country, exhibiting the tools and taking orders from the dealers. In this way he worked until 1872, when the demand for his goods had so increased that he was obliged to employ help in the manufacturing department. The excellence of his machines commended them to the trade and to the public, a fact which is evidenced by the large demand at the present time and the number of medals that have been awarded him by state fair associations and foreign exhibitions. He was awarded the first premium at the World's Columbian Exhibition, held in Chicago in 1893. His manufacturing interests have steadily grown until at the present time the J. E. Porter Company occupies large and commodious brick buildings and gives employment to a large number of workmen. The output of the plant is extensive, and the business has been so ably conducted that it returns an excellent income to him who is at the head. Mr. Porter is a man of resourceful ability, and in connection with his factory interests in Ottawa in 1894 he was instrumental in organizing the Inland Steel Company, whose mill is located at Chicago Heights. Mr. Porter was elected president of the organization and occupied that position for four years, when he resigned. His son, J. H. Porter, is now the secretary of the company and one of the active managers of the mill, the business of which has constantly grown until to-day the enterprise is one of the few rolling mills in the west, producing all kinds and shapes of steel used in the manufacture of agricultural implements. Mr. Porter certainly deserves great credit for his success, which has resulted from deep thought, careful investigation and untiring labor.

WILLIAM W. HILTABRAND.

Seventy years ago the father and numerous relatives of William W. Hiltabrand came to the frontier of Illinois, and thus from pioneer days the name has been indissolubly connected with the early history of the state. The family has been noted for all of the sterling qualities and public spirit which goes toward the making of valued citizens.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Conrad Hiltabrand, was a native of Pennsylvania and was of German descent. At an early day he removed to North Carolina, and his last years were spent in Tennessee, where he died at an advanced age. His widow, Jane Brown Hiltabrand, came to Illinois, and departed this life in Putnam county about 1860. They were the parents of ten children, most of whom followed agricultural pursuits, to

which calling they had been reared. The maternal grandfather of our subject was Hartwell Hailey, of Scotch-Irish extraction. He was born in North Carolina and in 1829 came from Tennessee to Illinois, locating in Putnam county, where he died at a ripe age. He was the father of thirteen children.

The parents of William W. are Isaac and Elizabeth (Hailey) Hiltabrand, natives of North Carolina and Tennessee, respectively. The father came to this state in 1829 and took up a quarter section of government land in Putnam county. Later he became quite wealthy for that day, and owned a section of land, some being within the boundaries of this county. He continued to dwell in Putnam county until his death, in 1877, when he was nearly seventy years of age. He was a soldier in the Black Hawk war, and never failed in the discharge of his public duties. His wife died in 1871, when fifty-two years of age. Both were members of the Baptist church, and loved and honored by every one who knew them. Eight sons and one daughter of their fourteen children are yet living, namely: William W., our subject; Gilbert, Andrew and James, of Hope township, LaSalle county; Allen, of Henry, Illinois; Austin, of Tonica; Douglas, on the old homestead in Putnam county; Edward, in Magnolia, same county; and Amanda, the wife of Eliphlet Ketchum, of Henry, Illinois.

Born in Putnam county, February 2, 1839, William W. Hiltabrand was early initiated into the routine of farm life, and received such knowledge as he could gain in the common schools. As he approached manhood he managed the old homestead on shares, for his father, for four years, and then bought eighty acres in LaSalle county. To this tract, situated in Hope township, he subsequently added adjoining land from time to time, and invested in other property until he is now the owner of eleven or twelve hundred acres, altogether. Seven tracts of eighty acres each are located in Hope township; and another, the one on which he now makes his home, is in Tonica; while one quarter section is in Iowa, and two quarter sections are in Nebraska. That he possesses business ability is evident from the above mentioned facts, and when it is taken into consideration that he started out a poor boy, and that his success has been mainly due to his own efforts, his success in life is well worthy of admiration. Honesty and industry are the only secrets of his prosperity.

In 1863 Mr. Hiltabrand married Miss Sabina Kreider, who died just ten years subsequently. She was a daughter of the well known citizens, Samuel and Catherine (Reed) Kreider, and was a consistent member of the Baptist church. Three children were born to our subject and his first wife, namely: Sabina Katie, Marion F., and John Willard. The latter died at the age of twenty-three years. Sabina K. is the wife of H. A. Barr, and

resides near Lostant. She is the mother of seven children, named as follows: Elsie, Verna, Mina, Florence and Forest (twins), Ralph and Hazel. Marion F. married Miss Ida Stillwell, and their home is in Hope township. They have five children—Wilma, Berle, Laura, Lelah and Charles. In 1874 our subject wedded Miss Melissa Ferry, and their two children, Burton and Jane Elizabeth, are at home—the former still a student in the local schools, and the latter a teacher in district schools. Mr. and Mrs. Hiltabrand are active members of the Methodist church. Following out his strong temperance principles, he favors the Prohibition party with his ballot. For a number of years he served as a road commissioner and school director. All public enterprises calculated to benefit the people have received his earnest co-operation.

WILLIAM PATTERSON.

This estimable citizen of Vermilion township, LaSalle county, is a native of Pennsylvania, his birth having occurred in Washington county, that state, August 3, 1829. His parents, Samuel and Eliza (Helm) Patterson, likewise, were natives of the Keystone state, as were his two grandfathers, William Patterson and William Helm. William Patterson, Sr., was of Irish descent and was a miller by occupation, following that pursuit until he was well along in years. He was the father of three sons and two daughters. Both he and the maternal grandfather lived and died in Pennsylvania. The latter was of Irish extraction, also, and was a miller by trade. His children, eight in number, comprised three sons and five daughters.

In 1852 Samuel Patterson came to Illinois and purchased three hundred and twenty acres in Vermilion township. Later he sold that property and removing to Ottawa resided there for several years. He then returned to this township and rented a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, the present homestead of the subject of this narrative. Here he spent his last years, dying in 1889, at an advanced age. He was a citizen thoroughly respected for his many sterling qualities and his friends were legion. His first wife, the mother of our subject, died in July, 1852, and he subsequently married Mary Hughes, by whom he had one son, Frank. After her death he wedded Julia Ann Helm, a sister of his first wife. By his first wife he had eleven children, but only three are now living, namely: William; Stephen, of Scattering Point, Livingston county, Illinois, and Samuel.

William Patterson was reared on a farm in his native county and attended school in an old-fashioned log school-house in his boyhood. He has always followed farming as a means of livelihood, and has met with success, as he justly deserves. Before coming to Illinois, in 1852, he spent two

years in Virginia, but he concluded to locate permanently in the west, as this state was then thought of by the people of the east. Arriving here, he lived in Livingston county for about a year, since which time he has resided in LaSalle county. For a twelvemonth or so he carried on a farm three miles east of his present homestead, and then for eighteen years he managed a homestead situated south of Lowell. Going next to Deer Park township, he remained there during a year, and then came to his fine farm on section 27, Vermilion township. Here he bought eighty acres and later added another tract of like extent. He has made substantial improvements and his farm bears the reputation of being one of the most productive and valuable of all in this locality. Following in the political footsteps of his father, Mr. Patterson is a Democrat. For eleven years he served efficiently as township collector, and for the past three years he has been a road commissioner.

The marriage of Mr. Patterson and Miss Minerva Huss, a daughter of Benjamin and Sarah (Church) Huss, was solemnized May 22, 1851. They became the parents of twelve children, ten of whom they reared to maturity, Agnes and Stephen dying in infancy. Their eldest born, Sarah Adeline, married Alonzo Trout, of Seneca, Illinois, and has three children—Ernest, Ella and Thirza. Robert Franklin, the eldest of the six sons, married Minnie Humphreys, and resides in Chicago. Elizabeth Joan became the wife of Henry Marsh, of Utica, Illinois, and mother of William, Charles, George, Nettie and Fred. Thomas Harvey chose Ellen Trout, of Vermilionville, for his wife and their children are named respectively Jesse, Bessie, Ralph and William. Benjamin Austin wedded Marian Groat and their home is northeast of Tonica, this county. Their four children are Mabel, Ira, Noah and Verna. Maria Jane is the wife of Ebenezer Hurton, of Deer Park, LaSalle county; and Mary Minerva, wife of F. A. Gardner, of Franklin county, Iowa, has two children living—Ray and Marie. John William, of Franklin county, Iowa, wedded Rose Hetrick; and Noah Elwin married Elnora Brown. Eliza Caroline is unmarried and is devoting herself to the care of her loved parents, who are approaching the evening time of their lives, esteemed and honored by every one.

JOHN THOMAS.

John Thomas, of Deer Park township, LaSalle county, Illinois, is one of the enterprising farmers of this county. He was born in the German empire, March 28, 1867, and in his infancy was brought by his parents to this country, their first location being in Putnam county, Illinois.

Henry Thomas, the father of John, was a tailor by trade, at which he worked in Germany, but after his arrival in this country he turned his

attention to agricultural pursuits. He was not able at first to establish himself on a farm, having only seven dollars upon his arrival here and with a family dependent upon him, but after working by the day for about two years as a farm hand he saved enough from his wages to sufficiently furnish him with a scant equipment for renting. Year after year he toiled early and late and his honest efforts were crowned with success. When he died he left an estate which comprised six eighty-acre tracts of land. His death occurred June 13, 1889. His widow who, like himself, is of German birth, was before her marriage Miss Margaret Brown. She is still living, is sixty-five years of age, and is the mother of five children, viz.: Henry, Louie, John, Christopher and Jacob, all well known farmers of Farm Ridge and Deer Park townships, LaSalle county, and all respected for their industry and push.

John Thomas was early inured to farm work of various kinds and has never been engaged in any other occupation than farming. On the death of his father he succeeded to the homestead in Deer Park township, the operations of which he has since successfully conducted. He was married in 1891 to Miss Lizzie Egart, a daughter of a German farmer of LaSalle county, and they have three children: Carrie J., John C. and Arthur. Mr. Thomas is a Republican.

SIMEON C. HILTABRAND.

The subject of this sketch is one of the wealthy and influential farmers of Hope township, LaSalle county, Illinois, his home farm being on the southeast corner of section 4; Tonica his post-office address.

Simeon Conrad Hiltabrand may well claim to be a pioneer of Illinois, the date of his arrival here being 1829. From that date until 1851 his home was in Putnam county, and since 1851 he has been a resident of the township in which he now lives. He has not only been an eye-witness to the development that has been wrought here but has done his part toward bringing about the transformation of a frontier district into a beautiful, well-cultivated farming country. We take pleasure in here recording the life history of Mr. Hiltabrand.

He was born in Tennessee, about thirty miles from Nashville, in what was then called Robinson county, September 13, 1826, a son of George and Elizabeth (Gunn) Hiltabrand, natives of North Carolina. Their family was composed of twelve children, seven sons and five daughters, eight of whom are now living: Jerusha, wife of Christian Hartenbower, near Tonica, Illinois; Simeon C.; Henry H., of Hope township, LaSalle county, Illinois; Edward C., of Henry, Illinois; Josephus, of Tonica; George W., of

Henry, Illinois; Benjamin F., of Bloomington, Illinois; and Melissa, the wife of Joseph Ebner, of Hope township. The father of these children was a farmer all his life. Also he was a natural mechanic, and as such did many a kind turn for his neighbors in the way of repairing, etc., without ever a cent of charge, when there were few mechanics on the frontier. He and his wife were known to all the neighbors throughout the pioneer settlement as "Uncle George" and "Aunt Betsey." He went from North Carolina to Tennessee when nineteen or twenty years of age, crossing the mountains on horseback, and in the fall of 1828 came to Illinois. That first winter he spent in Tazewell county. The next year he moved to Putnam county, being the second man to settle in Ox Bow Prairie, in this move being accompanied by his brother-in-law, Hartwell Haley. Mr. Hiltabrand took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, to which he afterward added eighty acres, and still later he accumulated four hundred and eighty acres in Hope township, LaSalle county, where his son, Simeon C. now lives. Also he owned eighty acres in what is called the "Quaker neighborhood." At the time he settled in Ox Bow Prairie there was not a rail in sight nor a foot of land broken. He at once put up a little cabin, which was torn down during his absence and which he rebuilt, being assisted by a few Magnolia families. In after years he improved his place handsomely, and on his farm passed the rest of his life and died, his death occurring in 1870, at the age of seventy-one years. His widow died in 1881, at the age of seventy-seven. Both belonged to the old-school of Baptists. He was a soldier in the Black Hawk war; politically, was always a Democrat.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was Conrad Hiltabrand. He was descended from German ancestors who were among the early settlers of Pennsylvania, and it was in that state that he was born. In his boyhood he went to North Carolina and some years later to Tennessee, where he died at about the age of seventy years. He was a farmer and also ran a sawmill. He and his wife, whose maiden name was Lutz, were the parents of a large family. The maternal grandfather of Simeon C. Hiltabrand was Daniel Gunn. He was a native of North Carolina, moved from there to Tennessee, and in August, 1829, came to Illinois and located on Ox Bow prairie, where he died soon afterward, aged about seventy years. He was a farmer and was the father of fourteen children.

Simeon C. Hiltabrand was reared in Putnam county from the time he was about two and a half years old. He attended the old-fashioned subscription schools on Clear creek before the Black Hawk war, on the Indian camp ground, where they had fine springs of water. And he bears testimony to the honesty of the Indians; says he never knew them to steal in his neighborhood. He remained at home until he was twenty-one years old, assisting

his father in the farm work, and when he started out for himself he rented some land from his father, his father furnishing the seed, which he (Simeon) sowed the next day after he was twenty-one, his share being one-third of the crop. Afterward he hired for one month to a man who was building a sawmill and, being known for his ability and willingness to work, was given nineteen dollars a month. During the following winter he chopped cord wood, helped to dig a mill-race, and split rails. As a rail-splitter he sometimes made one dollar and a quarter a day, when seventy-five cents was considered good wages. After he had raised three crops on the eighty acres he rented of his father, he moved to his present home place, which he bought of his father, this place consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, the improvements on which have been made by him. Since then he has at different times bought other land and is now the owner of eight hundred and twenty-six acres, all in LaSalle county except two hundred and forty acres in Wright county, Iowa. Besides this he has bought and sold several pieces of land.

Mr. Hiltabrand was married March 29, 1855, to Miss Hannah A. Funk, daughter of Joseph and Margaret (Wigfall) Funk, natives of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Having no children of their own, they have taken into their home and reared three children and now have a fourth one with them, namely: Louis A. Deobald, Julia Borngasser, Maude Gunn and George Henry Roth.

Mr. and Mrs. Hiltabrand have been members of the old-school Baptist church since 1867. Politically he harmonizes with the Democratic party, and has served as a road commissioner and school director.

AMOS W. MERRITT.

Amos W. Merritt, of the firm of Merritt & Bangs, general merchants, Lostant, Illinois, claims Ohio as his native state, his birth having occurred in Belmont county, June 29, 1843.

Mr. Merritt is a son of Henry P. and Margaret M. (Wilson) Merritt, natives of Pennsylvania. Their family was composed of eleven children, seven sons and four daughters, of whom nine are now living: Amos W., whose name introduces this sketch; John E., of White City, Kansas; Isabel W., wife of I. P. Wierman, of Lostant, Illinois; Hannah B., wife of Sewell Gotchell, of Freeport, Illinois; Mahlon L., of Dwight, Illinois; Charles H., also of Dwight; Maggie J., wife of George B. Hager, of Ottawa, Illinois; Isaac E., of Buckley, Illinois; and George L., of Roberts. The father of these children learned the trade of wagon-maker in early life and followed it until he was forty years of age, from that time on giving his attention to

farming. He went with his parents from Pennsylvania to Belmont county, Ohio, when he was seven years old, and grew to manhood and married in that state. In 1853 he moved to Illinois and located in Magnolia, Putnam county, where he had a wagon shop for four years, until 1857. That year he came to LaSalle county and bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Hope township, partly improved at the time of purchase. It was principally upon this farm that he reared his family. He lived there until 1882, when he moved to a place near Wenona and lived there twelve years. He died April 13, 1896, at the age of seventy-eight years. His widow is still living, now in her eightieth year, her home being in Lostant. She is a member of the Society of Friends, as also was he. Politically he was a Republican, and at different times held several township offices, including that of supervisor.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was John Merritt. He was a Pennsylvanian, a dealer in boots and shoes, and died in the prime of early manhood, being only twenty-five years old at the time of his death. He left a widow and three little sons. On his mother's side Mr. Merritt's grandfather was Amos Wilson, a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1794. Mr. Wilson was twice married. His first wife, Hannah Brown, a native of Pennsylvania, and whose father was an Irishman, he married in Pennsylvania and by her had five children. The family moved to Ohio and located on a farm in Belmont county in 1826, and the same year the wife and mother died, at the age of twenty-six years. In 1828 Mr. Wilson married Miss Anna Morris, by whom he had nine children. They came to Illinois in 1851 and located in Putnam county, on a new farm, where he passed the rest of his life, and where he died January 15, 1881, in his eighty-seventh year.

Amos W. Merritt was ten years old when he came with his parents to Illinois, and he has lived in Hope township, LaSalle county, since 1857. His youthful days were passed not unlike those of other farmer boys, assisting in the farm work and in winter attending the district schools. When he started out in life on his own responsibility it was as a farmer on rented land. He continued farming until 1888, when he moved to Lostant. The following year he was appointed postmaster. While filling this office, in 1890, he engaged in the grocery business, and the following year took in as partner M. H. Bangs, his brother-in-law, the firm becoming Merritt & Bangs. They then added a stock of dry goods, boots and shoes, making a complete general store, and have since kept a well assorted stock of general merchandise. They have established a good trade among the leading citizens of the town and surrounding country and are ranked with the enterprising, up-to-date business men of Lostant.

Mr. Merritt was married December 30, 1875, to Miss Sarah A. Bangs, daughter of Samuel Lyman Bangs and Margaret (Howard) Bangs. Mrs. Merritt is one of a family of five children—two sons and three daughters—and she has one sister and two brothers living, namely: Jennie, wife of Dr. A. H. Hatton, of Peru, Illinois; J. Edward, superintendent of the township high school, Pontiac, Illinois; and Mark H., in business with Mr. Merritt at Lostant. Mr. and Mrs. Merritt have no children. For several years previous to her marriage Mrs. Merritt was a popular and successful teacher, teaching at Rutland and Lostant and for a short time in the academy at Hillsboro, LaSalle county. She was Mr. Merritt's assistant in the post-office during the four years and a half he filled that position. Religiously she is a Methodist and fraternally a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Mr. Merritt being identified with both the F. & A. M., Tonica Lodge, No. 364, and the O. E. S. Politically he is a Republican. In addition to the office already named, he has served in other local offices, such as township assessor, member of the village school board and member of the village board of trustees.

In tracing the family history of the Bangs and Howard families, we find that both families are from good stock. Samuel Lyman Bangs, the father of Mrs. Merritt, was born in Massachusetts, of patriotic ancestors. His father, Zenas Bangs, was a soldier of the Revolution, and one of his brothers was a soldier in the war of 1812, and his son served his country during the civil war. The early ancestors of the Bangs family came to Plymouth colony in 1623.

Margaret Howard, the mother of Mrs. Merritt, was descended from the royal family—the Howards of England. She is now past eighty years of age, makes her home with Mrs. Merritt, and is remarkably strong and active both in mind and body for one of her age. Possessed of sterling qualities, the excellent family she has reared owe much to her for what they are and have achieved in life.

WILSON E. KREIDER.

A patriotic citizen and untiring worker for the good of Tonica, LaSalle county, is he whose name heads this article. His father, Samuel Kreider, a native of Washington county, Pennsylvania, born October 15, 1816, was one of the pioneers of Illinois, as he came here in 1835, when Chicago was a tiny hamlet of a few houses, and was, in the main, a swamp, with no promise of future greatness. The father and son have thus been identified with the development of the northern central part of Illinois for nearly sixty-five



W.E. Freider.

years, witnessing almost the whole of its progress from its wild state to its present high standard.

George Kreider, the paternal grandfather of our subject, likewise was of Pennsylvania birth and of German descent. He, too, made a settlement in Illinois in 1835, and from that time until his death, at an advanced age, he made his home in Fulton county. His son Samuel grew to maturity in his native state, with his eight brothers and three sisters, learning agriculture in all of its branches. Believing that the west afforded greater opportunities to a young man desirous of advancement, he came to this state sixty-five years ago, with his father, and was actively occupied in the cultivation of farms in Fulton, Putnam and Marshall counties for many years thereafter. In 1880 he retired. He resided in Varna, Illinois, eleven years, one year in Quincy, and in 1892 removed to Tonica, where he died June 21, 1899. His wife, whose maiden name was Katharine Reed, was the daughter of John Reed, a farmer, who died aged seventy years in Knox county, Illinois, where he had settled in 1836; and her mother, Katharine (Wight) Reed, was ninety-nine years of age at the time of her demise. Mrs. Kreider departed this life May 25, 1879, when but fifty-two years of age. She was born in Indiana, May 21, 1826, was a consistent member of the Baptist church and possessed qualities of heart and mind which endeared her to everyone who knew her. She was the mother of five sons and a daughter, of whom but three survive, namely: W. E.; George, of Quincy, Illinois, and James, of Forest City, Missouri. The deceased are Sabina J., John R. and William.

The birth of Wilson Elmer Kreider occurred in Marshall county, Illinois, November 9, 1865, and his boyhood was quietly spent upon the parental homestead. After completing a district school course of study he further equipped himself for the practical duties of life by attending the Gem City Business College, at Quincy, this state. He was in his sixteenth year when he left the farm, and from that time until 1890 he was employed by his brother George, in a hardware store in Varna, also in this state. The following year he clerked at De Kalb, Illinois, in an establishment devoted to the sale of dry goods, boots and shoes, and general furnishing supplies. Going to Quincy next, he embarked in the hardware business in partnership with his brother George, and a year later came to Tonica, since his home. Here he at once engaged in the grain business, becoming the proprietor of the William A. Flint elevator, which he saw fit to demolish in 1895, building a much larger and better one in its stead. His present elevator has a capacity of about forty-five thousand bushels of grain, and a most flourishing business has been built up by the enterprising owner. Within a very few years he has won a reputation as one of the leading business men of

Tonica, and for six years he has served efficiently as one of the village trustees. He is the president of the Tonica Switch Board Company, a private telephone line, and has given of his time, influence and means to many local industries.

The marriage of Mr. Kreider and Miss Carrie B. Conaway, a daughter of James E. and Mary E. (Maxwell) Conaway, was solemnized September 5, 1888. They have three children, Alta, Edna, and one unnamed. The pleasant home of the family is situated in the northern part of the town. Mr. Kreider purchased there a substantial house, which he reconstructed, making a pretty modern residence, and which he has since occupied.

In political matters he has used his ballot in favor of Prohibition candidates for some years, in national elections, as the great temperance cause has appeared to him to be of supreme importance, but in the last presidential election, when the sound financial system of this country was threatened, he promptly gave his influence and vote to McKinley and the Republican party.

ALEXANDER KELSO.

Forty years ago, Alexander Kelso came to LaSalle county, and during the period since then he has become wealthy and influential in his own community. Industry and perseverance have been his watch-words and integrity has well marked all of his transactions.

He is a native of the Emerald Isle, his birth having occurred in county Londonderry, July 12, 1838. He is one of the eight children of Alexander and Margaret (Densmore) Kelso, of whom the three daughters are deceased. Joseph is living in Australia, Samuel in Ireland, James in Richland township and Daniel in Hope township, LaSalle county. The latter two named are twins. The father, who was a farmer, died in Ireland about the year 1850, his wife having died several years before. They were both members of the Presbyterian church.

Alexander Kelso, of this sketch, resided in Ireland until he was sixteen years of age, the greater part of which time he attended the public schools, on which his education depended at that time, his parents both being dead. Sparkling with energy and ambition, he finally decided to try his fortunes in America, and accordingly in July, 1854, he crossed the ocean. Finding employment at Albany, Castleton and other points along the Hudson river, and pleased with the change of countries and labor, he remained at these points about four years, the greater part of which was spent at Albany in the manufacture of brick.

During that period of time he met with Miss Annie Murphy, whom

he married November 22, 1858, the ceremony being performed by Father Roach in St. Mary's church, Albany. Mrs. Kelso also is a native of Ireland, her parents, Collins and Annie (Kavanaugh) Murphy, being farmers there. Both died in the early part of their united life, leaving eight small children, one son and seven daughters, and Mrs. Kelso being but two years of age at the time of their death. After this she made her home with her uncle and aunt, Richard and Julia Gory, until she was sixteen years of age, when she and another sister came to America, in the fall of 1856. Mrs. Kelso, with her sister, Mrs. Bridget Dean, now living at Sierraville, California, are the only survivors of the family at this writing.

In the spring of 1859 Mr. Kelso and wife came to Illinois and have since resided in LaSalle county. After living in Tonica about six months Mr. Kelso worked by the month for a short time, after which he raised crops on shares for three years. Next he bought seventy acres of land in Hope township, east of the Illinois Central Railroad, which property he improved and still owns. Later he purchased another eighty-acre tract, situated three-fourths of a mile from his present home, and then the homestead, comprising eighty acres, which he has since improved with a handsome house, barn and other buildings. From time to time he invested in additional land and now owns, altogether, in one body, six hundred and twenty-six and one-half acres. One farm, of ninety acres, is located southeast of his home; one, of a quarter section, north; another, of eighty acres, east; and sixty-six and one-half acres to the north of that place. In connection with general farming, Mr. Kelso is an extensive stock raiser.

In all of his joys and sorrows, for the past two-score years and more, Mr. Kelso has been aided by his ever dutiful and devoted wife. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Kelso was blessed with six sons and six daughters. Joseph married Kate Hickey, of Dimmick township, October 30, 1895. James chose Mary Molloy, of Chicago, Illinois, for his wife, and they were married February 14, 1892. Maggie became the wife of Peter Stumpf March 17, 1880, and was the mother of Mary Anna, Alexander and Lauretta. Mrs. Stumpf and oldest daughter, Mary Anna, died on September 5, 1887, and both were buried in the same grave. Alexander, of this family, died when but four months old. Robert wedded Mary Ryan, of Dimmick township, May 3, 1893, their only child being a boy and named Alexander, after his grandfather. Mary became the wife of Frank Faircloth, an operator, November 23, 1898, and is the mother of one child, whose name is Anna Cecelia; their place of residence at this writing is Litchfield, this state. Daniel died in infancy. Bridget died at the age of one year and six months. Alexander, Jr., is unmarried and living at home. Matilda became the wife of David Ryan, of Dimmick township, May 28, 1890, and is the mother

of three children, Alexander, Ella and Marie. Samuel is unmarried and living at home. Isabella and Maria, twins, are also unmarried and living with their parents. Lauretta Stumpf has made her home with her grandparents since the death of her mother. Mr. Kelso and wife are both members of the Catholic church and have reared their children in that faith.

Mr. Kelso's political views are Democratic, but he is not an aspirant to public office, though for a period of three years he served as road commissioner and has acted as pathmaster.

SPENCER S. BURGESS.

Among the pioneers of Vermilion township, LaSalle county, is Spencer Stokes Burgess, who has been an interested witness of its development from a wild state to its present condition of excellence. He experienced the vicissitudes of life on the frontier, and his accounts of the hardships and trials of the early settlers here are replete with interest. Money was a very scarce commodity in those days, and he recalls a time when a neighbor could not raise enough money in the whole township to get a letter out of the post-office, twenty-five cents.

The parents of our subject were Jacob and Olive (Clark) Burgess, natives of Massachusetts. For a few years their home was in New Jersey, but in 1837 they set out for the west and located in Vermilion township, where they spent their last years, the father dying on his farm in 1842, just after he had made a fair start toward prosperity. At the time of the family's arrival here there were no roads or fences and only two or three houses anywhere near the tract of land where they took up their abode. Mrs. Burgess, whose father lived and died in the Bay state, became the mother of nine children, only three of whom survive, namely: Spencer S., Warren and Sidney. She was a woman of great force of character, and after the death of her husband she heroically took his place and reared her children to lives of usefulness. She was summoned to her reward in 1862, when seventy-two years of age. In religious belief she was a Presbyterian.

Spencer Stokes Burgess, who was born in Burlington county, New Jersey, November 21, 1831, was but six years old when he was brought to this locality, and he vividly recalls the appearance of the vast expanses of prairie land, unbroken by signs of human habitation, for the most part. His educational advantages were, necessarily, extremely limited, and he has had to rely upon his own energy in the acquisition of knowledge as well as material wealth. When he was about sixteen years of age he commenced working for wages, and at eighteen he took charge of the old homestead for

his widowed mother. At length he had saved a sufficient sum of money to buy a quarter-section of land on section 28, in the same township, and this place is his present home. From time to time he made other investments in real estate and now is the fortunate possessor of nearly five hundred and forty acres, besides having given his son a fine farm of one hundred and forty acres. In his business transactions he has been just, prompt and reliable, and he owes his success to his honesty, industry and perseverance. He has attended strictly to business, raising a full line of crops usually grown in this latitude, and keeping such live stock as he needed upon the farm.

In his young manhood, Mr. Burgess served as a road commissioner of this township for several years, and for eight or ten years he acted in the important office of supervisor, during that period being a member of the building committee who had in charge the construction of the court-house at Ottawa. Other enterprises calculated to benefit the people of this county have received his earnest co-operation, and for several years he was the president of the Wenona Union Fair Association. The cause of education has been warmly supported by him, and for some years he was a school director, while at present he is a trustee of the local school board. He favors the Republican party with his ballot.

Forty-one years ago, in June, 1858, Mr. Burgess and Miss Eliza Jane Kellar, daughter of Absalom Kellar, were united in marriage. They became the parents of a son and daughter, Elwin S. and Lonie J. The son wedded Miss Addie Gallup, and they have four children, Joseph G., Pansy B., Stokes H. and Fern D. Mrs. Burgess is a member of the Congregational church, and with her husband takes a lively interest in everything tending to uplift and benefit humanity.

HENRY SHERMAN.

Among the prosperous farmers and best known citizens of Northville township, LaSalle county, is found the subject of this sketch, Henry Sherman, who resides on the old Sherman homestead.

Henry Sherman was born December 21, 1858, a son of Stephen and Louise Sherman, pioneer settlers of Northville township. Further mention of Stephen Sherman and wife will be found in the sketch of Joseph Sherman on another page of this work. Henry was reared on the home farm and has always been engaged in farming here. He was married in 1883 to Miss Caroline Martin, a native of France. Her parents both having died in their native land, she, in company with her three brothers, came

to this country in 1870. In Illinois she married Mr. Sherman, and their happy union has been blessed in the birth of the following named children: Stephen, George, Nora, Joseph, Edward, Vernon and Freddie. The last named is deceased.

Politically Mr. Sherman is a Democrat, and at this writing he is serving as a school director.

IRA CONOVER.

Ira Conover, foreman of the Griffin clay bank and farm in Utica township, LaSalle county, has been identified with the interests of this place for some time and is well known as a man of sterling integrity.

Mr. Conover's father, James Conover, was born in New Jersey and in early life removed from that state to Ohio, where he carried on farming operations for a number of years. When the civil war came on he joined the Seventy-fifth Ohio Volunteers, was captured at Franklin, Tennessee, and died in Andersonville prison. His wife, nee Mary Ann Connor, died within two weeks after learning of his awful experience and death. Their family comprise the following named members: Henry, of Loveland, Ohio; Ira, whose name introduces this sketch; Frances, wife of Richard Rose Swift, of Brown county, Ohio; and John, also of Brown county, Ohio.

Ira Conover was born in Brown county, Ohio, April 2, 1848, and in his native place spent his childhood and youth. He left Ohio at the close of the war, in which he served a short time, and the following seven years was employed as a farm hand. He located at Utica, Illinois, in 1872, and entered the store of E. E. Taylor, in which he clerked five years, following which he clerked three years for Messrs. Leonard and Holland. At the end of this time he engaged in business for himself. He dealt exclusively in groceries until 1890, when he added a stock of dry goods to his store, and for five years longer he continued in business. In 1895 he became connected with Mr. Griffin's interests, as foreman, the position he holds at the present time.

Mr. Conover was married April 2, 1874, to a daughter of William H. Arthur, of Brown county, Ohio. She died July 2, 1895, leaving a husband and three sons to mourn their loss. The eldest son, Frederick, married Mary Farmer, and is a resident of Utica. Thomas and George, the other sons, are also residents of Utica.

For years Mr. Conover has been an active Republican of LaSalle county. He was a member of the Utica school board three years, served as the town clerk five years, and for four years was the supervisor of Utica township. Also he served on the committees on miscellaneous claims and

equalization of town lots. In these various places of local trust and responsibility he performed faithful and acceptable service and won the confidence and respect of all with whom he came in contact.

SIDNEY W. BURGESS.

Among the leading farmers of Vermilion township, LaSalle county, is found, residing on section 31, Sidney W. Burgess, who was born on the farm on which he now lives, July 19, 1840, and who has passed his whole life in LaSalle county.

Mr. Burgess is a son of Jacob and Olive (Clark) Burgess, natives of Massachusetts, and one of their family of eight children, only three of whom are now living—Warren, Spencer S. and Sidney W. Jacob Burgess was a farmer. He came to LaSalle county when it was on the frontier and made a settlement among its pioneers, buying eighty acres of land. This land he partly improved, but while this section of the country was yet undeveloped he died, passing away in middle life. His wife died in 1862. She was a Presbyterian.

Sidney W. Burgess was reared on his father's farm. In his early boyhood there were only four or five houses in the neighborhood in which they lived and the district school which he attended was held in a log cabin. Later he attended a commercial college in Peoria. When he started out in life on his own account it was as a farm hand working for wages. As soon as he was able he purchased eighty acres of land in Vermilion township, which he subsequently sold. After his mother's death he came into possession of the home farm. In addition to it he owns ten acres near by, and has eighty acres in Sedgwick county, Kansas, not far from Wichita.

November 20, 1871, Mr. Burgess married Miss Eugenia Allen, a daughter of Cornelius and Excy (Striker) Allen, natives of New York, and the fruits of their union are three children, namely: Olive, Eva and Burton S. Olive is the wife of Wilson Childers and has two children—Hazel and Glen. They reside in Lostant, Illinois. Mrs. Burgess is a member of the Tonica Congregational church.

Politically Mr. Burgess is a Republican and takes an intelligent and commendable interest in public affairs. He is now serving as the township clerk, which position he has filled for about twelve years. He is a member of Randolph Post, No. 93, G. A. R., having earned a membership in this distinguished body by loyal service for his country in its dark days of civil war. He enlisted August 6, 1862, as a member of Company B, One Hundred and Fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was in the army a little

over three years, having been honorably discharged and mustered out September 1, 1865, at Louisville, Kentucky. He was at Hartsville and in the Tullahoma and Chickamauga campaigns; in the battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge; was in the Atlanta campaign at Buzzards' Roost, Resaca, New Hope Church, the battles around Kenesaw Mountain and that of Peach Tree Creek, in which last named battle he was wounded.

Mr. Burgess is a civil engineer, and his business as such he has followed to some extent in connection with his farming operations. His postoffice address is Tonica.

CAPTAIN GEORGE W. HOWE.

The venerable gentleman whose name adorns this page is one of the well-known citizens of LaSalle county, where he has lived for nearly half a century.

George W. Howe was born in Windsor county, Vermont, December 15, 1822, one of the three children of Calvin and Achie (Wallace) Howe. His brother Norman, the eldest of the family, died at the age of twelve years, and his sister, Eunice W., the second in order of birth, married Philip G. Sewal, and became the mother of two daughters and one son. She died in 1889, at the age of seventy-six years. Their father, Calvin Howe, was a carpenter and farmer. For a number of years he was the captain of an independent military company in Vermont. He was born, passed his life and died in the Green Mountain state, his death occurring about 1862. Politically he was a Democrat until the organization of the Republican party, when he identified himself with it. Religiously both he and his wife were Universalists. She survived him about two years.

The Howes are of English origin. Representatives of the family were among the early settlers of New England. Grandfather Howe was, it is supposed, born either in Massachusetts or Connecticut. For many years he was engaged in farming in Vermont, and he died on his farm in that state when past middle life. His family was composed of five sons and four daughters. Of the maternal grandfather of our subject, we record that his name was John Wallace, that he was of Scotch descent, and that he lived and died in Vermont, his death occurring on his farm in Windsor county, at about the age of eighty years. He was a lieutenant in the Revolutionary war and drew a pension. His children numbered ten.

George W. Howe was reared in his native county, receiving his education in its district schools, and he remained at home until he reached the age of twenty-two years, when he started out to make his own way in

the world, beginning as a farm hand and working by the month. In this way he was employed for twelve years. He came west in 1850, landing at LaSalle, Illinois, from a canalboat, the 15th of September, and soon took up his abode in Eden township, LaSalle county. The first winter of his residence here misfortune overtook him in the way of sickness and death, his wife dying, and that winter he spent a considerable portion of the money he had saved up with the expectation of buying land. In 1861 he secured warrant to a tract of land in Allen township, one hundred and sixty acres, which he kept till after the war. In March, 1856, he bought eighty acres of his present farm, which he called his "first love" in land desire, and which he paid for before the war broke out. Then he gave his notes for another eighty adjoining it, and has since added one hundred and sixty acres, making in all three hundred and twenty acres. This is all prairie land and has for many years been under a high state of cultivation. Also he owns ten acres of timber land.

At the outbreak of civil war he raised a company in a few days and was elected its captain, and, leaving one hundred and fifty acres of grain in the shock, he went with his men to the front. In four weeks from the date of his enlistment he was facing General Bragg in Kentucky. He was in the service a little over a year, after which, on account of failing health, he resigned and returned home. He was in the battles of Hartsville, Tennessee; the Tullahoma campaign, and in many skirmishes.

Captain Howe has been twice married. In Vermont, in 1845, he married Miss Eliza Howard, who bore him two children—Eleanor and Elwin. The latter died at the age of two and a half years. Eleanor married Collins Gunn, who is now deceased, and she lives in Granville, Putnam county. She has six children—Mabel, Ada, Charles, Maud, Edna and Blanche. Mrs. Eliza Howe died in 1851, as above recorded. February 15, 1854, Mr. Howe married Miss Arminda H. Holdridge, a daughter of Asa and Polly (Warren) Holdridge, early settlers of LaSalle county. The fruits of this union have been six children—four sons and two daughters—Viola Irene, George Ellis and Norman, and three that died in infancy. Viola Irene married Lyle Patton, of Vermilion township, and they have two children—Vera and Roy. George E. married Miss Ida Utech. They live on the home place.

Captain Howe has long been identified with the Masonic order. He received the blue lodge degrees in St. John's Lodge, F. & A. M., in Peru, Illinois, and is one of the charter members of Tonica Lodge, No. 264. Also he is a member of Peru Chapter, No. 63, R. A. M.; and St. John's Commandery, No. 26, K. T., of Peru, in all of which he has served officially. He was the first Senior Warden of Tonica Lodge and is a Past Master of the same. Also he is a member of Randolph Post, No. 93, G. A. R., of which

he is a Past Commander. He has affiliated with the Republican party since its organization and has served officially in several local offices. He has been a justice of the peace for fifteen years and is still serving in that office; was a township assessor one term and school director two or three terms.

WILLIAM NICHOLSON.

William Nicholson is one of the sterling citizens which England has furnished to the United States, and Lowell, LaSalle county, boasts of no better, worthier inhabitant. He is a brother of John and son of John and Elizabeth (Moffatt) Nicholson, whose history appears elsewhere in this work. They were all natives of England, and the birth of William Nicholson took place in Westmoreland, November 10, 1833.

In his native land, he obtained a fair education and for several years after leaving school he was employed at various occupations. His elder brother, John, having come to America and reported favorably of the prospects for a young man of enterprise and ability, he concluded that he also would seek his fortune here. Accordingly, in the spring of 1856 he sailed across the ocean and upon reaching the shores of the western continent, he proceeded direct to Lowell, which, with the exception of two years spent on a farm in Lee county, Illinois, he has looked upon as his home ever since. For about two years after he came to this country he worked in the coal mines, and then, for several years, he found employment with his brother in the mill. Having accumulated a little capital by economy, he invested it in eighty acres of land in Lee county. This property he later sold, and in partnership with his brother bought several tracts of land, which they did not divide until about ten years ago. Our subject now owns three hundred acres in Vermilion township, and one hundred and sixty acres near Iowa Falls, in Hardin county, Iowa. A little more than a decade ago he retired from the active cares of agricultural life and has since made his abode in Lowell, where he owns and occupies a pleasant house.

In 1861, the year that witnessed the outbreak of the civil war, Mr. Nicholson and Miss Sarah Ann Chester were united in wedlock. She is a daughter of David and Ann (Gray) Chester, who were natives of Carlisle, and Durham, England, respectively. They came to the United States in 1853, and for two years resided in Zanesville, Ohio. Then, removing to Deer Park, LaSalle county, the father was employed in a sawmill for several years, and also worked in the coal mines. Of the thirteen children of Mr. and Mrs. Chester only four are now living: Mrs. Nicholson, George W., David and Margaret Ellen, wife of Isaac Farris. The father departed this

life in May, 1873, aged sixty-four years. The mother survives, and now, at four-score years of age, is tenderly cared for by her daughter, Margaret E., at their home in LaSalle.

Six sons and two daughters blessed the union of our subject and wife, namely: John, Thomas, Robert, Margaret, George, Mary, William and one who died in infancy. John, who is managing the old homestead in Vermilion township, belonging to his father, married Lillie Richey and has two children, Gladys Viola and Ruth Marie. Thomas married Jennie Gardner, by whom he has one child, Guy William, and their home is in Hardin county, Iowa. Robert married the widow of the late Mercer Richey. Margaret is the wife of John Gardner, of Franklin county, Iowa, and her children are John William, Zola Ann and Sarah Fern. George died at the age of two years and four months. Mary and William, Jr., are unmarried and living at home.

The cause of education finds in Mr. Nicholson a sincere friend, and for several years he served as a school director. He is a stanch Republican, and in religion is an Episcopalian, while his wife is identified with the Methodist denomination. They are widely known, owing to their long residence in this county, and have hosts of friends.

WILLIAM F. ROCHELEAU.

Professor William F. Rocheleau, superintendent of public instruction in Streator, is one of the most prominent and successful educators in this part of the state. He was born in Danville, Vermont, forty-seven years ago, his parents being Alexander and Clarissa (Batchelder) Rocheleau, the father of French descent. His vocation was that of agriculture, to which he devoted the greater part of his life.

Professor Rocheleau passed his early years upon his father's farm and was an attendant of the public schools. Later he entered the academy and finished with a course in Montpelier Seminary, at which he graduated. The following two years he was employed in teaching school, and his record clearly shows his special adaptation for the work. For the next seven years he was employed in the State Normal School at Randolph, Vermont, whence he went to Sauk Center, Minnesota, and for three years was the superintendent of schools there. He then accepted a position as instructor in the State Normal School at Moorhead, Minnesota, and remained in that position for five years, leaving it to take the chair of psychology in the State Normal at Carbondale, this state. After remaining in that position for three years, where he showed wonderful efficacy in his methods of work, he came to

Streator, in 1896, where his teaching has been successful to a remarkable degree. He is a shrewd observer of human nature, precise and logical in his reasoning, and does not hesitate to introduce new ideas in his work when he thinks it advisable to do so. He is also a good disciplinarian and manages the different elements in the school with an ease that redounds to his credit. He is devoted to his work and spares no pains to perfect himself in each branch and keep fully abreast of the times. The citizens of Streator are proud of their educational advantages and at no time have the schools appeared to better advantage or attained such prominence among the educational institutions of the state as they have under the management of Professor Rocheleau. The ten school buildings of the city are in charge of a corps of fifty teachers, with an enrollment of two thousand and four hundred pupils, and the whole guided by Professor Rocheleau.

In 1877 he was joined in marriage to Miss Mattie Sinney, a daughter of Rev. James Sinney, and in the family of the professor there is now one child, named George A. Professor Rocheleau and his wife are prominent in the social life of the city and are held in high esteem.

THOMAS DRACKLEY.

Thomas Drackley, of LaSalle county, Illinois, is an Englishman by birth and early training, but has been a resident of America since he reached his majority and has at heart the best interests of his adopted country. Mr. Drackley was born in Leicestershire, England, September 17, 1830, a son of Thomas and Charlotte (Dowell) Drackley, he being the third of their five children, the others being as follows: Richard, Charlotte, Manlius and Sarah. Charlotte is deceased. Manlius and Sarah are residents of Rutland township, LaSalle county, the latter being the wife of Philander Butterfield. In 1846 the family emigrated from their native land to the United States and established their home in New York state, near Utica. Both parents lived to a ripe old age, the father dying at the age of eighty-five; the mother, at eighty. They were members of the Episcopal church, or what is known as the Church of England.

Thomas and William Drackley preceded their parents and other members of the family to Illinois, their landing here being in 1852, shortly after Thomas reached his majority, and they came at once to LaSalle county, Illinois. Thomas engaged in farm work, by the month, for Mr. William Pitzer, in whose employ he remained some time. In 1867 he married and that same year he and his bride settled on their present farm, a fine tract of one hundred and sixty acres, which under Mr. Drackley's more than thirty years of cultivation and improvement has been developed into a

valuable farm. Among its improvements are a modern residence, large barns and a fine orchard.

Mr. Drackley was married February 27, 1867, to Miss Adelaide Pierce, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. Mr. Coleman, of Ottawa, Illinois. Mrs. Drackley is one of the family of two children of Charles Pierce and wife, Clarinda Pierce, nee Browning, natives of Massachusetts. Her brother, Edwin L., died in Maysville, Missouri, in 1898. Mrs. Drackley previous to her marriage was engaged in teaching school. With the passing years, sons and daughters to the number of six have come to brighten the home of Mr. and Mrs. Drackley. Their third born, Herbert T., died at the age of eight months. The others are living and are as follows: Elizabeth, the wife of Charles Howe, of Brookfield township, LaSalle county, has two children—Jessie L. and Murial; Clara J., a successful teacher; Lottie E., formerly a teacher, is now the wife of I. G. Osgood, of Brookfield, LaSalle county, and has one child, Lenore; and Charles W. and Thomas P. at home.

Mr. Drackley and his family are actively identified with the Methodist church, and he gives his support, politically, to the Republican party.

FRANK MASSATTE.

The prominent farmer and stock-dealer whose name heads this sketch—Frank Massatte, of Adams township, LaSalle county—is a Frenchman by birth and early association, but for nearly three decades has been an American citizen, residing at his present location since 1872.

Mr. Massatte was born in France April 24, 1841, and was reared in his native land, remaining there until 1871, when, thinking to better his condition, he emigrated to the United States. The following year he came to Adams township, LaSalle county, landing here a poor man with only forty cents in his pocket, but with a brave heart, a strong arm and a willingness to work. The next year, 1873, he took to himself a wife and settled down to farming. His present success as a farmer and stock-raiser goes to show that he has been a "hustler" in the true sense of that word; also that success can be attained and property acquired here without capital to begin with. Mr. Massatte now has two hundred and eighty acres of land, one of the finest and best improved farms in his locality. For more than fifteen years he has given especial attention to the stock business, raising, buying and selling, and there is probably not another man in the vicinity better posted on stock than he.

Mr. Massatte on coming to this country gave his support to the Re-

publican party and has since continued to affiliate with it, taking an intelligent interest in all public affairs.

He was married in 1873 to Miss Sophia Morel, a native of Alsace-Lorraine, France, who has shared with him the toils and successes of life for over twenty-five years. They are the parents of six children, namely: Mary, Adaline, Emma, Frank, George and William.

W. W. TAYLOR.

Upon both the paternal and maternal sides of the family, W. W. Taylor, proprietor of the Clifton Hotel, in Ottawa, may justly lay claim to be of pioneer Illinois stock. His father, E. D. Taylor, was born in 1832, at Fort Dearborn, where the great metropolis, Chicago, now stands. He in turn was a son of William Taylor, a native of Fairfax county, Virginia, and a representative of an old and influential Revolutionary family of that section. After he had grown to manhood, E. D. Taylor was for many years the receiver of public moneys at Fort Dearborn, and was more or less identified with the early history of the wonderful city then in its infancy. He was married, in Springfield, Illinois, to Mary, a daughter of Giles Taylor, who had emigrated to this state while it was yet a territory and had participated gallantly in the Black Hawk and other Indian wars of that early period. Thus it may be seen that the ancestors of our subject were among those who founded and gave stability to this state, which has now risen to the proud distinction of being one of the wealthiest and most progressive in the Union.

The birthplace of W. W. Taylor was at the corner of Michigan avenue and Congress street, the site of the massive and beautiful Auditorium Hotel and Opera house of to-day. He was born October 31, 1853, and received much of his education in the University of Notre Dame, in Indiana. In 1870 he came to this county and for several years was interested in the coal business. In 1878 he began the study of law in the office of Duncan O'Conner, and two years later he was appointed clerk of the courts, at Ottawa. He has made his home here for a number of years, and no more progressive, patriotic citizen can be found. At length he became the owner of the Clifton Hotel, one of the leading and popular hotels of the town. Centrally situated, well appointed in every particular, and under able management, it commands a large patronage, and is a paying investment to the wide-awake, methodical proprietor, who has made a genuine success of the enterprise.

In 1875 Mr. Taylor was united in marriage with Miss Jennie Mills, a daughter of James Mills, now deceased, and at one time the mayor of

LaSalle, Illinois. Mrs. Taylor is a lady of excellent qualities and attainments, her higher education having been obtained at a seminary near Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Bertha, the eldest child of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, is the wife of Abraham C. Godfrey, a successful merchant of Ottawa. Louise M., the next daughter, is a teacher in the grammar schools of this place; and Annie M., is a high school student.

Mr. Taylor is a great worker in the ranks of the Democratic party, in whose principles he heartily believes. In 1895 his fellow-citizens honored him by electing him as an alderman from the second ward, and at present he is serving the people in the capacity of town supervisor. His record as a business man and politician is above question, and his friends and admirers are legion.

WILLIAM F. BOGGS.

William Foster Boggs is numbered among the prosperous and progressive men whose business acumen and well-directed efforts have tended to strengthen and build up the city of Streator, LaSalle county. His success has resulted from his own efforts, which have been discerningly directed along well-defined lines of labor, and he is now a well-known merchant of Streator, who is carrying on a very extensive and profitable hardware trade.

Mr. Boggs was born in Callensburg, Clarion county, Pennsylvania, July 10, 1854, and is a son of Robert M. and Isabella May (Baumgardner) Boggs. Both parents were of German lineage, although the grandparents of our subject were natives of Pennsylvania. The father was a son of John H. and Catherine (Hoover) Boggs, and the mother was the daughter of Emmanuel and Polly (Ebbs) Baumgardner. In 1857 Robert M. Boggs and his family removed to LaSalle county, Illinois, and in 1882 he and his wife went to Pierce county, Nebraska, where they have since made their home. In their family were eight children—five sons and three daughters.

The subject of this review was only three years of age when brought by his parents to LaSalle county. He was educated in the public schools of Illinois until 1873, when he entered the high school at Boonesboro, Iowa, where he pursued his studies for two years. Subsequently he entered upon his business career as a salesman in the hardware store and was thus employed for some time. In 1889 he entered into partnership with S. McFeely, of Streator, establishing a hardware store under the firm name of W. F. Boggs & Company. This connection has since been continued and success has attended their enterprise, their trade steadily and constantly increasing. They carry a large and well selected stock of hardware, tinware, stoves,

paints and mining tools, and their reliability in all matters of trade has won to them the public confidence and in consequence the public regard.

On the 31st of July, 1884, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Boggs and Miss Emma May Roberts, of Boone, Iowa, in which city the wedding took place. The lady is the youngest daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth Roberts, of Boone county, Iowa, in which locality her father was a thrifty farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Boggs now have one son, Sidney R., who was born January 30, 1895.

For five years Mr. Boggs served as a member of the state militia of Illinois. He gives his political support to the Republican party and is a staunch advocate of the organization which favors the gold standard and advocates the protection of American industries, and also believes in the policy of expansion. He is in sympathy with the party on all those questions and is well informed on the issues of the day, but has never been an aspirant for office. Socially Mr. Boggs is connected with several organizations. He joined the Odd Fellows society in 1880, the Modern Woodmen of America in 1888, and the Knights of the Globe in 1900. In 1896 he was elected a member of the board of education of Streator and is yet acting in that capacity, the public schools finding in him a warm friend. In 1884 he became a member of the Methodist church of Streator and in 1889 joined the Young Men's Christian Association, of which he has since been the treasurer. His life has ever been useful and honorable, commending him to the esteem and respect of all those with whom he has been brought in contact.

PETER M. McARTHUR.

Peter M. McArthur, a successful attorney-at-law, of Marseilles, is of Scotch extraction, and possesses the clear, logical mind, the keenness and foresight and the ability to read human nature which are among the marked characteristics of the Celtic race. By the exercise of his undoubted talent he has risen within a few years, to a place of prominence and influence in his profession and in this community, and a short history of his career will be of interest to his numerous friends, here and elsewhere.

The parents of Peter M. McArthur, Alexander and Mary (Ralston) McArthur, were natives, respectively, of Greenock and Ayrshire, Scotland. Peter M. was born in the town of Pictou, Nova Scotia, June 21, 1855, and received his elementary education in his native town. Later he attended the high school at Halifax, in the same province, and in 1872 he came to Marseilles, where he was a student in the high school for some time. He was then given a position as a clerk in the postoffice here and

continued to serve as such for about four years. The legal profession had always been the goal of his ambition, and he now took up the study of law with diligence and was admitted to the bar in 1889. Opening an office he proceeded to devote himself assiduously to his practice, which has steadily increased in volume and importance during the past decade.

In 1882 Mr. McArthur married Miss Mary D. Pancoast, a daughter of Enoch and Mary (Dunn) Pancoast, of Marseilles. They have a pleasant home, which is brightened by the presence of their little son and daughter—Alexander Wheaton and Jessie P.

In his political affiliations Mr. McArthur is an uncompromising Democrat. In 1894 he was honored with the appointment to the position of postmaster of Marseilles, by President Cleveland, and served to the entire satisfaction of the public and citizens in general until his successor assumed the duties of the office. Fraternally he is identified with the Knights of Pythias.

OLE T. EASTEGORD.

Ole T. Eastegord, one of the successful farmers of Freedom, is a native of Norway, born near Stavanger, February 10, 1844. His father, Thomas Eastegord, was a farmer who died in his native land. Ole came to America with his uncle, Peter Jacobs, in 1867. In a short time his mother and brother followed him to the New World, and they established for themselves a modest home. Mr. Eastegord became a farm hand, working by the month. He received twenty-six dollars per month and in the eight years he so labored that he accumulated sufficient money to purchase a team and farming tools, with which he engaged in farming. He rented land for four years and then bought eighty acres of land, at sixty dollars per acre. By carefully tilling this land, he made enough money to buy another tract of the same size, at the same time maintain his family and educate his child in a fair manner.

Regarding his domestic relations let it be said that he was married February 9, 1874, to Sarah, a daughter of Lewis Jacobson, but her own name was Sarah Lewison. Our subject and his wife have one child, Harvey, who is twenty-one years of age at this writing.

In township matters Mr. Eastegord is active, having filled the office of commissioner for Freedom township, which position he resigned before his time expired. He has twice been elected a school trustee.

He for whom this record was written embarked from Stavanger on the steamship Iowa, of the White Star line of American steamers, and was fifteen

days out from Glasgow to New York. His brother Peter, who followed him to this country, died without heirs, and the good mother passed away in 1872.

FREDERICK W. SMITH.

Frederick W. Smith, one of the successful farmers of Deer Park township, LaSalle county, looks back to New England as the place of his birth and home of his early childhood. He was born in Litchfield county, Connecticut, January 30, 1840, and is descended from a line of tillers of the soil who for years made their home in Connecticut. His father was William R. Smith and his grandfather Gilbert Smith. The latter was born in Massachusetts, ran away from home when a boy and went to Connecticut, where he lived the greater part of his life. He died in LaSalle county, Illinois, at the advanced age of ninety-four years. He was for a short time a soldier in the war of 1812. William R. Smith, his son, was born in 1812; married Elizabeth Wooster; in 1853 came to Illinois and settled in LaSalle county. Here, after renting land for some time, he bought a farm, but subsequently sold out and then spent a few years in Indiana, acquiring property there. Disposing of his Indiana land, he went to Nebraska and took up a claim in Holt county, where he passed the rest of his life and where he died in 1890. His children are: Mary, of Litchfield county, Connecticut, who is the wife of Lorenzo Warner; Henry, of Deer Park, LaSalle county, Illinois; Emma, deceased; Frederick W., whose name introduces this sketch; Sarah, of Streator, who is the wife of Jerome Hornbeck; Frank A., of Elkhart, Indiana; Esther, of Holt county, Nebraska, the wife of George Wheatland; Amelia, deceased, who was the wife of George Bernhart; and Augusta, the wife of James Herrington, of Arkansas.

Frederick W. Smith was just entering his teens when he came to LaSalle county, and his time from then until he reached his majority was partly given to getting an education that would answer in waging life's battle. When the civil war came on he was not slow to "show his colors." He enlisted in Company G, Fifty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Captain Joseph Clay and Colonel Stewart. His regiment formed a part of the First Brigade, Second Division of the Fifteenth Army Corps, General Sherman being Brigade Commander. After a brief and unimportant service in southeastern Missouri, the war opened up in real earnest with them at the battle of Shiloh. The Fifty-fifth was a participant in all the engagements of the Army of the Tennessee, the chief of which after Shiloh being as follows: Russell House, siege of Corinth, Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post, Champion Hills, siege of Vicksburg, Tuscumbia in Ala-

bama, Missionary Ridge, the Georgia campaign, siege and capture of Atlanta, the "march to the sea," the march north to Washington and the capture of Johnston en route, and participation in the Grand Review at Washington. Mr. Smith veteranized at the expiration of his first enlistment, served a little less than four years, was in hospital at two different times, from general debility, was hit twice in action by spent balls, was in thirty-one battles, and marched more than twelve thousand miles. Thus briefly is outlined the service Mr. Smith rendered his country in her time of need, and for which she owes him a debt of everlasting gratitude.

Mr. Smith returned to the farm upon being discharged at Little Rock, Arkansas, and went to work as a hand for John S. Clayton. He worked by the month during the season of 1866. February 14, 1867, he married and that spring began farming rented land. The place he now owns and resides upon was the one he leased at that time and which he purchased at the expiration of his lease. Thus he has spent thirty-two years of his life on this farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have one child living, Giles A., born October 17, 1875, who is coming naturally into the cultivation and management of the farm and is the mainstay of his aging parents.

Politically Mr. Smith is a Republican and has always manifested a commendable interest in public affairs. He has served one term as the township collector and is now completing twenty-four years of continuous service as a school director. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

HENRY THOMAS.

Henry Thomas, an extensive farmer and the largest stock-feeder in the township of Deer Park, LaSalle county, was born in Hessen, Germany, in January, 1855, a son of German parents.

Henry Thomas, Sr., his father, emigrated with his family to the United States during the civil war in this country, his means being almost exhausted in paying their passage; and when they reached their destination, Peru, Illinois, he found himself with only seven dollars in his pocket. Previous to his location in this country he had worked at the tailor's trade, but on his arrival here he turned his attention to farm work, and with the wages he earned as a farm hand he supported his family and saved enough with which to purchase a team. He then began farming rented land. As in most cases, his continued industry and economy were rewarded with success and he accumulated a large estate. He bought several farms in LaSalle county in 1885, located his sons about him, and passed the remainder of his years

in their midst. He died here in 1890, respected by all who knew him. His five sons are among the prosperous men of Deer Park township and inherit in a large degree the estimable traits of character which their worthy sire possessed.

The younger Henry Thomas remained with his father until he was twenty-five years old. He began housekeeping five miles south of Peru, and lived the first three years of his married life on a rented farm. His father furnished him with a team and other things necessary to conduct a farm, and he saved money enough in those three years to make a large payment on his first land purchase, a quarter-section in Deer Park township, for which he agreed to pay nine thousand dollars as the notes fell due. On this farm he put up a large barn, and with the passing years was moving along happily, meeting his obligations and adding to his self-confidence, when his barn, with all its contents, was burned, without insurance, causing him a loss of at least four thousand dollars. This loss, in his financial condition, would have crushed the average farmer, but he said to his wife: "We'll have to hustle now," and began the battle anew. Fortune again smiled on him. Before he was entirely free from his first farm contract an opportunity came to him to buy eighty acres joining his farm, at what seemed a bargain. He consulted his father about it and was advised that he was crazy. "You can never pay for it," said the old gentleman. But he bought it and did pay for it, meeting his obligations just as he agreed to.

Some nine years ago Mr. Thomas decided to engage in feeding cattle, and he bought a few to complete the part of a load he already owned. This venture yielded him so abundantly that the next year he fed two loads, the next year a still larger number, and so on until he became the heaviest feeder in the township, if not in the county. He turns off yearly about eight hundred head, much of which is export beef, and this industry is of great advantage to the farmers for miles around his feed yards. He uses fifty thousand bushels of corn in addition to what he raises, and hundreds of tons of hay and straw, this all being drawn from his neighbors, at the best market prices.

Mr. Thomas married, January 16, 1881, Miss Annie Weber, a daughter of John Weber, and a native of Kirchentellingsfurt, Wittenberg, Germany, and a resident of LaSalle county, Illinois, for a number of years. Mr. Weber came to this country in 1857 and settled in Deer Park township, LaSalle county, Illinois, where he passed the rest of his life, dying in 1875, at the age of fifty-six years, and leaving a large estate. His wife, whose maiden name was Eva C. Lutz, died in 1897. Their children were as follows: Margaret, deceased, was the wife of Fred Cregger; John, who resides near

Richfield, Nebraska; Christine, wife of Jacob Lutz, of Sarpy county, Nebraska; Mrs. Thomas; Fritz, a resident of Pawnee county, Nebraska; G. F., of Deer Park, LaSalle county; Lena, also of Deer Park; and Rosina, the deceased wife of Louis Thomas. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have five children: Louise, born in 1883; Christina, in 1885; Mary, in 1888; Sarah, in 1890; and William H., in 1896.

Mr. Thomas is a strong Republican, believing that the tenets of that party have given the greatest benefits when applied to all the interests and institutions of our country.

WILLIAM SCHOENNESHOFER, M. D

A native of the village of Lostant, LaSalle county, born February 17, 1868, the subject of this sketch has passed his entire life here, and, as the town was established but two years prior to his birth, it might be said that they have grown to maturity together. His parents, Dr. Hilarius and Johanna (Mylenbush) Schoenneshofer, were natives of Cologne, Germany. They crossed the Atlantic in 1865, and, coming to Illinois, located near the present site of Lostant, and eight years later settled permanently within the town. The father has been engaged in the practice of the medical profession during all of these years, but has been retired since the fall of 1898. The mother departed this life in July, 1898, when sixty-nine years and six months old. Both parents have been identified with the Lutheran church from their youth. The father was a soldier in the regular army in Germany, and since becoming a voter in the United States he has used his right of franchise in favor of the Republican party.

Eight children—three sons and five daughters—were born to Dr. Hilarius Schoenneshofer and wife. Robert, the eldest, is a resident of Lostant. Amelia married William Kitzman, and died in 1899. Regina, wife of William Roetzel, lives at Roberts, Illinois. Julia, who married Fred Zilm, lives in this place. Anna, Mrs. Gus Erbus, makes her home in Mendota. Augusta and Hilarius died unmarried.

In his boyhood Dr. William Schoenneshofer attended the public schools of Lostant and later was a student in the German college at Mendota. Having determined to adopt his father's profession, he entered Rush Medical College, in Chicago, where he was graduated February 21, 1888. Since that time he has been engaged in practice in Lostant, and has succeeded in building up a large and remunerative business. He is popular with the members of his profession, and is looked up to and consulted by them. For several years he has been connected with the Northern Illinois

Medical Society, and by constant study, perusal of the leading medical journals of the day, and association with representative men in his profession, he keeps well posted in modern methods and applications of science in his chosen work.

Socially the Doctor is deservedly popular. He is a member of Tonica Lodge, No. 364, F. & A. M.; Rutland Chapter, R. A. M.; St. John's Commandery, No. 26, K. T., of Peru; Knights of Pythias; Hope Camp, No. 1873, Modern Woodmen of America; and Lostant Lodge, No. 144, Mystic Workers of the World. In his political views he is a stanch Republican. He is one of the village trustees at present, and is deeply interested in everything affecting the prosperity of the town. He owns a beautiful home here, and his wife and two little daughters are the center of his world. He was married, June 27, 1889, to Miss Lizzie, daughter of Gabriel and Elizabeth (Erbes) Pohl, of Mendota, and their two children are named respectively Lucile and Bertha. The Doctor and wife are members of the Lutheran church, and are liberal toward religious and charitable organizations.

THEOPHILUS MARSHALL.

The well known and well-to-do citizen whose name introduces this review has long been identified with the interests of Serena township, LaSalle county. He is a son of the pioneer, John David Marshall, and was born in the French province of Alsace July 4, 1832, where his early boyhood was passed. The Marshall family then emigrated to America and their home was established in LaSalle county, Illinois.

Theophilus had attended school a little in Alsace and for a short time after coming to this country he went to school, but his educational advantages were very limited. He was one of a large and industrious family of sons, and when he came of age his father gave him and his older brother each a horse. Joining forces, the two brothers engaged in farming on land they rented from their father. This was a primitive beginning, but the vim and determination Theophilus put into his efforts told each year of his life and found him accumulating wealth gradually. During the years which have intervened from that day to this he has invested his accumulations in real estate until now he is the owner of more than one thousand acres of land.

Mr. Marshall was married in Ottawa, Illinois, March 13, 1854, at the age of twenty-two years, to Louise Retz, a daughter of Dominick Retz, also a native of Alsace and an early settler of Serena township. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall have children and grandchildren, as follows: Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Antoine of Somonauk, Illinois, has two children—Lawrence and

May; John David, a merchant of Serena, married his cousin, Julia Retz, and they have five children—Fannie B., Frank E., Edna J., Walter J. and Clarence; Isabel, wife of David Wolf, of Chicago, has three children—Marshall, Elmer and an infant daughter; Adolphus, a prominent young farmer of Serena township, married Mary Moujet, and their children are Rosa, Arthur, "Baby" and an infant; and Henry, unmarried, who resides on the old home farm.

EDWARD F. LAMBERT.

From the farm have come many of the ablest financiers and business men of this country, as well as representative men in every walk in life. The subject of this sketch, now a prosperous lumber merchant of Tonica, LaSalle county, was born on a farm in Putnam county, Illinois, November 10, 1858, and has spent most of his life in the routine of farm work, at the same time developing powers of mind and body which are now serving him in good stead.

He is a son of John R. Lambert, a well known citizen of this locality, who is represented elsewhere in this work. Both he and his estimable wife, Emily, were born in this state, where their respective parents were pioneers. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Joel Lambert, who was of Scotch-English descent, was a native of Kentucky, whence he removed to Indiana, and at an early period settled near Galesburg, Knox county, Illinois, where they were engaged in farming. He died when in the prime of life, leaving two sons and a daughter. The maternal grandfather, George Hiltabrand, was of the sturdy old Pennsylvania-Dutch stock. In 1829 he came to this state and took up his abode in Putnam county, hauling wheat and other produce from his farm there to Chicago, for years. During the Black Hawk war he was active as a home guard, and was a sergeant in his company. John R. Lambert was born near Galesburg, and grew to manhood there and in Putnam county. Since the war he has lived in Hope township, this county, until he retired, in the fall of 1896, to become a citizen of Tonica. He commenced at the foot of the ladder leading to success and steadily worked his way upward, buying land when good opportunities offered, and now he is the fortunate possessor of four hundred and eighty acres. He was engaged in the cultivation of one place in Hope township for twenty-seven years, and still owns the property. The land had been entered by his father-in-law, and under his own judicious management it has become one of the most valuable country homes in this section, improved as it is, with a modern house, substantial barns and sheds, shade trees, fences and orchard. Since he came to the village, he has purchased a pleasant house and lives

with our subject and family, as his wife died in 1886. He has borne an important part in the affairs of his community, at different times acting in the offices of township clerk, school director or school trustee, and for many years he was a member of the Democratic county central committee. He aided his sons in getting started in their independent careers, helping each to buy farms, one hundred and sixty acres in extent, one located in Hope township and the other in Eden township.

As stated at the beginning of this article, Edward F. Lambert is now in the prime of manhood, forty years of age. Since he was two years old he has lived in LaSalle county, where he obtained his education in the district schools, supplemented with a course of study at Eureka College. He early became thoroughly acquainted with agriculture, carried on the old homestead with his brother, on shares, for some years, and gave his time and attention to the cultivation of his farm until three years ago. In 1896 he bought the Robinson lumber-yard in Tonica, and now deals extensively in all kinds of lumber and building material. Prompt and business-like in his methods, he merits the patronage which he receives, and his trade is steadily increasing from year to year. He still owns the quarter-section of land which his father assisted him to buy, and has made good improvements upon it. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Like his father, he uses his franchise in favor of the nominees of the Democratic party. At present he is serving as one of the trustees of this town, and formerly he was one of the district school trustees in Hope township.

On the 21st of December, 1887, Mr. Lambert married Miss Julia B., a daughter of William Borngasser, and four children bless their happy home, namely: Emily V., Edward R., Evelyn Fern and Carl Russell. Mrs. Lambert's mother died when she was a child, and she was reared as a member of the household of Simeon Hiltabrand, the maternal uncle of our subject.

FELIX J. HUMBERT.

The agricultural industry of Serena township, LaSalle county, has a representative in the subject of this sketch, Felix J. Humbert, a son of the retired farmer, John Humbert. The latter came to this country from the French province of Alsace in 1844, at the age of ten years, with his father, John Humbert, Sr. The latter died some twenty-five years ago. The former is a resident of Ottawa, Illinois, retired from active life after a successful career as a farmer. He began life as a hired man on a farm, and by industry and careful economy acquired title to a large body of the best land in LaSalle county. His wife, whose maiden name was Catherine Brignon,

was likewise born in Alsace. Their children were: Felix J.; Jane, the wife of Lester Retz; Nellie, the wife of Bert Zellers, of Ottawa; Benjamin, of Hardin; and Paul, of Fall River, Illinois.

Felix J. Humbert was born in the township in which he now lives, November 25, 1858, and was educated in the country schools and Notre Dame College. On reaching his majority he engaged in farming on his own account and has continued the same ever since, with fair success.

He was married February 22, 1881, to Celestin Retz, daughter of Edward Retz, and their children are: Genie, Belle, Louella and Edna.

The Humberts have always supported the Democratic ticket.

J. F. SAFEBLADE.

Mr. Safeblade, a general merchant of Leland, was born in Sweden, April 16, 1859, a son of Andrew P. and Carrie E. (Larson) Safeblade. J. F., the fourth in order of birth of their eight children, was reared and educated in Sweden and learned to read, write and speak English in the United States. He arrived in this new world in 1876. (His father had previously spent three years in this country and advised him to come here, where another son was already living, August A., who was in the employ of A. H. Barber & Company, commission merchants in creamery supplies in Chicago.)

On his arrival here Mr. Safeblade secured employment in a cheese factory near Elgin, Illinois. He had had in the old country considerable training in milling machinery, as his father, a wealthy land-owner, was also a miller. He was thus employed in the creamery of Duncan & Johnson for about two years; next he was made second foreman in L. C. Ward's cheese and butter factory at St. Charles, at that time the largest in Illinois; three months later he was given full charge of the factory, and he continued to discharge the multifarious duties of that position, to the satisfaction of his employer, until 1880. The next year, in company with his brother, August A. Safeblade, he bought a creamery at Wilmington, Illinois, but a year later he sold out to his brother.

In the spring of 1882 he came to Leland, where he rented and operated a creamery for one season. In 1883, in company with W. H. Parks, he built a creamery, in which Mr. Safeblade sold his interest to Mr. Parks a year afterward, and since 1885 he has been successfully engaged in general merchandising in Leland. He owns the store building which he occupies, a two-story brick structure, which he built in 1888. In this line of business he began in a small way, in a frame building, and little by little has he built up his trade, which he has successfully accomplished by his innate talents

for industry and economy, and by his natural disposition to be honest and reliable. In 1894 he erected a nice modern residence, which he happily occupies with his family. Fraternally he is a Master Mason, being now past master of his lodge, and he is also a member of the I. O. O. F. and Knights of the Globe. In politics he is a Republican, but, being no seeker of office, he has had no public position save that of treasurer of the city of Leland, which position he faithfully filled during his term.

In 1883 he was married to Miss Mary Emma Harkison, of Aurora, Illinois, and a daughter of John Harkison, of Scotch descent; and the children of Mr. and Mrs. Safeblade are Freddie, deceased, Harry, deceased, Lester and Gretta.

ANDREW A. KLOVE.

The subject of this article, Andrew A. Klove, a merchant and for many years a farmer, was born in Norway, May 30, 1828, a son of Andrew Klove and Gunvor (Ringheim) Klove, who were born, reared and married in that country. In 1843 they and ten children started from their native land to America, and three of the children died on the way. Arriving in the New World, they located in Norway, Wisconsin, where they resided about fifteen years, and then removed to Iowa, where they passed the remainder of their lives. In this country they had two more children. Six of their children grew up to years of maturity, but only two are now living—the subject of this sketch and Edwin—the latter residing in Iowa.

Andrew A. is the third of the family of thirteen children. The first died at the age of one year, in Norway; the second, a girl, died in New York city, when the family were on their way to Wisconsin; and two died on the ocean, one of whom was about eight or nine years old.

Our subject was fifteen years old at the time of the emigration to this country. His youth was spent upon the farm, and in 1854 he left his parental home to take care of himself on the stormy sea of life. Coming, before his marriage, direct from Norway, Wisconsin, to Leland, he opened a general store here, but on a small scale. This town was then but a year old. He followed mercantile business for about eleven years, with fair success. Then he purchased a farm of half a section in size just south of Leland, which he cultivated while continuing his residence in town. In 1873 he erected his present fine brick dwelling on the farm and moved into it. Thus one can read plainly between the lines that Mr. Klove has been very successful in life. He directed his energies straightforward to a noble end and accomplished his purposes.

His character has been such as to inspire his fellow citizens with con-

fidence in his business ability and integrity, and they elected him to various offices, as town collector, town assessor and justice of the peace; and he has been notary public ever since the year 1859; was ten years supervisor of the township, and has been secretary of the Adams Mutual Fire Insurance Company ever since 1874, the date of its organization. The office of justice of the peace he has held for the last twenty-seven years. Politically he was at first a "Free-soiler," then became a Republican, which he has been ever since. He and his family belong to the Lutheran church.

In the spring of 1855 he was united in marriage with Ranvai Grover, who also was born in Norway and came to this country with her parents in 1837; her parents were Ole and Ragnilda Grover. For the first few years they were in this country they remained in Chicago, then moved to Kendall county, this state, and in 1850 settled in LaSalle county. Mr. and Mrs. Klove's children are Julia, Andrew, Clorie, Martha and Noah, living; seven died in childhood, and two, Lydia and Josephine, died in 1898, after reaching years of maturity.

ISAAC H. POOL.

Among the successful famers of Serena township, LaSalle county, Illinois, is the subject of this sketch, Isaac H. Pool, who owns and occupies a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres.

Mr. Pool was born in Essex county, New York, June 3, 1836, and until he was fourteen spent his boyhood days in his native state. His father, Isaac Pool, was an Englishman who in early life came with his young wife to America and made a settlement in the Empire state, where he continued his residence until 1850, that year emigrating with his family to Illinois and establishing his home in Freedom township, LaSalle county, where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in the year 1877. In his family were thirteen children, Isaac H. being the sixth in order of birth.

Isaac H. Pool accompanied his parents to the state of Illinois in 1850 and here for a time attended the public schools of Freedom township. His educational advantages, however, were limited. The greater part of his training has been received in the dear school of experience. At the age of thirty he married Miss Mary A. Smith, and a few years afterward settled in Serena township, where for more than a quarter of a century he has been successfully engaged in farming. They have one child, Arminda O., who is the wife of Gus. Malaise.

Mr. Pool supports the Democratic ticket. He served eighteen months

as a township committeeman, at the end of that time resigning, as public office is not to his liking, his own personal affairs requiring the whole of his time and attention.

OMUN SIMONSON.

Mr. Simonson, a general merchant of Leland, was born near Hauge-sund, Norway, May 20, 1837, a son of Simon Amundson, Oveivig Sviens Prestegjeld Bergenstift Norge. Mr. Simonson takes his name from his father's first name, Simon; and Amundson in his father's name is derived from our subject's grandfather's first name, which was Amund. Oveivig is the name of the farm or homestead of the family, while Prestegjeld signifies the name of the county, Bergenstift the province and Norge, Norway. Our subject's mother was Guro Hilgesdathe, of Westadt. The children of Simon Amundson are Omun (our subject), Halge, Bent, Halver (living at Leland), Mary and Lars. The mother of these children died in 1879, at the age of sixty-four years; while the father is still living, at the age of ninety-two years, having been born in the year 1807. He was a farmer during his active life.

Omum Simonson was reared to farming and in his native land received a common-school education. He learned to speak, read and write English after coming to America. It was in 1857 that he came to this country, as a member of a party of fifty from his native country. June 12, the same year, he reached Ottawa, Illinois, and went direct to Freedom township, where he hired himself out to farm work during the summer seasons of 1857-8-9.

In August of the latter year he came to Leland, having spent the preceding winter in Deerfield, Wisconsin, learning the shoemaker's trade. Here he opened a shoe-shop, in partnership with George Gunderson. A little less than a year later this partnership was dissolved and Mr. Simonson opened a shop of his own and with it a shoe store also, where he sold ready-made goods. He employed about four manufacturers, until 1865. In 1861 he built a store, where J. C. Jacobson's store now stands; but that building he sold in 1863. (Later it was burned.) During the war he had a fine business, made many boots and shoes for the soldiers, realizing a handsome profit. He erected his present store in 1866 and moved into it, engaging in the general merchandise business, which he has continued to the present, with signal success, for he is a man of enterprise and reliability. In this position he at first had Peter H. Peterson for a partner, who died about 1873, and Mr. Simonson has since conducted the business alone. In 1879 he built his residence in Leland, which is a good home.

In 1862, in Leland, he married Ragnild Olson, a native of Norway, and their children are Anna, Mary, Amos, Esther, Lyda, Ruth, Bernard. The first born, Simon by name, died at the age of eighteen months. Mr. Simonson and his family are members of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, of which he is a deacon. In politics he has always been a Republican. For several years he was a member of the village board of trustees, of which for one year he was president; and for the last twenty or more years he has been a member of the school board. In all his public offices he was scrupulously faithful, giving satisfaction to every reasonable citizen.

Mr. Simonson began his career a poor man and as a farm laborer, earning his first dollar in America. His example has surely been one of industry and economy, and his success has been marked. On his arrival in America he was in debt to the extent of seventy-five dollars, and this he paid the very next day, beginning to work on a farm for thirteen dollars a month.

GEORGE A. HARTSHORN.

George A. Hartshorn, the supervisor of the township of Waltham, LaSalle county, is a native of this county and dates his birth in LaSalle in October, 1857. The Hartshorns have been residents of America for many generations. They are New England stock, their history reaching back to Colonial days, and they have been represented in the various wars of this country. Oliver Hartshorn, the first of the family in America of whom we have record, was a Revolutionary soldier. He was born November 1, 1760, and his wife, whose maiden name was Pettengill, was born May 2, 1759. They were farmers, and reared sons and daughters, named Oliver, Royal, Ira, Asa, Clarissa, Miranda, Sophronia and Eliza. Clarissa married a Mr. Armstrong, and Sophronia became the wife of John White. Ira Hartshorn was born June 13, 1793, and died September 17, 1859. He served a short time in the war of 1812, in his native state, Connecticut. A man of general affairs, he sold goods, kept hotel and had a stage route. In 1836, thinking to better his condition by a location on the frontier, he left Lisbon, Connecticut, and came to Illinois, making the trip by water. He stopped first at Joliet, where he secured employment in a sawmill. In 1837 he took claim to a tract of government land in LaSalle county, which he developed into a good farm and on which he made his home for more than two decades. This farm is now owned by his son Albert I. Politically Ira Hartshorn was a Democrat while in New England, but after coming to Illinois became a Free-soiler. He married Joanna Burnham, a daughter

of Benjamin Burnham, of Lisbon, Connecticut. Her death occurred February 14, 1875. Of the children of Ira and Joanna Hartshorn, we record that Joshua P. was born in 1818 and is now a resident of Cass county, Iowa; Erasmus D., born in 1821, resides in California; Alfred I. was born in June, 1823; Pliny, August 26, 1825; Calvert, born July 25, 1827, resides in Onarga, Illinois; Mary, born in 1830, is the widow of Eli Strawn and resides in Chicago; Lucy, born in 1832, is a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska, and is the wife of N. Niles; Lydia, born in 1834, is the wife of R. Downing, of Nebraska; Charles B., born in 1838, died at Shiloh, Tennessee, during the civil war.

Albert I. Hartshorn began life as a farmer and some years later turned his attention to the coal business. He shipped the first car-load of coal that went north over the Illinois Central Railroad. He did a prosperous and extensive coal business for a number of years. Recently, however, he has devoted his time and attention to farming and to speculating in real estate. He married Amelia Dean, a daughter of Alfred Dean; and George A., whose name introduces this sketch, was their first child. Their other children are Fred P., and Teresa, the wife of Charles Diesterweg.

George A. Hartshorn received a high-school education in LaSalle and then took a commercial course in Bryant & Stratton's Business College in Chicago, and on reaching his majority engaged in farming at the Hartshorn homestead farm in Waltham township, where he has since resided. He was married June 5, 1885, to Miss Minnie Mitchell, a daughter of William Mitchell, and they have four children—Amelia, Ira, Floyd and Walter.

Politically the subject of our sketch is a Democrat, and has a number of times been honored with local positions of trust and responsibility. His first township office was that of school trustee, which he held for fifteen years. He has served as a justice of the peace and town collector, and in the spring of 1896 was elected to his present position, that of supervisor, to succeed the Hon. John Wylie. Also he is a member of the County Asylum committee and is its chairman.

WALTER A. PANNECK.

Walter A. Panneck, a prominent and popular young lawyer of LaSalle, is of Polish birth and ancestry. He was born in Posen, Germany, August 1, 1866, and is the eldest child and only son in the family of three children of Joseph and Antonia Panneck.

In 1875, when he was nine years old, his parents removed with their

family to America and took up their abode in Peru, Illinois, and here he was reared and commenced the struggle of life. He attended the public schools until he was twelve years old, when he left school in order to go to work and help support the family, and from that time on he had to hustle for himself and at times provide for the family also. His father died June 6, 1887, at the age of fifty-five years; his mother, July 25, 1893, at the age of fifty-two years.

Young Panneck's first employment was in a coal mine, and for seven or eight years he was engaged in mining. Then he spent about three years as clerk in a store in Peru. In the meantime he took up the study of law and privately pursued his legal studies for three years, beginning while yet a miner, and was admitted to the bar January 21, 1892. Immediately thereafter he entered upon the practice of his profession, and has been engaged in the practice ever since, since 1894 associated with Thomas N. Haskins. The present firm style is Haskins, Panneck & Haskins. Recognizing his ability and popularity, Mr. Panneck's fellow citizens in May, 1895, elected him to the office of city attorney of LaSalle, which position he filled efficiently and to which he was re-elected in April, 1897.

Politically Mr. Panneck is a Democrat, and fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Foresters and the Royal Arcanum. He was reared in the Roman Catholic faith and is a consistent member of that church.

Mr. Panneck was married in 1892 to Miss Carrie Seepe, of Peru, Illinois, who presides over his pleasant home.

EDWARD KEATING.

The popular alderman, Edward Keating, representing the Fourth ward of Ottawa in the city council, was elected to this office in the spring of 1897, his majority being eighty-six votes. For the past eighteen years, or ever since he arrived at man's estate, he has taken a leading part in campaigns, and has been an ardent supporter of the platform and nominees of the Democratic party.

One of the native sons of Ottawa, Mr. Keating has naturally felt great interest in her development and improvement along all lines of progress. His birth took place in 1857, and here, with his three brothers and sisters, he attended the public schools. His parents were Michael and Kate (Lucas) Keating. Upon entering into the business world Mr. Keating found employment with the Miller Brewing Company and continued with that concern for a period of eight years. He then was offered a situation with the

LaSalle Brewing Company, and has been with this firm for the past ten years. His fidelity to the best interests of his employers has led them to recognize his merits in a substantial way by promoting him and raising his salary from time to time.

On the 5th of September, 1880, the marriage of Edward Keating and Miss Margaret Driscoll was solemnized. Mrs. Keating's parents are Dow and Bridget Driscoll, of Ottawa, and in this place her girlhood was passed. She received good educational advantages and was graduated in the business college of this town. Mr. Keating built a cozy, comfortable home, which is furnished in good taste and it is the abode of a happy, harmonious family. Five children were born to our subject and his estimable wife, but the eldest, Michael, and another child, died in infancy. A son and two daughters remain, namely, Ellen, Edward and Margaret.

HORACE D. HICKOK.

Probably few residents of LaSalle county are better posted in its history or have been more deeply interested in its development than has Horace D. Hickok, now making his home in the village of Troy Grove. He is a gentleman of wide information on general topics of public importance, and is an especial friend to education, having done all within his power for years to further the cause. He is a self-made man, having no one to thank for the competence which he and his family now enjoy save himself; and though his pathway in life has not been an easy one in many respects he has borne his burdens manfully and is thoroughly deserving of the high regard in which he is held by all of his acquaintances.

In the conduct of his paternal grandfather, Oliver Otis Hickok, he had an example of the true patriot, for that worthy man offered himself to his country in the war of 1812 and lost his life while bravely fighting at the battle of Plattsburg. He was a native of Vermont and was of English and French descent, his forefathers having come to this country from England at an early day. He was a farmer and had made many ambitious plans for the future, when the cruel war put an end to all of them, and, in the prime of early manhood, death came to him. He left a widow and three daughters and a son to mourn his loss. The son, William A., became the father of our subject. He was born in Grand Isle county, Vermont, and learned the business of manufacturing carriages. In 1833 he came to the west and for a short time lived at Union Grove, Putnam county, Illinois. He then settled at Bailey's Point, LaSalle county; thence removed to Granville, Putnam county, and in 1836 started the first store in the town of Troy

Grove. After the panic of 1837 he was occupied in farming until his death in 1852, when he was fifty-two years of age. His widow, whose maiden name was Polly B. Butler, survived him, dying in 1876, when in her seventy-third year. Both were originally Presbyterians, but later united with the Methodist denomination. Mr. Hickok was a man of excellent attainments, being a graduate of the Middlebury (Vermont) College, and for years he acted as a school trustee and director. He also served as a town clerk and was a justice of the peace for several terms, acquitting himself honorably in these varied offices. His wife was likewise a native of Grand Isle county, Vermont, and her father, James Butler, was a son of the Green Mountain state, whence his parents, who were of Irish extraction, had removed in the latter part of last century from Massachusetts. He died when about fifty years of age and left eight children. The marriage of William A. and Polly B. Hickok was blessed with six children, namely: Lorenzo B., of Troy Grove; Horace D.; Selinda D., wife of J. E. Smith, of this place; Lydia M., the widow of James Barnes; Oliver C., who died in California, in 1898; and James B., who was known in many portions of the west as "Wild Bill" and is now deceased.

The birth of Horace D. Hickok took place at Bailey's Point, this county, October 5, 1834, and his entire life has been spent in Troy Grove township. He was reared on a farm and remained on the old homestead, assisting in rearing the younger children after his father's death, and doing even more than his duty by the family. Neither his educational advantages nor his financial opportunities were of the best in his young manhood, and it was not until he was in his thirty-second year that he felt free to enter upon an independent career. Beginning with one hundred and fifty dollars, he soon purchased an eighty-acre farm on section 27, Troy Grove township, and this property he still owns. He industriously set about its improvement and after cultivating the place for about thirty years he removed to the town, in order to afford his children better educational privileges.

In all of his labors, joys and sorrows for the past thirty-four years, Mr. Hickok has found a faithful helpmate in his wife, formerly Martha Edwards, a daughter of Robert and Ann Edwards. They were married February 5, 1865, and the following named children blessed their union, namely: William J., who married Myrtle Fahler, and is now managing the home farm; Horace, who is a student at Dixon, Illinois; and Howard and three daughters, who are attending the school at Troy Grove.

Since the organization of the Republican party Mr. Hickok has been one of its staunchest supporters. He has served his fellow citizens in many positions of local responsibility, was the township assessor for seven years; was a school trustee for sixteen years, served as a school director for three

years, and uninterruptedly since 1862 has been a justice of the peace. He has faithfully performed his duties as a citizen, neighbor, husband and father, and will leave to his children the record of a blameless life.

PAUL TEISSEDRE.

One of the strongest and most active workers in the local Democratic party of Ottawa is the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this brief tribute to him as a citizen and business man. In the spring of 1892 he was first elected to the office of alderman of this place, a position which he is now ably filling for the second time. In 1894 he was a candidate for the office but in the general defeat of his party he suffered the same fate. In 1898, however, he was re-elected and received a flattering majority. The people of Ottawa have committed to him and to his associates in the council responsible trusts, and feel certain that they are justified in so doing, and that he will prove faithful to the public good in the future as in the past.

As might be judged by his surname, Paul Teissedre is French in lineage, and in fact, he is a native of France. He is one of the two sons of August Teissedre who in 1857 determined to try their fortunes in the United States, and with his family he crossed the Atlantic. The father departed this life in 1886. The brother of our subject, Jules Teissedre, is now a resident of Kankakee, Illinois. Both received a good education in the public schools and have long since gained responsible places in the business world.

After leaving the school-room Paul Teissedre obtained a clerkship in the employ of H. J. Gillen, late of Ottawa and then a prominent and well-known business man of this town. The firm with which our subject is now connected is that of A. Lynch & Company, general merchants. In commercial affairs, as in everything else to which he gives his attention, he is thorough, reliable and trustworthy. As long ago as 1874 he joined the Masonic order and is now a valued member of Occidental Lodge, No. 40; of Shabbona Chapter, No. 37, Royal Arch; and Mount Olivet Commandery, Knights Templar. From time to time he has been honored by being chosen to occupy official positions in these lodges, and has been sent as a delegate to the grand conclaves at Saint Louis; Denver, Colorado; and Boston, Massachusetts. The kindness and courtesy of manner, and the genial, pleasing affability for which his countrymen are noted the world over, are marked characteristics of his, and win him many friends.

Upon reaching his majority Mr. Teissedre was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Egan, a daughter of Richard Egan. Mrs. Teissedre is a lady of refinement and education, and was reared to womanhood in Ottawa,

where the greater part of her life has been spent. August C., Eliza, Paul and Carrie are the four children of our subject and his estimable wife. August C. is now in the employ of the Ottawa Traction Company, as a motorman, and Carrie is the wife of F. Hurley, of Alton, Illinois.

P. CONERTON.

P. Conerton, one of the foremost citizens of Utica, LaSalle county, was born in the town of LaSalle, January 9, 1842, and is a son of John and Hannah (Brannon) Conerton, both of whom were born in 1805, in the Emerald Isle, though their marriage was celebrated in this country. In 1851, after residing in LaSalle for some time, the worthy couple located upon a farm in Dimmick township, where the remainder of their industrious, happy lives was passed. The father, who cast in his lot with the early settlers of this county in 1838, was summoned to the silent land, November 28, 1855. His widow survived him many years, her death occurring in Utica in 1896.

The subject of this narrative was reared to the life of an agriculturist, and received a district-school education. When in his thirteenth year, he went to Missouri, where he pursued a course of study in Perryville College, for two years. Then, returning to the old home, he industriously attended to its cultivation and management until the year 1891, when he removed to Utica. Here he embarked in the business of selling farm machinery and implements, and for five years devoted all his time to this enterprise. Soon after the organization of the Utica Exchange Bank, he was offered the responsible position of cashier, and has since held that office, to the satisfaction of everyone interested in the success of the bank. He owns and rents at present a finely improved homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Utica township. In 1893, he was honored by being elected supervisor of that township, and has acted in that capacity for three terms—some six years. In his political convictions he is a Democrat, and in the fraternities, he is associated with the Modern Woodmen of America, and is a member of the Home Forum, a local organization for improvement and self-culture.

In October, 1870, Mr. Conerton married Miss Julia Coleman, who was born in Troy Grove. Her parents, John and Catherine Coleman, of Dimmick township, were pioneers of this county, and were prominently identified with its development. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Conerton has been blessed by the birth of two children, namely, Genevieve M. and Edmond

P. The family is much respected in this community, and the upright, straightforward career of Mr. Conerton has resulted in placing his name high in the regard of LaSalle county's representative men.

JAMES W. TRANSEAU.

Since 1869 this gentleman has been a resident of LaSalle county, and is now proprietor of a drug store in Ransom. He was born in Monroe county, Pennsylvania, on the 8th of June, 1851, and is a representative of one of the old families connected with the events of the Revolutionary war. His grandfather, Isaac Transeau, loyally served with the colonists in the struggle for independence, and then took up his abode at Stansbury Park, Pennsylvania, in a residence which is still standing—one of the landmarks of colonial days. William Transeau, the father of our subject, was a native of Pennsylvania and was married in the Keystone state to Miss Sarah, a daughter of Charles Posten, and a granddaughter of Jacob Posten, who also was a valiant soldier in the Revolutionary war. Mr. and Mrs. Transeau had ten children, of whom four are yet living, namely: James W., whose name introduces this review; Anne, wife of A. Matson, a resident of Nebraska; Elizabeth, of Monroe county, Pennsylvania; and Francis. The father of these children gave his political support to the Republican party, and both he and his wife were members of the Methodist church. He died at the age of seventy-four years, and Mrs. Transeau was sixty-three years of age at the time of her death.

James W. Transeau, whose name introduces this review, is indebted to the public-school system for the educational privileges he received in early life. For some time he successfully engaged in teaching school and further perfected his own education by studying under the direction of Dr. Amos Jockin. In 1872 he became a registered pharmacist under the Illinois state law, and as proprietor of a drug store became connected with the business interests of Ransom. He now has a well appointed store, supplied with everything found in a first-class establishment of the time, and is enjoying a liberal patronage; for the public, recognizing his honorable business methods and earnest desire to please his patrons, has given to him a fair support.

On the 29th of November, 1876, Mr. Transeau was united in marriage to Miss Bridget Murphy, a native of Marseilles, Illinois, and a daughter of John and Mary Murphy, both of whom are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Transeau have five children, namely: Sada, a talented and success-

ful music teacher; Rosetta, who is teaching in the public schools of Ransom; William, James Arthur and George, at home.

In his political affiliations Mr. Transeau is a Republican and ardently advocates the principles of his party, laboring earnestly to secure their adoption through the medium of the ballot. He has acceptably filled several township offices. For three years he was the supervisor and is now serving on the school board, and has ever discharged his public duties with promptness and fidelity. His frank and pleasing manner and his many excellent traits of character combine to make him popular not only as a business man but also in the political and social circles in which he mingles.

HENRY M. KELLY.

Henry M. Kelly, a rising young attorney of Ottawa, was born in this city, May 22, 1865, and is a son of Martin and Ellen (Maher) Kelly. His grandparents, James and Margaret (Redmond) Kelly, came from the picturesque but unhappy island of Ireland in 1830 to seek the land of freedom and plenty so graphically described by those who had previously braved an ocean voyage and settled on the sun-kissed shores of America. Arriving in New York city, they traveled west to Buffalo, where they made their home for a few years, and then moved to LaSalle county, Illinois, locating in Ottawa in 1837. James Kelly was a stone mason and found plenty of work in Ottawa and vicinity putting up buildings and laying cellar walls and foundations for dwellings, stores, churches and other structures. He was a hard-working, honest man, who did his work conscientiously and well. He moved to a farm upon which he died in the year 1855. His wife, who survived him until 1893, was the mother of six children who grew to mature years. They are John W.; Martin; Maria, now Mrs. John Bailey, of Chicago; James, of Ottawa; Catherine, Mrs. Michael J. Fire, of Chicago; and Margaret, Mrs. De Forest, also a resident of Chicago.

Martin Kelly was born in this city when it was but little more than a village, fifty-nine years ago. He attended school here until he was sixteen years of age, when his parents moved upon a farm and he accompanied them, finding life in the country a pleasure. He remained at home until he was twenty-one and then purchased a farm in Manlius township, this county, where he was engaged in agriculture until his removal to this city, where he still lives. He was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Maher, a daughter of Michael and Catherine (Peters) Maher, in 1861. They have had six children, viz.: Margaret, the wife of Richard Halligan; George J.; Henry M., our subject; Catherine, Mrs. Hackett, of Chicago; Mary, the wife of

John Gay, a prominent attorney of Tolono, this state; and Flora, who resides at home. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly are devout members of the St. Columba's Catholic church.

Henry M. Kelly graduated at the Ottawa high school when he was but eighteen years old, and at once entered the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company. He remained with them two years and resigned at the expiration of that time to accept a better office in the service of the Chicago & Rock Island road. He was here, also, two years, and during that period spent all his leisure time in the study of law, in an earnest endeavor to fit himself for the ranks of that profession. He entered the office of John W. Black, where he studied until he was admitted to the bar of the supreme court at Ottawa in 1891. He continued with Mr. Black for some time and later formed a partnership with that gentleman, under the style of Black & Kelly, and continued in that relation three years. Since dissolving his partnership with Mr. Black, Mr. Kelly has practiced alone, and is meeting with the success his merits deserve. Keen, logical and quick at repartee, he has prospered from the start.

In 1894 he was married to Miss Mary Morrissey, a daughter of Laurence Morrissey, ex-sheriff of LaSalle county. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly live in a beautiful home which he erected in 1895, and have three interesting children: Harry and Marie, born in April, 1895; and Emmett, born August 19, 1897.

MARTIN H. CRIDER.

Among the residents of Otter Creek township, LaSalle county, who take pleasure in promoting local institutions and building up the community, may be mentioned M. H. Crider, a prominent and influential farmer of this section. He first opened his eyes to the light of day November 17, 1836, in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, which was the home of his parents, Martin and Christine (Kniler) Crider. They were kindly, charitable, hard-working people, devout members of the German Reformed church and supporters of the Republican party. The mother died in 1847, but the father reached the age of seventy-five years. Six children were born to them, namely: Elizabeth Weingart, of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania; Martin H., our subject; Christine, a resident of Canton, Ohio; Solomon, who died at the age of fifty-four years, in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, where the family still reside; John, who resides in Tampa, Texas; and Rebecca, who is living in the state of Pennsylvania.

Martin H. Crider attended the public schools of his native district and there grew to man's estate, occupying his time with such work as usually

falls to the lot of the farmer boy. In 1858 he came west to LaSalle county and engaged in teaching school for several years. At the breaking out of the Rebellion he enlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Fourth Illinois Regiment, in the month of August, 1862, and started for the seat of trouble, leaving a young bride of five months at home to await his return. He saw fifteen months' active service and took part in the battles of Missionary Ridge, Chattanooga, and Lookout Mountain. In November, 1863, he was promoted to the second lieutenancy in Company B, and the following year was raised to the rank of first lieutenant. In July, 1865, he was mustered out with his company at Nashville, Tennessee, and retired to private life.

Returning to his home, he occupied his farm in Otter Creek township and has since applied himself to its cultivation and improvement. This property contains five hundred and sixty acres of fertile farming land, and everything connected with it is kept in first-class condition. The improvements are such as should be found on every farm, the residence commodious and substantial and the outbuildings suited to the purpose for which they were intended.

In March, 1862, was consummated the marriage of Martin Crider and Miss Susan Kinner, a daughter of Jeremiah and Sarah (Hopple) Kinner. She is a native of Clay county, Kansas, and is a most estimable lady, who has been an invaluable helpmeet to her husband. They have two children, both of whom are living at home. Emma is a young lady of ability, highly accomplished and one of the most successful teachers of this county. Edwin has just reached his majority and is an exemplary young man. Mr. Crider was appointed the postmaster of Otter in 1871 and has since held that position. He is an active and honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic at Ransom, is a member of the school board, and for five years has served as the supervisor of this township.

EZRA HAWLEY.

The subject of this sketch was born February 3, 1811, and reared on his father's farm in West Arlington, Bennington county, Vermont. His father, Elisha Hawley, was, in the seventh generation, a descendant of Joseph Hawley, one of three brothers who emigrated from England about 1629 or 1630 and settled in Connecticut and Massachusetts, and from whom the several branches of the Hawley family have sprung. As given in a "Record," published by Elias S. Hawley, Buffalo, New York, it will be seen that

the Hawleys are of English descent and that the family was represented in New England at an early day.

Elisha Hawley, the father of our subject, was born in Vermont and there passed his life, being in middle age at the time of his death. He was the father of four sons. His son Ezra was a farmer and stock-raiser, who came west to Illinois and settled in LaSalle county in 1835, bringing with him his family and making their long and tedious journey in a covered wagon. They were from April until July making the trip. His family then consisted of a wife and two little children, Anson and Truman. Arriving at their destination, they found the country full of malaria and the people shaking with ague, and the outlook in many respects not the most favorable. He, however, was imbued with the true pioneer spirit and was not to be discouraged. He pre-empted eighty acres of prairie land, namely, the east half of the southwest quarter of section 20, township 32 north, range 2 east, to which he subsequently added until he owned about four hundred acres. He lived on this farm until about two years before his death, when he removed to Tonica, Illinois, where he died, in 1884, in his seventy-third year.

Of Ezra Hawley's politics we record that he was a Democrat until the fugitive-slave law was passed in Illinois, after which he declared if that was Democracy he was not a Democrat and gave his support to the Whig and afterward the Republican party. He was a member of the state militia in Vermont, and was an energetic, active man up to the time of his last illness, which was pleuro-pneumonia. His sons living are: Anson, who was born April 12, 1833, and was married to Cynthia Buck, December 11, 1875; she died September 20, 1876, and he has never married again; Myron E., who was born June 16, 1837, was married February 18, 1861, to Emoline Hall. She died January 20, 1882, and he was married a second time, December 23, 1885, to Miss Anna C. Ross, a daughter of Andrew and Anna (Bertram) Ross, and to them have been born two sons and two daughters, namely, Laura May, Andrew Ezra, Myron Arthur and Nelle Ross Hawley. Mrs. Hawley's parents were born in Scotland—her father in Dumfries county and her mother in Midlothian county, now known as Edinboro. The Ross family is composed of five daughters and one son, viz.: Elizabeth B., the wife of Warren Tooley, of Toronto, Canada; Mary, the wife of Everett Angell, of Vermilion township, LaSalle county; Anna C., the wife of M. E. Hawley; Miss Jessie, of Ottawa, Illinois; James R., of Utah; and Miss Mable, also of Ottawa. Mr. Ross is a horticulturist. He came to this country in 1845 and located in Ottawa, where he has lived ever since. His wife died in 1871, at the age of forty-seven years.

Hiram Hawley was born February 7, 1844, and married October 17,

1871, to Miss Mary Goodwin, a daughter of Clement and Eliza (Seely) Goodwin. Their children who are living are Minne, Mable, Maud and Ralph. He is in the livery business in Tonica. Anson and Myron are on and near the old homestead, and have been more or less prominent in affairs of their locality.

JOSEPH F. KILDUFF.

Joseph F. Kilduff represents a class of citizens to whom we point with pride as being the backbone and sinews of progress. Alert and watchful in business and in whatever tends to upbuild the community, their self-reliance and energy foretell the success of whatever plan they advocate. Working his way from boyhood as a clerk in a dry-goods store, he is now one of our most successful grain merchants and stands at the head of the LaSalle National Bank, as president. He is, moreover, a product of LaSalle county, having been born in Peru, Illinois, August 13, 1855, to Patrick M. and Theresa R. (Kent) Kilduff.

Joseph F. Kilduff grew to manhood in his native town and was educated in her common schools until he reached the age of fourteen. He then secured employment as a clerk in a dry goods store in Peru, where he remained until 1881, when he opened a dry goods store of his own. He was a member of the firm of Kilduff Brothers, of LaSalle, for many years and did a very profitable business. This firm was originally Breuning, Kilduff & Company until September 8, 1883, when the style was changed to Breuning & Kilduff. This was continued until the 1st of March, 1886, when Mr. Breuning retired from the company and it was afterward known as Kilduff Brothers. In March, 1898, he embarked in the grain business and with his usual shrewdness has proved himself master of the business. He has an elevator in LaSalle and another in Dimmick, affording the best facilities to the farmers throughout the surrounding country to dispose of their products at market price.

In 1885 Mr. Kilduff led to the marriage altar Miss Margaret T. Finkler, a native of LaSalle, and they have two sons and one daughter. Mr. Kilduff is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and the Royal Arcanum. He has always been an ardent advocate of liberal education and has held a place on the board of directors of the township high school since its organization, advancing its interests in every way in his power. He was elected to his present office as president of the National Bank of LaSalle on January 1, 1897, and makes a most acceptable officer. Although he is just touching the meridian

of life he occupies a place in the business and social world that might well be envied by older men, and is equaled only by the general esteem in which he is held as the result of his uprightness and sterling worth.

DANIEL ARENTSEN.

Daniel Arentsen is a native of the town of Freedom, LaSalle county, born at the Arentsen homestead, which he now owns and occupies, the date of his birth being July 31, 1854. His father, one of the early pioneers of this vicinity, was Thorbjören Arentsen, whose first residence here was a log cabin by the roadside, north of the present homestead; the mound on which it stood is still to be seen. It was during the first year of his parents' residence here that Daniel was born; and as he is the youngest he is therefore the only one of the family born in the house in which he now lives.

During those early days deer, wolves and other wild game were plentiful. Often when the first of the family to sally forth in the morning came out, a herd of deer would be witnessed within five or six rods of the house, some standing and some lying down, chewing their cud as contentedly as a flock of sheep! They were not afraid, for they seemed to know that no harm was intended. Although a good shot Mr. Arentsen, the father, took but little interest in hunting. On one occasion he picked up a pair of deer's horns about half a mile distant from the house and gave it to Daniel, our subject, as a memento of the by-gone days, and these horns are still in the possession of our subject.

On the day that Daniel was twenty-one years old his good old father and mother asked him to stay with them as long as they lived and be their support in their old age, adding that when they had passed away to the silent land the homestead should be his. As he loved his old parents and thought more of them than everything else in this world, he promised to stay with them throughout the remainder of their lives if he indeed should live so long; and that promise was never broken. On the 13th of January, 1888, his mother died, and on the 14th of August, 1889, Daniel bought the farm, and also a timber lot, of his father—one hundred and five acres in all—at forty-five dollars an acre, amounting to four thousand seven hundred and twenty-five dollars—on the condition that when his father died he was to pay each of his brothers and sisters an equal share of the amount and also have an equal share himself; and his brothers and sisters were then to give him (Daniel) a good warranty deed of the same. Including Daniel there were still five brothers and sisters living; and when each had an equal share

of the amount above stated said share was nine hundred and forty-five dollars. Daniel was therefore to pay the other four three thousand seven hundred and eighty dollars. On the 14th of September, 1889, the father died, and as our subject had no deed of the land his two brothers charged him each twelve hundred and fifty dollars, and his two sisters each one thousand and twenty-five dollars, making a total of four thousand five hundred and fifty dollars!

Mr. Arentsen is living alone, having never married. Politically he is a strong Republican and an earnest believer in the application of the golden rule to all the details of practical life.

WILLIAM T. MASON.

The Mason family has been intimately connected with the growth and progress of LaSalle county and northern Illinois for about three-score years, and no better, more patriotic citizens have been numbered among the inhabitants of this region.

William T. Mason, the subject of this article, for years a leading business man of LaSalle, was born August 29, 1829, in New York state. When a child of four years, he came to Illinois in company with his parents, Hale S. and Sabrina (Coddington) Mason. His mother was a sister of Ichabod Coddington, who took a leading and influential part in the early anti-slavery agitation in Illinois. William T. was reared to manhood in the town of Lockport, and in 1855 was married, in this state, to Miss Mary R. Sheard, whose birth had occurred in Bristol, New York, November 27, 1831. Six children were born to this worthy couple, namely: Frank S., a resident of Chicago; Mary Elizabeth; Emma F.; Jennie A.; William S., a resident of LaSalle; and Cornelia.

In 1854 Mr. Mason became canal inspector and manager of the Western Union Telegraph office at LaSalle, where he thenceforth made his home with the exception of the few years during the civil war when he was in the service of the government at Cairo, where he occupied the important position of manager of the military telegraph office at that point. He became successively agent of the Rock Island Railroad Company, canal collector, and manager of the Great Western and Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Companies. In 1879 he was elected justice of the peace, which office, together with his real estate and insurance business, comprised the scope of his business up to the time of his death.

A man of broad and liberal education, Mr. Mason was progressive

and in sympathy with the spirit of the times. In the Masonic order he stood deservedly high, being a Master Mason, a representative of the Royal Arch chapter and for a number of years a district deputy grand master. Politically he was liberal in the largest sense. His belief was in accord with the spirit of the Declaration of Independence "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights," and hence in his early manhood he sympathized with those great agitators, William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, Gerrit Smith, Elijah and Owen Lovejoy and all that class of pure patriots and philanthropists—called by their opponents Abolitionists—who boldly resolved that the encroachments of the slave power should be checked and the institution put "in the course of ultimate extinction." Upon the organization of the Republican party he became one of its foremost members. He was one of the hardest workers in its ranks, and no caucus or private election was allowed to go by default, for he rallied the masses to attend to their important political duties. There were many warm controversies and exciting scenes in those days, and Mr. Mason was always the champion of fair-dealing and honest politics, and always won. He was often selected as a delegate to the Republican county and state conventions and wielded great influence therein. He was a natural-born orator and wherever his voice was heard in *such* assemblages he was listened to with profound respect. He did not labor with the expectation of personal profit or advancement, but because he loved his country and desired truth, honor and purity to control in politics, and believed their highest development was to be found in the Republican party at that time. He was never an office-seeker or sought any reward for his services. He was eminently qualified to fill any position within the gift of the people with honor to himself and credit to his countrymen, but he sought them not for himself, preferring to help his friends to grasp such favors.

In religion Mr. Mason was a philosopher. He was in favor of the largest liberty—the liberty of every man doing as he pleased so long as he interferes not with the rights and privileges of other men. He squared his conduct by the Golden Rule. Nothing was too hard or difficult for him to do to help or oblige a friend; no one ever applied to him in vain for assistance if it were within his power to grant it. He did not believe in the possibility of the finite mind comprehending the infinite and therefore did not speculate or theorize on the mysteries of the universe—of their beginning or the ending thereof. The book of nature spread out before him was a revelation sufficient to convince him of the wisdom, power and goodness of the Most High as exhibited in the sublimity of creation, and at the mention of the Creator's name he most reverently bowed. Beloved and

mourned by a large circle of friends, whom he had attached to himself by his sterling traits of character, he passed to his reward April 6, 1886, and is survived by his devoted wife.

CHARLES E. SOULE, M. D.

The true western spirit of progress and advancement finds exemplification in Charles E. Soule, who is one of the leading physicians of Morris. In his profession he keeps thoroughly abreast of the times and is familiar with all the discoveries made in connection with the medical science and the theories advanced as to its use in administering to the needs of suffering humanity. He is a very able practitioner and has a large patronage, which indicates his position in the front rank of the medical fraternity.

Dr. Soule is a native of Wisconsin, his birth having occurred in Rochester, Racine county, June 11, 1863. His parents were Elvius and Mary J. (Thomas) Soule, the former a native of Schoharie county, New York, the latter born in Wales. The paternal grandfather, George Soule, was a native of the Empire state, and was descended from French ancestry. When four years of age Mrs. Soule came to the United States with her parents, who located in Racine county, Wisconsin, where they resided until 1871, at which time they removed to Kansas, where their last days were spent. Elvius Soule accompanied his parents to Racine county in 1845, and after attaining his majority, was married. He was born in 1830, and died in that county in 1898. However, he spent considerable time in the west, crossing the plains to California in 1849 and remained upon the Pacific slope until 1861, when he returned to the Badger state. In 1864 he responded to his country's call for troops, enlisting in the Thirty-ninth Wisconsin Infantry, with which he served one year. Upon his return from the south he resumed farming, devoting his energies to that occupation until his death. His widow still resides on the old homestead in Wisconsin. There were three children in their family, Edith A., Stella A. and Charles E.

Under the paternal roof Dr. Soule was reared to manhood. He early became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist, and having acquired his preliminary education in the district schools he attended the Rochester Seminary, where he was graduated in 1884. Subsequently he engaged in teaching for three years and then devoted three years to the study of medicine, being graduated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Chicago on the 26th of February, 1889. He then located in Mount Vernon, Wisconsin, where he practiced until 1892, when he opened an office in Sheridan, Illinois. In May, 1899, he came to Morris, where he

has already secured a liberal patronage. He is a member of the LaSalle County Medical Society, the North Central Illinois Medical Association, the Illinois State Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

In 1885 Dr. Soule was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Hollister, a native of Wisconsin, and their union has been blessed with two children—Eula E. and Edgar M. In politics Dr. Soule is a Republican, and socially a Master Mason. He seeks no public office, preferring to devote his energies to his profession, in which he has attained a position of distinction.

JOHN F. NOONAN.

John F. Noonan, contractor and builder, is one of the reliable, reputable citizens who assist in making LaSalle, Illinois, a prosperous, thriving city. He was born to John and Mary (Shea) Noonan, in this city, on June 21, 1866. Both parents were natives of Ireland, who came to America in early youth. The father landed in Brooklyn, New York, and drifted west until he reached this state, where he enlisted in the Nintyeth Illinois Regiment, Company K, serving four years and being discharged with the rank of sergeant. Returning to LaSalle he was joined in wedlock with Miss Mary Shea, who had also come to this country a short time before the war, accompanied by her mother and two brothers. The young couple located in this city, where the young husband followed his trade, that of whip-maker, conducting the business alone, until his death, October 2, 1880. His family comprised eight children: John F., David, Matthew, Edward, James, Mary, Vincent and Julia. The family were members of St. Patrick's Catholic church, of LaSalle, where the mother is still an attendant.

Mr. Noonan was reared and educated in this city, receiving his education in the public and parochial schools. He was the oldest of the family, and his struggle with life really began at the age of fourteen, when he was deprived of his father's sheltering arm. He was industrious and quick and a great aid to his mother, but thought it advisable to learn some trade, and thus augment his chances of success. At the age of eighteen he began learning the carpenter's trade, and as he was handy with his tools soon became a fine mechanic. In 1891 he began for himself as a contractor and builder and has prospered beyond his expectations. Many of the buildings in this vicinity were constructed by him, and the Seventh ward school and the township high school buildings are both lasting monuments of his handiwork—silent but eloquent witnesses to his skill.

In 1891 he married Miss Annie Wilson, a daughter of William Wilson, of LaSalle. They own a pleasant, cosy home, which is brightened by the

presence of two children—Charlotte and Willie. Mr. and Mrs. Noonan are members of St. Patrick's church, and are quiet, unassuming people of worth. He is a member of the Royal Arcanum, The Court of Honor and Modern Woodmen of America. As to politics he is a Republican, but has never dabbled in public affairs, as he has given his best efforts to his business and has reason to feel proud of his record.

JOHN L. MARSHALL.

John Louie Marshall, of Serena township, LaSalle county, Illinois, is a member of one of the earliest French families of this township and is prominently identified with the farming interests of the county.

Mr. Marshall was born in the town of Neviler, province of Alsace, France, November 18, 1830, son of John David Marchal—as it was in the French—and grandson of Fritz Marchal. The last named had four sons, John David, Mitchell, Henry and Theophilus. John David learned the turner's trade in his native land, was there married and there his six sons were born. In 1844 he came to America with his family and brought with him a small sum of money with which he purchased an eighty-acre tract of land in LaSalle county, Illinois. Here he at once engaged in farming, was successful to a marked degree, and accumulated land to the amount of five hundred acres, among the best the township affords. He died in 1865, leaving his widow and seven children. She survived him some five years. The children of this union were John Louie, Theophilus, Charles, Constant, Edward, Adolph and Mary, wife of Henry K. Parr, of Serena township.

John Louie Marshall in his youth had limited educational advantages, but met the realities of life with the same determined disposition to overcome all obstacles that characterizes the best equipped man upon arriving at his majority. The scenes of his embarkation from the city of Havre on the old sailing vessel *Monument* and of the trip to New York had not begun to fade from his memory when he reached his majority and began that career that is now ending so full of years and so replete with successes. He has made the cultivation of the soil his life work, and the harvest he has reaped is best shown by the fact that he is now the owner of seven hundred acres of fine land near the village of Serena.

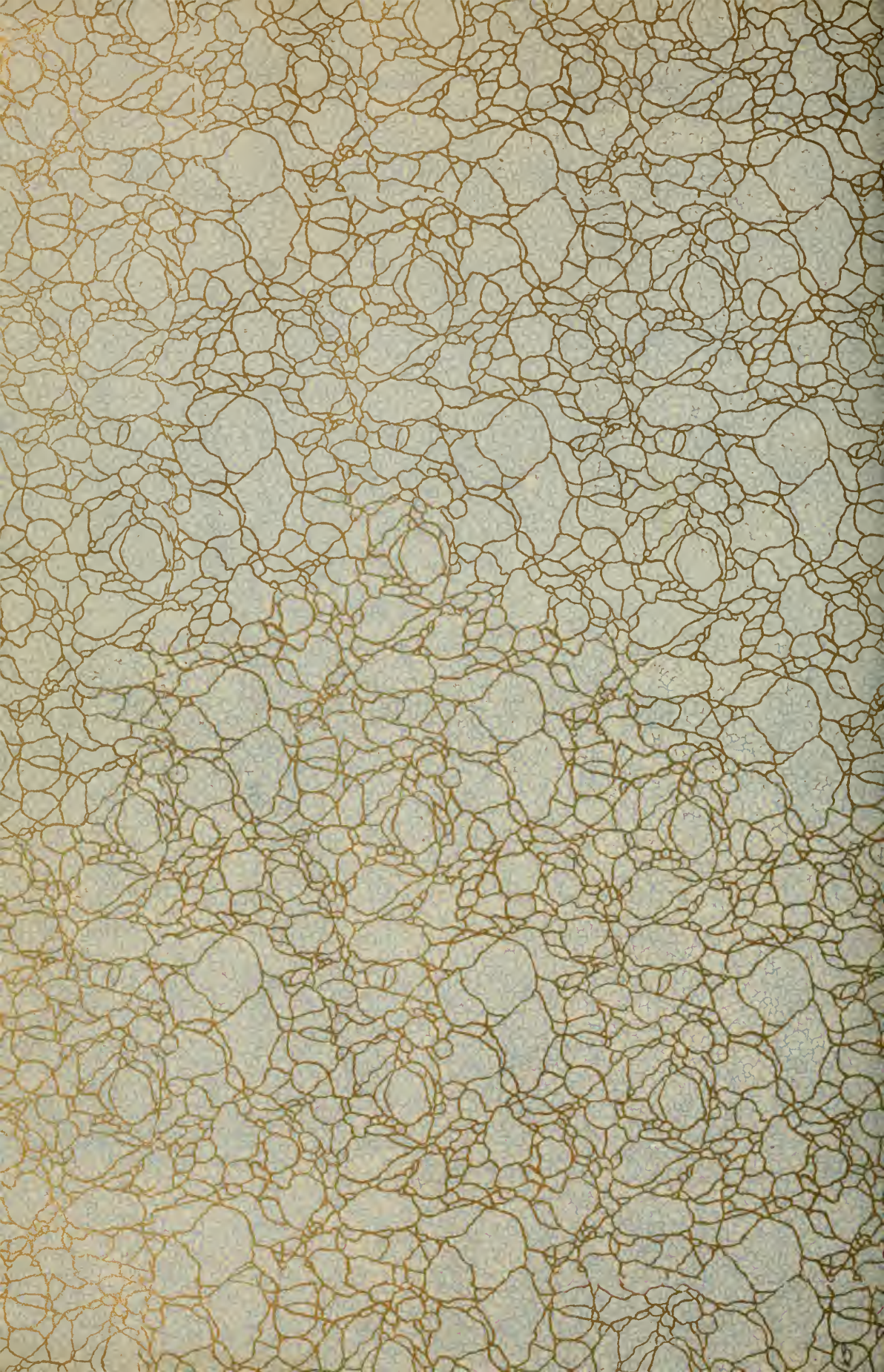
Mr. Marshall was married November 18, 1854, and he has had two children. The first Mrs. Marshall having died, Mr. Marshall married for his second wife Angeline Oulmann.

Politically Mr. Marshall has divided his support between the two great parties, voting always for the man he believes best fitted for the office. His last presidential vote was given to William McKinley.

SAMUEL G. MENGLE, M. D.

Dr. Samuel G. Mengle represents the type of man who have worked their way through adverse circumstances to the pinnacle of success. He was born in Tuckertown, Berks county, Pennsylvania, April 19, 1850, and is a son of Samuel and Henrietta (Gerhart) Mengle. Both of his parents were natives of Pennsylvania, whose ancestors were Hessians, coming from Germany to escape religious persecution and settling in Pennsylvania before the Revolution. The father of our subject was the proprietor of the Cross Keys hotel in that state, now owned by one of the sons, and it was here our subject spent his early years.

The latter attended the Oakdale Seminary at Pughtown, that state, and then entered upon the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Stephen Mendenhall Meridith. He remained with him four years, attending the University of Pennsylvania during the winter months and graduating in its medical department in 1869, before he had reached his twenty-first year. He remained with Dr. Meridith at Pughtown for a short time after this and then went to Kutztown for three months to take charge of the patients of another physician during the latter's temporary absence. He located first at Shillington, Pennsylvania, remaining there four years; was in Friedensburg two years more; moved to Ohio and was for a short time in Findlay, when he returned to his native state and opened an office in Gowan City, Northumberland county. Here he took charge of the Benjamin Franklin Colliery and was there seven years in practice. From there he moved to Shamokin, remaining four years, and then started on a trip west, stopping six weeks at Butte, Montana. Continuing his journey he at last reached Sprague, Washington, and practiced his profession there for six years, when he once more turned his steps toward the east, stopping eight months in Davenport, Iowa. In March, 1893, he came to LaSalle and has since been actively engaged in the practice of his profession. Here he has a wide and lucrative practice, and has won hosts of friends since coming here, friends who appreciate his many noble qualities and estimate him at his true worth. In politics he is a Democrat and an ardent advocate of silver currency.



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