





LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF ILLINOIS

920.077358

P838



Return this book on or before the  
**Latest Date** stamped below.

University of Illinois Library

OCT 1 1962

OCT 14 1962

OCT 15 1962

MAR 15 1971

APR 13 1971

AUG 25 1980

OCT 07 1990

JUL 25 1998











PORTRAIT AND  
BIOGRAPHICAL



—OF—

MACON COUNTY,  
ILLINOIS,

CONTAINING

Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens,

Governors of the State, and of the Presidents

OF THE UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO:.

LAKE CITY PUBLISHING CO.

1893



# PREFACE.



THE greatest of English historians, MACAULAY, and one of the most brilliant writers of the present century, has said: "The history of a country is best told in a record of the lives of its people." In conformity with this idea the PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD, of this county has been prepared. Instead of going to musty records, and taking therefrom dry statistical matter that can be appreciated by but few, our corps of writers have gone to the people, the men and women who have, by their enterprise and industry, brought the county to rank second to none among those comprising this great and noble State, and from their lips have the story of their life struggles. No more interesting or instructive matter could be presented to an intelligent public. In this volume will be found a record of many whose lives are worthy the imitation of coming generations. It tells how some, commencing life in poverty, by industry and economy have accumulated wealth. It tells how others, with limited advantages for securing an education, have become learned men and women, with an influence extending throughout the length and breadth of the land. It tells of men who have risen from the lower walks of life to eminence as statesmen, and whose names have become famous. It tells of those in every walk in life who have striven to succeed, and records how that success has usually crowned their efforts. It tells also of many, very

many, who, not seeking the applause of the world, have pursued "the even tenor of their way," content to have it said of them as Christ said of the woman performing a deed of mercy—"they have done what they could." It tells how that many in the pride and strength of young manhood left the plow and the anvil, the lawyer's office and the counting-room, left every trade and profession, and at their country's call went forth valiantly "to do or die," and how through their efforts the Union was restored and peace once more reigned in the land. In the life of every man and of every woman is a lesson that should not be lost upon those who follow after.

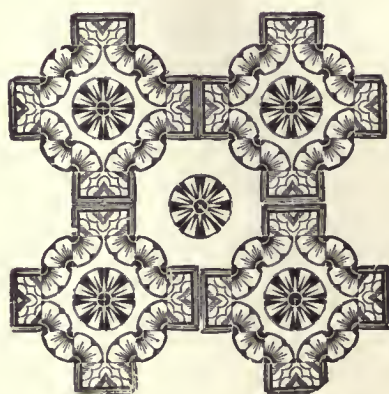
Coming generations will appreciate this volume and preserve it as a sacred treasure, from the fact that it contains so much that would never find its way into public records, and which would otherwise be inaccessible. Great care has been taken in the compilation of the work and every opportunity possible given to those represented to insure correctness in what has been written, and the publishers flatter themselves that they give to their readers a work with few errors of consequence. In addition to the biographical sketches, portraits of a number of representative citizens are given.

The faces of some, and biographical sketches of many, will be missed in this volume. For this the publishers are not to blame. Not having a proper conception of the work, some refused to give the information necessary to compile a sketch, while others were indifferent. Occasionally some member of the family would oppose the enterprise, and on account of such opposition the support of the interested one would be withheld. In a few instances men could never be found, though repeated calls were made at their residence or place of business.

September, 1893.

LAKE CITY PUBLISHING CO.






**PORTRAITS**  

**AND**  

**BIOGRAPHIES**

OF THE

GOVERNORS OF ILLINOIS,

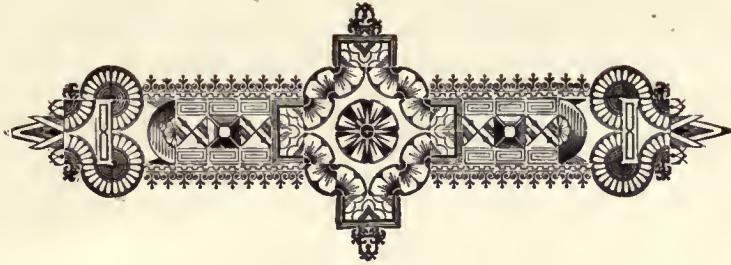
AND OF THE

**PRESIDENTS**

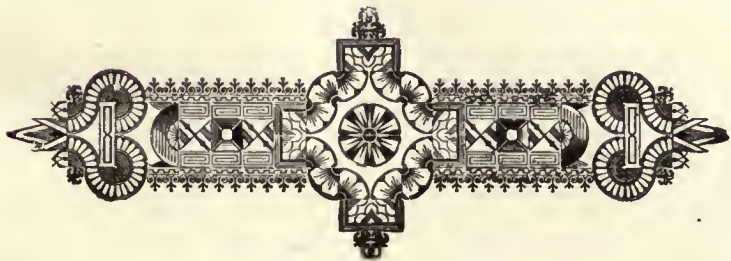
OF THE


**UNITED STATES**





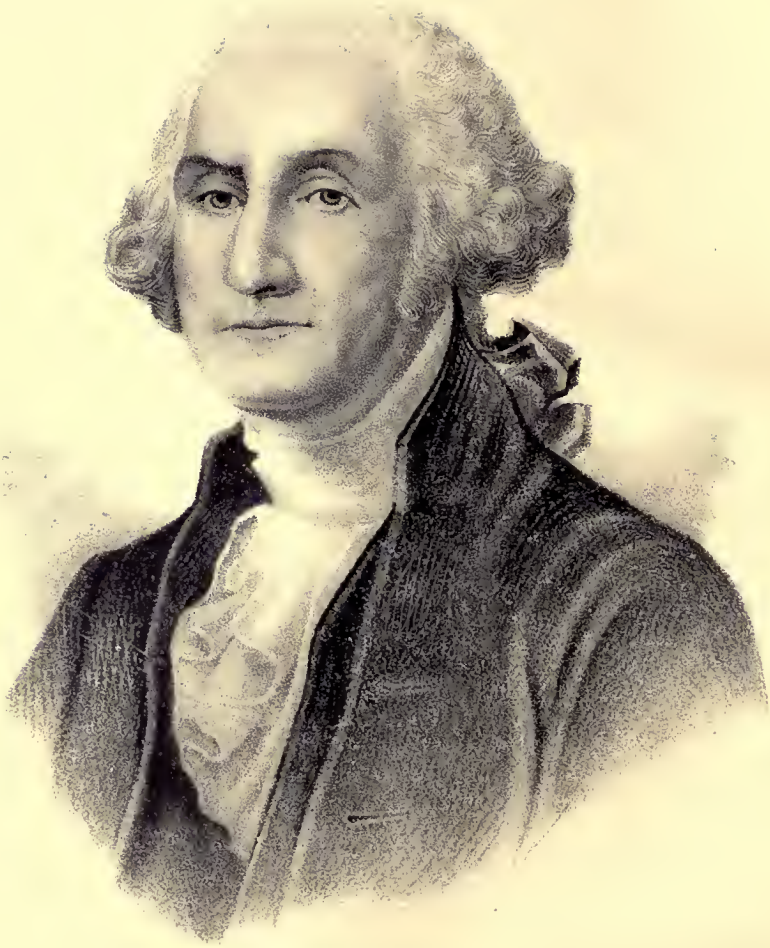
# PRESIDENTS.







LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



G. W. F. Hegel



## GEORGE WASHINGTON.



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*John Adams*



## JOHN ADAMS.



JOHN ADAMS, the second President and the first Vice-President of the United States, was born in Braintree (now Quincy), Mass., and about ten miles from Boston, Oct. 19,

1735. His great-grandfather, Henry Adams, emigrated from England about 1640, with a family of eight sons, and settled at Braintree. The parents of John were John and Susannah (Boylston) Adams. His father was a farmer of limited means, to which he added the business of shoemaking. He gave his eldest son, John, a classical education at Harvard College. John

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

While Mr. Adams was Vice President the great

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

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

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

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



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*Th. Jefferson*



# THOMAS JEFFERSON.



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

The fourth of July, 1826, being the fiftieth anniversary

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

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

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

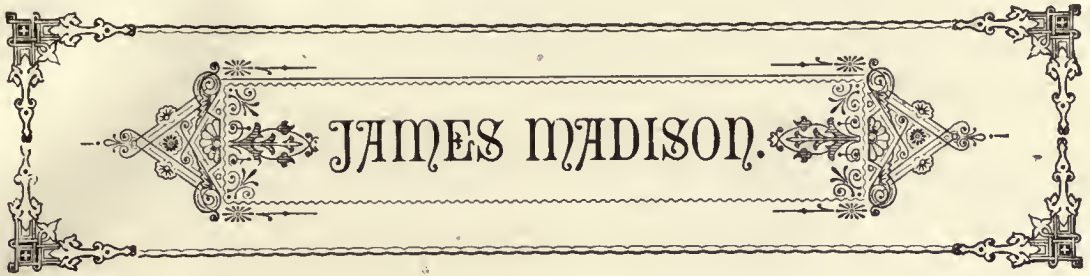
In person Mr. Jefferson was tall and thin, rather above six feet in height, but well formed; his eyes were light, his hair originally red, in after life became white and silvery; his complexion was fair, his forehead broad, and his whole countenance intelligent and thoughtful. He possessed great fortitude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



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*James McCallister*



## JAMES MADISON.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*James Monroe*



## JAMES MONROE.



JAMES MONROE, the fifth President of The United States, was born in Westmoreland Co., Va., April 28, 1758. His early life was passed at the place of nativity. His ancestors had for many years resided in the province in which he was born. When, at 17 years of age, in the process of completing his education at William and Mary College, the Colonial Congress assembled at Philadelphia to deliberate upon the unjust and manifold oppressions of Great Britain, declared the separation of the Colonies, and promulgated the Declaration of Independence.

Had he been born ten years before it is highly probable that he would have been one of the signers of that celebrated instrument. At this time he left school and enlisted among the patriots.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



J. 2. Adams



## JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.



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

When but eleven years old he took a tearful adieu of his mother, to sail with his father for Europe, through a fleet of hostile British cruisers. The bright, animated boy spent a year and a half in Paris, where his father was associated with Franklin and Lee as minister plenipotentiary. His intelligence attracted the notice of these distinguished men, and he received from them flattering marks of attention.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*Andrew Jackson*

## ANDREW JACKSON.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



sessions,—a distance of about eight hundred miles.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



Wm Van Buren

# MARTIN VAN BUREN.



MARTIN VAN BUREN, the eighth President of the United States, was born at Kinderhook, N. Y., Dec. 5, 1782. He died at the same place, July 24, 1862. His body rests in the cemetery at Kinderhook. Above it is

a plain granite shaft fifteen feet high, bearing a simple inscription about half way up on one face. The lot is unfenced, unbordered

or unbounded by shrub or flower.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

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



*W. H. Harrison*



## WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

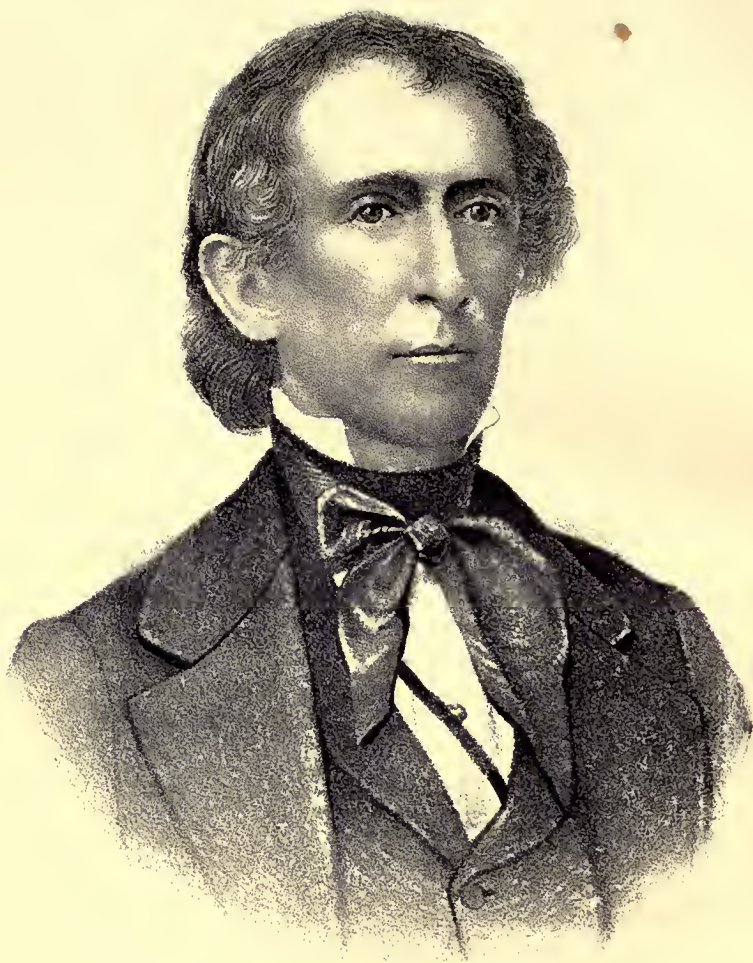
In 1819, Harrison was elected to the Senate of Ohio; and in 1824, as one of the presidential electors of that State, he gave his vote for Henry Clay. The same year he was chosen to the United States Senate.

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

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

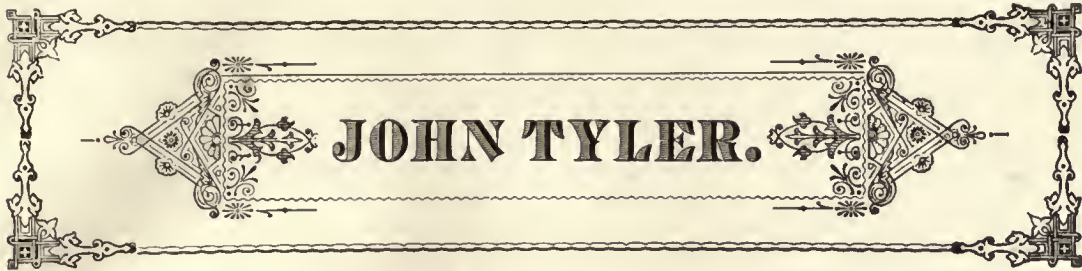
LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





John Tyler





## JOHN TYLER.



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

At nineteen years of age, he commenced the practice of law. His success was rapid and astonishing. It is said that three months had not elapsed ere there was scarcely a case on the docket of the court in which he was

not retained. When but twenty-one years of age, he was almost unanimously elected to a seat in the State Legislature. He connected himself with the Democratic party, and warmly advocated the measures of Jefferson and Madison. For five successive years he was elected to the Legislature, receiving nearly the unanimous vote of his county.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

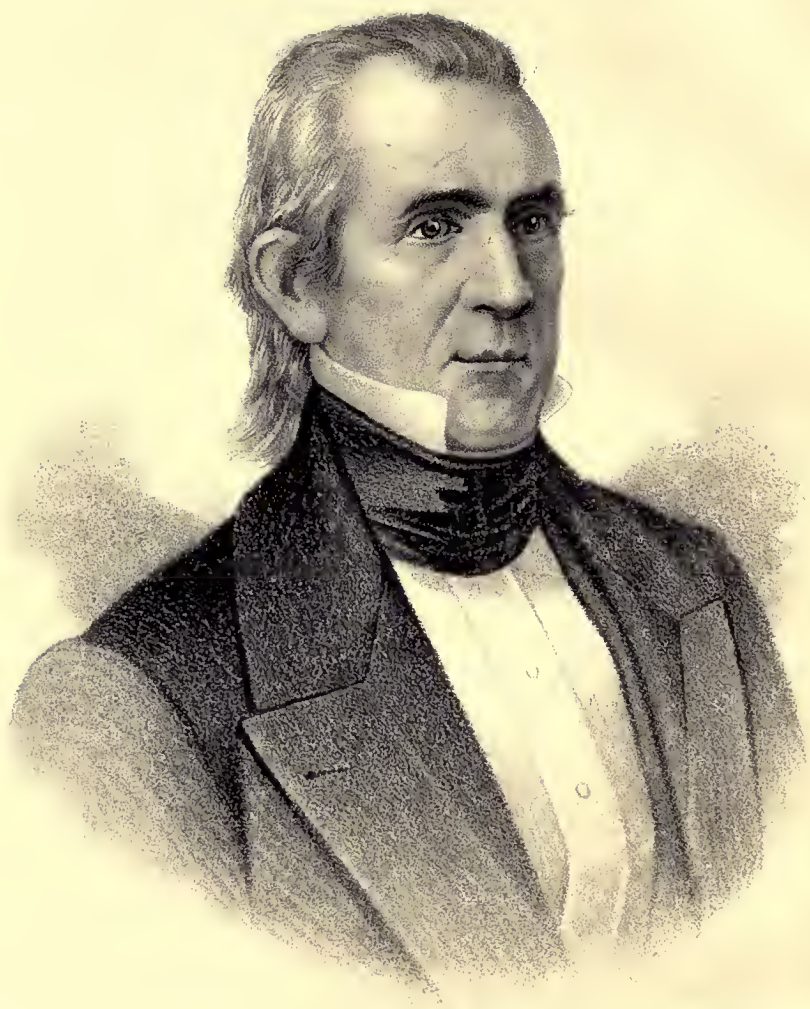
On the 4th of March, 1845, he retired from the harassments of office, to the regret of neither party, and probably to his own unspeakable relief. His first wife, Miss Letitia Christian, died in Washington, in 1842; and in June, 1844, President Tyler was again married, at New York, to Miss Julia Gardiner,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

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

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

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





James K. Polk



## JAMES K. POLK.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*Zachary Taylor.*



## ZACHARY TAYLOR.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*Millard Fillmore*





## MILLARD FILLMORE.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





*Franklin Pierce*



## FRANKLIN PIERCE.



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

Franklin was the sixth of eight children.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

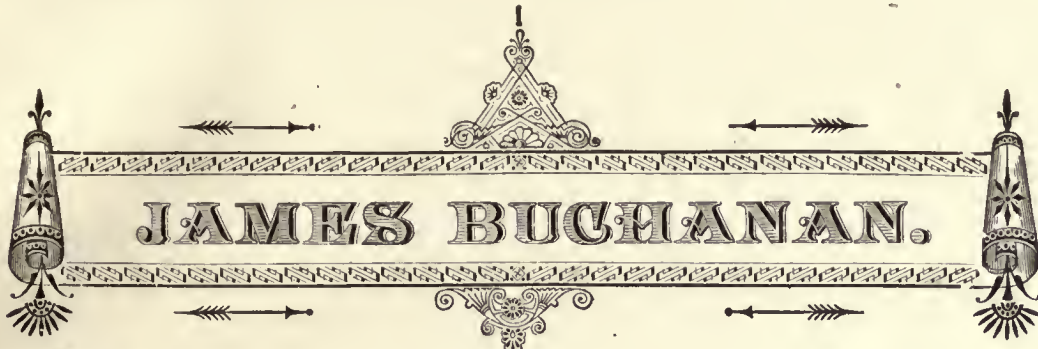
When the terrible Rebellion burst forth, which divided our country into two parties, and two only, Mr. Pierce remained steadfast in the principles which he had always cherished, and gave his sympathies to that pro-slavery party with which he had ever been allied. He declined to do anything, either by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



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*James Buchanan*



# JAMES BUCHANAN.

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

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

abled him to master the most **abstruse** subjects with facility.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Buchanan was far advanced in life. Only four years were wanting to fill up his three-score years and ten. His own friends, those with whom he had been allied in political principles and action for years, were seeking the destruction of the Government, that they might rear upon the ruins of our free institutions a nation whose corner-stone should

be human slavery. In this emergency, Mr. Buchanan was hopelessly bewildered. He could not, with his long-avowed principles, consistently oppose the State-rights party in their assumptions. As President of the United States, bound by his oath faithfully to administer the laws, he could not, without perjury of the grossest kind, unite with those endeavoring to overthrow the Republic. He therefore did nothing.

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

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

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

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

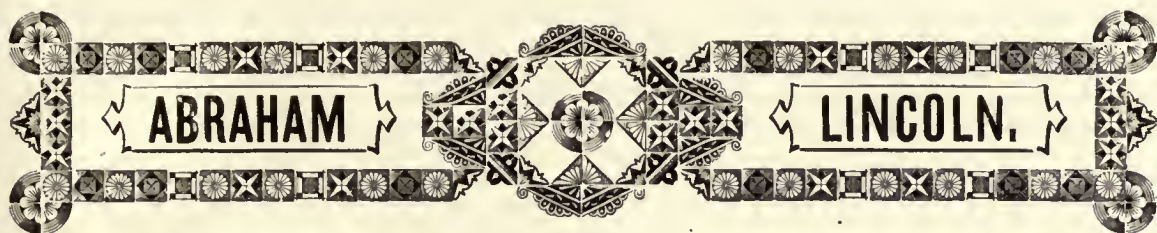
The administration of President Buchanan was certainly the most calamitous our country has experienced. His best friends cannot recall it with pleasure. And still more deplorable it is for his fame, that in that dreadful conflict which rolled its billows of flame and blood over our whole land, no word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

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



Your friend & comrade  
A. Lincoln





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





*Andrew Johnson*



## ANDREW JOHNSON.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

opposition to, the principles laid down in that speech.

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

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

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



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*G. S. Brant*



## ULYSSES S. GRANT.



ULYSSES S. GRANT, the eighteenth President of the United States, was born on the 29th of April, 1822, of Christian parents, in a humble home, at Point Pleasant, on the banks of the Ohio. Shortly after his father moved to Georgetown, Brown Co., O. In this remote frontier hamlet, Ulysses received a common-school education. At the age of seventeen, in the year 1839, he entered the Military Academy at West Point. Here he was regarded as a

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

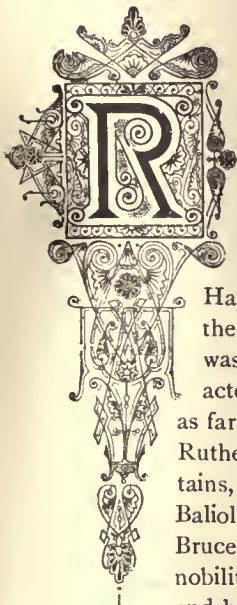


Sincerely  
R. B. Hays





## RUTHERFORD B. HAYES.



RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, the nineteenth President of the United States, was born in Delaware, O., Oct. 4, 1822, almost three months after the death of his father, Rutherford Hayes. His ancestry on both the paternal and maternal sides, was of the most honorable character. It can be traced, it is said, as far back as 1280, when Hayes and Rutherford were two Scottish chieftains, fighting side by side with Baliol, William Wallace and Robert Bruce. Both families belonged to the nobility, owned extensive estates, and had a large following. Misfor-

tune overtaking the family, George Hayes left Scotland in 1680, and settled in Windsor, Conn. His son George was born in Windsor, and remained there during his life. Daniel Hayes, son of the latter, married Sarah Lee, and lived from the time of his marriage until his death in Simsbury, Conn. Ezekiel, son of Daniel, was born in 1724, and was a manufacturer of scythes at Bradford, Conn. Rutherford Hayes, son of Ezekiel and grandfather of President Hayes, was born in New Haven, in August, 1756. He was a farmer, blacksmith and tavern-keeper. He emigrated to Vermont at an unknown date, settling in Brattleboro, where he established a hotel. Here his son Rutherford Hayes the father of President Hayes, was

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





*J. A. Garfield*

# JAMES A. GARFIELD.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

The military history of Gen. Garfield, closed with

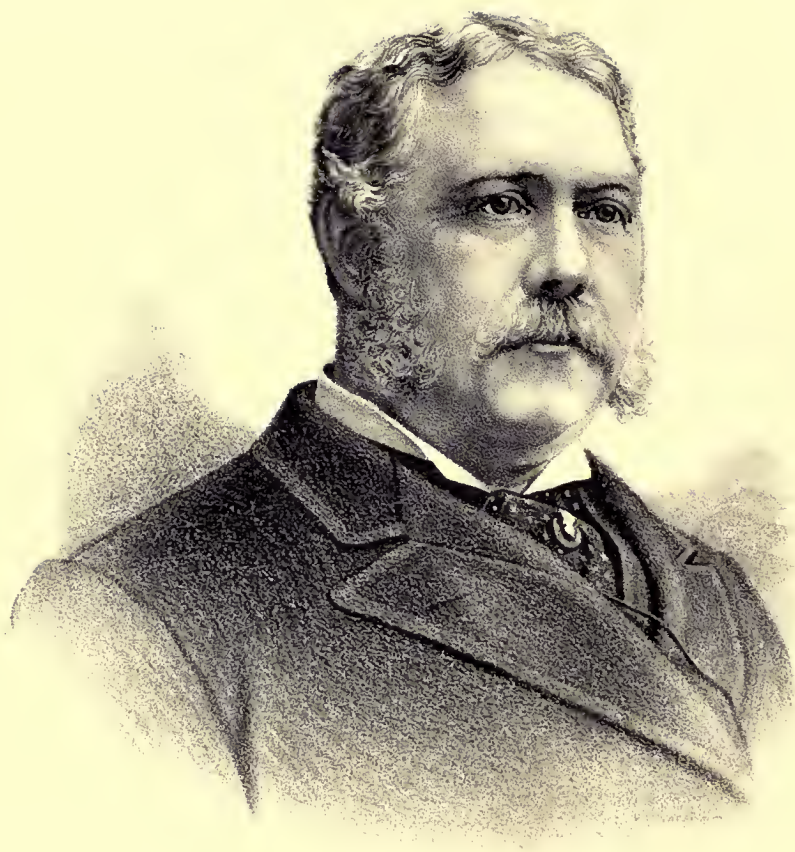
his brilliant services at Chickamauga, where he won the stars of the Major-General.

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

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



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*C. A. Astor*



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

At last God in his mercy relieved President Garfield from further suffering, and the world, as never before in its history over the death of any other man, wept at his bier. Then it became the duty of the Vice President to assume the responsibilities of the high office, and he took the oath in New York, Sept. 20, 1881. The position was an embarrassing one to him, made doubly so from the facts that all eyes were on him, anxious to know what he would do, what policy he would pursue, and who he would select as advisers. The duties of the office had been greatly neglected during the President's long illness, and many important measures were to be immediately decided by him; and still farther to embarrass him he did not fail to realize under what circumstances he became President, and knew the feelings of many on this point. Under these trying circumstances President Arthur took the reins of the Government in his own hands; and, as embarrassing as were the condition of

affair: he happily surprised the nation, acting so wisely that but few criticised his administration. He served the nation well and faithfully, until the close of his administration, March 4, 1885, and was a popular candidate before his party for a second term. His name was ably presented before the convention at Chicago, and was received with great favor, and doubtless but for the personal popularity of one of the opposing candidates, he would have been selected as the standard-bearer of his party for another campaign. He retired to private life carrying with him the best wishes of the American people, whom he had served in a manner satisfactory to them and with credit to himself.

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*Grover Cleveland*



## S. Grover Cleveland.

**S**TEPHEN GROVER CLEVELAND, the twenty-second President of the United States, was born in 1837, in the obscure town of Caldwell, Essex Co., N. J., and in a little two-and-a-half-story white house which is still standing, characteristically to mark the humble birth-place of one of America's great men in striking contrast with the Old World, where all men high in office must be high in origin and born in the cradle of wealth. When the subject of this sketch was three years of age, his father, who was a Presbyterian min-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

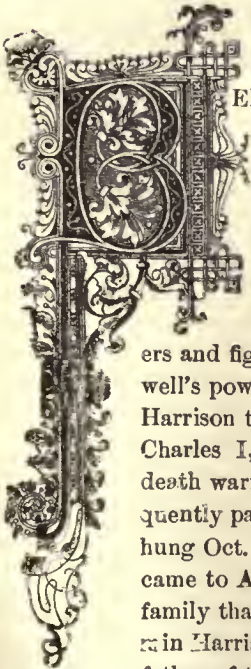
On June 2, 1886, President Cleveland married Frances, daughter of his deceased friend and partner, Oscar Folsom, of the Buffalo Bar. Their union has been blessed by the birth of one daughter, Ruth. In the campaign of 1888, President Cleveland was renominated by his party, but the Republican candidate, Gen. Benjamin Harrison, was victorious. In the nominations of 1892 these two candidates for the highest position in the gift of the people were again pitted against each other and President Cleveland was victorious by an overwhelming majority.

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





*Bey Harrison*



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

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

Gen. William Henry Harrison, the son of the

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

President Harrison was born at North Bend, Hamilton Co., Ohio, Aug. 20, 1853. His life up to the time of his graduation by the Miami University, at Oxford, Ohio, was the uneventful one of a country lad of a family of small means. His father was able to give him a good education, and nothing more. He became engaged while at college to the daughter of Dr. Scott, Principal of a female school at Oxford. After graduating he determined to enter upon the study of the law. He went to Cincinnati and then read law for two years. At the expiration of that time young Harrison received the only inheritance of his life; his aunt dying left him a lot valued at \$800. He regarded this legacy as a fortune, and decided to get married at once, take this money and go to some Eastern town and begin the practice of law. He sold his lot, and with the money in his pocket, he started out with his young wife to fight for a place in the world. He



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

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

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

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

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

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

On account of his eloquence as a speaker and his power as a debater, he was called upon at an uncommonly early age to take part in the discussion of the great questions that then began to agitate the country. He was an uncompromising anti-slavery man, and was matched against some of the most eminent Democratic speakers of his State. No man who felt the touch of his blade desired to be pitted with him again. With all his eloquence as an orator he never spoke for oratorical effect, but his words always went like bullets to the mark. He is purely American in his ideas and is a splendid type of the American statesman. Gifted with quick perception, a logical mind and a ready tongue, he is one of the most distinguished impromptu speakers in the Nation. Many of these speeches sparkled with the rarest of eloquence and contained arguments of greatest weight. Many of his terse statements have already become aphorisms. Original in thought, precise in logic, terse in statement, yet withal faultless in eloquence, he is recognized as the sound statesman and brilliant orator of the day.





# GOVERNORS.





LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





*Shadrach Bond.*



## SHADRACH BOND.



**S**HADRACH BOND, the first Governor of Illinois after its organization as a State, serving from 1818 to 1822, was born in Frederick County, Maryland, in the year 1773, and was raised a farmer on his father's plantation, receiving only a plain English education. He emigrated to this State in 1794, when it was a part of the "Northwest Territory," continuing in the vocation in which he had been brought up in his native State, in the "New Design," near Eagle Creek, in what is now Monroe County. He served several terms as a member of the General Assembly

of Indiana Territory, after it was organized as such, and in 1812-14 he was a Delegate to the Twelfth and Thirteenth Congresses, taking his seat Dec. 3, 1812, and serving until Oct. 3, 1814. These were the times, the reader will recollect, when this Government had its last struggle with Great Britain. The year 1812 is also noted in the history of this State as that in which the first Territorial Legislature was held. It convened at Kaskaskia, Nov. 25, and adjourned Dec. 26, following.

While serving as Delegate to Congress, Mr. Bond was instrumental in procuring the right of pre-emption on the public domain. On the expiration of his term at Washington he was appointed Receiver of Public Moneys at Kaskaskia, then the capital of the Territory. In company with John G. Comyges,

Thomas H. Harris, Charles Slade, Michael Jones, Warren Brown, Edward Humphries and Charles W. Hunter, he became a proprietor of the site of the initial city of Cairo, which they hoped, from its favorable location at the junction of the two great rivers near the center of the Great West, would rapidly develop into a metropolis. To aid the enterprise, they obtained a special charter from the Legislature, incorporating both the City and the Bank of Cairo.

In 1818 Mr. Bond was elected the first Governor of the State of Illinois, being inaugurated Oct. 6 that year, which was several weeks before Illinois was actually admitted. The facts are these: In January, 1818, the Territorial Legislature sent a petition to Congress for the admission of Illinois as a State, Nathaniel Pope being then Delegate. The petition was granted, fixing the northern line of the State on the latitude of the southern extremity of Lake Michigan; but the bill was afterward so amended as to extend this line to its present latitude. In July a convention was called at Kaskaskia to draft a constitution, which, however, was not submitted to the people. By its provisions, supreme judges, prosecuting attorneys, county and circuit judges, recorders and justices of the peace were all to be appointed by the Governor or elected by the Legislature. This constitution was accepted by Congress Dec. 30. At that time Illinois comprised but eleven counties, namely, Randolph, Madison, Gallatin, Johnson, Pope, Jackson, Crawford, Bond, Union, Washington and Franklin, the northern portion of the State being mainly in Madison County. Thus it appears that Mr. Bond was honored by the naming of a

county before he was elected Governor. The present county of Bond is of small limitations, about 60 to 80 miles south of Springfield. For Lieutenant Governor the people chose Pierre Menard, a prominent and worthy Frenchman, after whom a county in this State is named. In this election there were no opposition candidates, as the popularity of these men had made their promotion to the chief offices of the State, even before the constitution was drafted, a foregone conclusion.

The principal points that excited the people in reference to political issues at this period were local or "internal improvements," as they were called, State banks, location of the capital, slavery and the personal characteristics of the proposed candidates. Mr. Bond represented the "Convention party," for introducing slavery into the State, supported by Elias Kent Kane, his Secretary of State, and John McLean, while Nathaniel Pope and John P. Cook led the anti-slavery element. The people, however, did not become very much excited over this issue until 1820, when the famous Missouri Compromise was adopted by Congress, limiting slavery to the south of the parallel of 36° 30' except in Missouri. While this measure settled the great slavery controversy, so far as the average public sentiment was temporarily concerned, until 1854, when it was repealed under the leadership of Stephen A. Douglas, the issue as considered locally in this State was not decided until 1824, after a most furious campaign. (See sketch of Gov. Coles.) The ticket of 1818 was a compromise one, Bond representing (moderately) the pro-slavery sentiment and Menard the anti-slavery.

An awkward element in the State government under Gov. Bond's administration, was the imperfection of the State constitution. The Convention wished to have Elijah C. Berry for the first Auditor of Public Accounts, but, as it was believed that the new Governor would not appoint him to the office, the Convention declared in a schedule that "an auditor of public accounts, an attorney general and such other officers of the State as may be necessary, may be appointed by the General Assembly." The Constitution, as it stood, vested a very large appointing power in the Governor; but for the purpose of getting one man into office, a total change was made, and the power vested in the Legislature. Of this provision the Legislature took advantage, and de-

clared that State's attorneys, canal commissioners, bank directors, etc., were all "officers of the State" and must therefore be appointed by itself independently of the Governor.

During Gov. Bond's administration a general law was passed for the incorporation of academies and towns, and one authorizing lotteries. The session of 1822 authorized the Governor to appoint commissioners, to act in conjunction with like commissioners appointed by the State of Indiana, to report on the practicability and expediency of improving the navigation of the Wabash River; also inland navigation generally. Many improvements were recommended, some of which have been feebly worked at even till the present day, those along the Wabash being of no value. Also, during Gov. Bond's term of office, the capital of the State was removed from Kaskaskia to Vandalia. In 1820 a law was passed by Congress authorizing this State to open a canal through the public lands. The State appointed commissioners to explore the route and prepare the necessary surveys and estimates, preparatory to its execution; but, being unable out of its own resources to defray the expenses of the undertaking, it was abandoned until some time after Congress made the grant of land for the purpose of its construction.

On the whole, Gov. Bond's administration was fairly good, not being open to severe criticism from any party. In 1824, two years after the expiration of his term of office, he was brought out as a candidate for Congress against the formidable John P. Cook, but received only 4,374 votes to 7,460 for the latter. Gov. Bond was no orator, but had made many fast friends by a judicious bestowment of his gubernatorial patronage, and these worked zealously for him in the campaign.

In 1827 ex-Gov. Bond was appointed by the Legislature, with Wm. P. McKee and Dr. Gershom Jayne, as Commissioners to locate a site for a penitentiary on the Mississippi at or near Alton.

Mr. Bond was of a benevolent and convivial disposition, a man of shrewd observation and clear appreciation of events. His person was erect, standing six feet in height, and after middle life became portly, weighing 200 pounds. His features were strongly masculine, complexion dark, hair jet and eyes hazel; was a favorite with the ladies. He died April 11, 1830, in peace and contentment.



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*Edward Coles*



## Edward Coles.

**E**DWARD COLES, second Governor of Illinois, 1823-6, was born Dec. 15, 1786, in Albemarle Co., Va., on the old family estate called "Enniscorthy," on the Green Mountain. His father, John Coles, was a Colonel in the Revolutionary War. Having been fitted for college by private tutors, he was sent to Hampden Sidney, where he remained until the autumn of 1805, when he was removed to William and Mary College, at Williamsburg, Va. This college he left in the summer of

1807, a short time before the final and graduating examination. Among his classmates were Lieut. Gen. Scott, President John Tyler, Wm. S. Archer, United States Senator from Virginia, and Justice Baldwin, of the United States Supreme Court. The President of the latter college, Bishop Madison, was a cousin of President James Madison, and that circumstance was the occasion of Mr. Coles becoming personally acquainted with the President and receiving a position as his private secretary, 1809-15.

The family of Coles was a prominent one in Virginia, and their mansion was the seat of the old-fashioned Virginian hospitality. It was visited by such notables as Patrick Henry, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, the Randolphs, Tazewell, Wirt, etc. At the age of 23, young Coles found himself heir to a plantation and a considerable number of slaves. Ever since his earlier college days his attention had been drawn to the question of slavery. He read every-

thing on the subject that came in his way, and listened to lectures on the rights of man. The more he reflected upon the subject, the more impossible was it for him to reconcile the immortal declaration "that all men are born free and equal" with the practice of slave-holding. He resolved, therefore, to free his slaves the first opportunity, and even remove his residence to a free State. One reason which determined him to accept the appointment as private secretary to Mr. Madison was because he believed that through the acquaintances he could make at Washington he could better determine in what part of the non-slaveholding portion of the Union he would prefer to settle.

The relations between Mr. Coles and President Madison, as well as Jefferson and other distinguished men, were of a very friendly character, arising from the similarity of their views on the question of slavery and their sympathy for each other in holding doctrines so much at variance with the prevailing sentiment in their own State.

In 1857, he resigned his secretaryship and spent a portion of the following autumn in exploring the Northwest Territory, for the purpose of finding a location and purchasing lands on which to settle his negroes. He traveled with a horse and buggy, with an extra man and horse for emergencies, through many parts of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, determining finally to settle in Illinois. At this time, however, a misunderstanding arose between our Government and Russia, and Mr. Coles was selected to repair to St. Petersburg on a special mission, bearing important papers concerning the matter at issue. The result was a conviction of the Emperor (Alex-



ander) of the error committed by his minister at Washington, and the consequent withdrawal of the latter from the post. On his return, Mr. Coles visited other parts of Europe, especially Paris, where he was introduced to Gen. Lafayette.

In the spring of 1819, he removed with all his negroes from Virginia to Edwardsville, Ill., with the intention of giving them their liberty. He did not make known to them his intention until one beautiful morning in April, as they were descending the Ohio River. He lashed all the boats together and called all the negroes on deck and made them a short address, concluding his remarks by so expressing himself that by a turn of a sentence he proclaimed in the shortest and fullest manner that they were no longer slaves, but free as he was and were at liberty to proceed with him or go ashore at their pleasure. A description of the effect upon the negroes is best described in his own language:

"The effect upon them was electrical. They stared at me and then at each other, as if doubting the accuracy or reality of what they heard. In breathless silence they stood before me, unable to utter a word, but with countenances beaming with expression which no words could convey, and which no language can describe. As they began to see the truth of what they had heard, and realize their situation, there came on a kind of hysterical, giggling laugh. After a pause of intense and unutterable emotion, bathed in tears, and with tremulous voices, they gave vent to their gratitude and implored the blessing of God on me."

Before landing he gave them a general certificate of freedom, and afterward conformed more particularly with the law of this State requiring that each individual should have a certificate. This act of Mr. Coles, all the more noble and heroic considering the overwhelming pro-slavery influences surrounding him, has challenged the admiration of every philanthropist of modern times.

March 5, 1819, President Monroe appointed Mr. Coles Registrar of the Land Office at Edwardsville, at that time one of the principal land offices in the State. While acting in this capacity and gaining many friends by his politeness and general intelligence, the greatest struggle that ever occurred in Illinois on the slavery question culminated in the furious contest characterizing the campaigns and elections of 1822-4. In the summer of 1823, when a new Governor was to be elected to succeed Mr. Bond, the pro-slavery element divided into factions, putting forward for the executive office Joseph Phillips, Chief Justice of the State, Thomas C. Browne and Gen. James B. Moore, of the State Militia. The anti-slavery element united upon Mr. Coles, and, after one of the most bitter campaigns, succeeded in electing him as Governor. His plurality over Judge Phillips was only 59 in a total vote of

over 8,000. The Lieutenant Governor was elected by the slavery men. Mr. Coles' inauguration speech was marked by calmness, deliberation and such a wise expression of appropriate suggestions as to elicit the sanction of all judicious politicians. But he compromised not with evil. In his message to the Legislature, the seat of Government being then at Vandalia, he strongly urged the abrogation of the modified form of slavery which then existed in this State, contrary to the Ordinance of 1787. His position on this subject seems the more remarkable, when it is considered that he was a minority Governor, the population of Illinois being at that time almost exclusively from slave-holding States and by a large majority in favor of the perpetuation of that old relic of barbarism. The Legislature itself was, of course, a reflex of the popular sentiment, and a majority of them were led on by fiery men in denunciations of the conscientious Governor, and in curses loud and deep upon him and all his friends. Some of the public men, indeed, went so far as to head a sort of mob, or "shiveree" party, who visited the residence of the Governor and others at Vandalia and yelled and groaned and spat fire.

The Constitution, not establishing or permitting slavery in this State, was thought therefore to be defective by the slavery politicians, and they desired a State Convention to be elected, to devise and submit a new Constitution; and the dominant politics of the day was "Convention" and "anti-Convention." Both parties issued addresses to the people, Gov. Coles himself being the author of the address published by the latter party. This address revealed the schemes of the conspirators in a masterly manner. It is difficult for us at this distant day to estimate the critical and extremely delicate situation in which the Governor was placed at that time.

Our hero maintained himself honorably and with supreme dignity throughout his administration, and in his honor a county in this State is named. He was truly a great man, and those who lived in this State during his sojourn here, like those who live at the base of the mountain, were too near to see and recognize the greatness that overshadowed them.

Mr. Coles was married Nov. 28, 1833, by Bishop De Lancey, to Miss Sally Logan Roberts, a daughter of Hugh Roberts, a descendant of Welsh ancestry, who came to this country with Wm. Penn in 1682.

After the expiration of his term of service, Gov. Coles continued his residence in Edwardsville, superintending his farm in the vicinity. He was fond of agriculture, and was the founder of the first agricultural society in the State. On account of ill health, however, and having no family to tie him down, he spent much of his time in Eastern cities. About 1832 he changed his residence to Philadelphia, where he died July 7, 1868, and is buried at Woodland, near that city.

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*Herman Edwards*





## Ninian Edwards.



**N**INIAN EDWARDS, Governor from 1827 to 1830, was a son of Benjamin Edwards, and was born in Montgomery County, Maryland, in March, 1775. His domestic training was well fitted to give

his mind strength, firmness and honorable principles, and a good foundation was laid for the elevated character to which he afterwards attained. His parents were Baptists, and very strict in their moral principles. His education in early youth was in company with and partly under the tuition of Hon. Wm. Wirt, whom his father patronized, and who was more than two years older. An intimacy was thus

formed between them which was lasting for life. He was further educated at Dickinson College, at Carlisle, Pa. He next commenced the study of law, but before completing his course he moved to Nelson County, Ky., to open a farm for his father and to purchase homes and locate lands for his brothers and sisters. Here he fell in the company of dissolute companions, and for several years led the life of a spendthrift. He was, however, elected to the Legislature of Kentucky as the Representative of Nelson County before he was 21 years of age, and was re-elected by an almost unanimous vote.

In 1798 he was licensed to practice law, and the following year was admitted to the Courts of Tennessee. About this time he left Nelson County for Russellville, in Logan County, broke away from his dissolute companions, commenced a reformation and devoted himself to severe and laborious study. He then began to rise rapidly in his profession, and soon became an eminent lawyer, and inside of four years he filled in succession the offices of Presiding Judge of the General Court, Circuit Judge, fourth Judge of the Court of Appeals and Chief Justice of the State, —all before he was 32 years of age! In addition, in 1802, he received a commission as Major of a battalion of Kentucky militia, and in 1804 was chosen a Presidential Elector, on the Jefferson and Clinton ticket. In 1806 he was a candidate for Congress, but withdrew on being promoted to the Court of Appeals.

Illinois was organized as a separate Territory in the spring of 1809, when Mr. Edwards, then Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals in Kentucky, received from President Madison the appointment as Governor of the new Territory, his commission bearing date April 24, 1809. Edwards arrived at Kaskaskia in June, and on the 11th of that month took the oath of office. At the same time he was appointed Superintendent of the United States Saline, this Government interest then developing into considerable proportions in Southern Illinois. Although during the first three years of his administration he had the power to make new counties and appoint all the officers, yet he always allowed the people of each county, by an informal

vote, to select their own officers, both civil and military. The noted John J. Crittenden, afterward United States Senator from Kentucky, was appointed by Gov. Edwards to the office of Attorney General of the Territory, which office was accepted for a short time only.

The Indians in 1810 committing sundry depredations in the Territory, crossing the Mississippi from the Territory of Louisiana, a long correspondence followed between the respective Governors concerning the remedies, which ended in a council with the savages at Peoria in 1812, and a fresh interpretation of the treaties. Peoria was depopulated by these depredations, and was not re-settled for many years afterward.

As Gov. Edwards' term of office expired by law in 1812, he was re-appointed for another term of three years, and again in 1815 for a third term, serving until the organization of the State in the fall of 1818 and the inauguration of Gov. Bond. At this time ex-Gov. Edwards was sent to the United States Senate, his colleague being Jesse B. Thomas. As Senator, Mr. Edwards took a conspicuous part, and acquitted himself honorably in all the measures that came up in that body, being well posted, an able debater and a conscientious statesman. He thought seriously of resigning this situation in 1821, but was persuaded by his old friend, Wm. Wirt, and others to continue in office, which he did to the end of the term.

He was then appointed Minister to Mexico by President Monroe. About this time, it appears that Mr. Edwards saw suspicious signs in the conduct of Wm. H. Crawford, Secretary of the United States Treasury, and an ambitious candidate for the Presidency, and being implicated by the latter in some of his statements, he resigned his Mexican mission in order fully to investigate the charges. The result was the exculpation of Mr. Edwards.

Pro-slavery regulations, often termed "Black Laws," disgraced the statute books of both the Territory and the State of Illinois during the whole of his career in this commonwealth, and Mr. Edwards always maintained the doctrines of freedom, and was an important actor in the great struggle which ended in a victory for his party in 1824.

In 1826-7 the Winnebago and other Indians committed some depredations in the northern part of the

State, and the white settlers, who desired the lands and wished to exasperate the savages into an evacuation of the country, magnified the misdemeanors of the aborigines and thereby produced a hostility between the races so great as to precipitate a little war, known in history as the "Winnebago War." A few chases and skirmishes were had, when Gen. Atkinson succeeded in capturing Red Bird, the Indian chief, and putting him to death, thus ending the contest, at least until the troubles commenced which ended in the "Black Hawk War" of 1832. In the interpretation of treaties and execution of their provisions Gov. Edwards had much vexatious work to do. The Indians kept themselves generally within the jurisdiction of Michigan Territory, and its Governor, Lewis Cass, was at a point so remote that ready correspondence with him was difficult or impossible. Gov. Edwards' administration, however, in regard to the protection of the Illinois frontier, seems to have been very efficient and satisfactory.

For a considerable portion of his time after his removal to Illinois, Gov. Edwards resided upon his farm near Kaskaskia, which he had well stocked with horses, cattle and sheep from Kentucky, also with fruit-trees, grape-vines and shrubbery. He established saw and grist-mills, and engaged extensively in mercantile business, having no less than eight or ten stores in this State and Missouri. Notwithstanding the arduous duties of his office, he nearly always purchased the goods himself with which to supply the stores. Although not a regular practitioner of medicine, he studied the healing art to a considerable extent, and took great pleasure in prescribing for, and taking care of, the sick, generally without charge. He was also liberal to the poor, several widows and ministers of the gospel becoming indebted to him even for their homes.

He married Miss Elvira Lane, of Maryland, in 1803, and they became the affectionate parents of several children, one of whom, especially, is well known to the people of the "Prairie State," namely, Ninian Wirt Edwards, once the Superintendent of Public Instruction and still a resident of Springfield. Gov. Edwards resided at and in the vicinity of Kaskaskia from 1809 to 1818; in Edwardsville (named after him) from that time to 1824; and from the latter date at Belleville, St. Clair County, until his death, July 20, 1833, of Asiatic cholera. Edwards County is also named in his honor.

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





*John Reynolds*



## John Reynolds.



**R**OHAN REYNOLDS, Governor 1831-4, was born in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, Feb. 26, 1788. His father, Robert Reynolds and his mother, *nee* Margaret Moore, were both natives of Ireland, from which country they emigrated to the United States in 1785, landing at Philadelphia. The senior Reynolds entertained an undying hostility to the British Government. When the subject of this sketch was about six months old, his parents emigrated with him to Tennessee, where many of their relatives had already located, at the base of the Copper Ridge Mountain, about 14 miles northeast of the present city of Knoxville. There they were exposed to Indian depredations, and were much molested by them. In 1794 they moved into the interior of the State. They were poor, and brought up their children to habits of manual industry.

In 1800 the family removed to Kaskaskia, Ill., with eight horses and two wagons, encountering many hardships on the way. Here young Reynolds passed the most of his childhood, while his character began to develop, the most prominent traits of which were ambition and energy. He also adopted the principle and practice of total abstinence from intoxicating liquors. In 1807 the family made another removal,

this time to the "Goshen Settlement," at the foot of the Mississippi bluffs three or four miles southwest of Edwardsville.

On arriving at his 20th year, Mr. Reynolds, seeing that he must look about for his own livelihood and not yet having determined what calling to pursue, concluded first to attend college, and he accordingly went to such an institution of learning, near Knoxville, Tenn., where he had relatives. Imagine his diffidence, when, after passing the first 20 years of his life without ever having seen a carpet, a papered wall or a Windsor chair, and never having lived in a shingle-roofed house, he suddenly ushered himself into the society of the wealthy in the vicinity of Knoxville! He attended college nearly two years, going through the principal Latin authors; but it seems that he, like the rest of the world in modern times, had but very little use for his Latin in after life. He always failed, indeed, to exhibit any good degree of literary discipline. He commenced the study of law in Knoxville, but a pulmonary trouble came on and compelled him to change his mode of life. Accordingly he returned home and recuperated, and in 1812 resumed his college and law studies at Knoxville. In the fall of 1812 he was admitted to the Bar at Kaskaskia. About this time he also learned the French language, which he practiced with pleasure in conversation with his family for many years. He regarded this language as being superior to all others for social intercourse.

From his services in the West, in the war of 1812, he obtained the sobriquet of the "Old Ranger." He was Orderly Sergeant, then Judge Advocate.

Mr. Reynolds opened his first law office in the winter and spring of 1814, in the French village of Cahokia, then the capital of St. Clair County.

In the fall of 1818 he was elected an Associate Justice upon the Supreme Bench by the General Assembly. In 1825 he entered more earnestly than ever into the practice of law, and the very next year was elected a member of the Legislature, where he acted independently of all cliques and private interests. In 1828 the Whigs and Democrats were for the first time distinctively organized as such in Illinois, and the usual party bitterness grew up and raged on all sides, while Mr. Reynolds preserved a judicial calmness and moderation. The real animus of the campaign was "Jackson" and "anti-Jackson," the former party carrying the State.

In August, 1830, Mr. Reynolds was elected Governor, amid great excitement. Installed in office, he did all within his power to advance the cause of education, internal improvements, the Illinois & Michigan Canal, the harbor at Chicago, settling the country, etc.; also recommended the winding up of the State Bank, as its affairs had become dangerously complicated. In his national politics, he was a moderate supporter of General Jackson. But the most celebrated event of his gubernatorial administration was the Black Hawk War, which occurred in 1832. He called out the militia and prosecuted the contest with commendable diligence, appearing in person on the battle-grounds during the most critical periods. He was recognized by the President as Major-General, and authorized by him to make treaties with the Indians. By the assistance of the general Government the war was terminated without much bloodshed, but after many serious fights. This war, as well as everything else, was materially retarded by the occurrence of Asiatic cholera in the West. This was its first appearance here, and was the next event in prominence during Gov. Reynolds' term.

South Carolina nullification coming up at this time, it was heartily condemned by both President Jackson and Gov. Reynolds, who took precisely the same grounds as the Unionists in the last war.

On the termination of his gubernatorial term in 1834, Gov. Reynolds was elected a Member of Congress, still considering himself a backwoodsman, as he had scarcely been outside of the State since he became of age, and had spent nearly all his youthful days in the wildest region of the frontier. His first move in Congress was to adopt a resolution that in all elections made by the House for officers the votes should be given *viva voce*, each member in his place naming aloud the person for whom he votes. This created considerable heated discussion, but was es-

entially adopted, and remained the controlling principle for many years. The ex-Governor was scarcely absent from his seat a single day, during eight sessions of Congress, covering a period of seven years, and he never vacillated in a party vote; but he failed to get the Democratic party to foster his "National Road" scheme. He says, in "My Own Times" (a large autobiography he published), that it was only by rigid economy that he avoided insolvency while in Washington. During his sojourn in that city he was married, to a lady of the place.

In 1837, while out of Congress, and in company with a few others, he built the first railroad in the Mississippi Valley, namely, one about six miles long, leading from his coal mine in the Mississippi bluff to the bank of the river opposite St. Louis. Having not the means to purchase a locomotive, they operated it by horse-power. The next spring, however, the company sold out, at great sacrifice.

In 1839 the ex-Governor was appointed one of the Canal Commissioners, and authorized to borrow money to prosecute the enterprise. Accordingly, he repaired to Philadelphia and succeeding in obtaining a million dollars, which, however, was only a fourth of what was wanted. The same year he and his wife made at our of Europe. This year, also, Mr. Reynolds had the rather awkward little responsibility of introducing to President Van Buren the noted Mormon Prophet, Joseph Smith, as a "Latter-Day Saint!"

In 1846 Gov. Reynolds was elected a member of the Legislature from St. Clair County, more particularly for the purpose of obtaining a feasible charter for a macadamized road from Belleville to St. Louis, a distance of nearly 14 miles. This was immediately built, and was the first road of the kind in the State. He was again elected to the Legislature in 1852, when he was chosen Speaker of the House. In 1860, aged and infirm, he attended the National Democratic Convention at Charleston, S. C., as an anti-Douglas Delegate, where he received more attention from the Southern Delegates than any other member. He supported Breckenridge for the Presidency. After the October elections foreshadowed the success of Lincoln, he published an address urging the Democrats to rally to the support of Douglas. Immediately preceding and during the late war, his correspondence evinced a clear sympathy for the Southern secession, and about the first of March, 1861, he urged upon the Buchanan officials the seizure of the treasure and arms in the custom-house and arsenal at St. Louis. Mr. Reynolds was a rather talkative man, and apt in all the Western phrases and catchwords that ever gained currency, besides many cunning and odd ones of his own manufacture.

He was married twice, but had no children. He died in Belleville, in May, 1865, just after the close of the war.



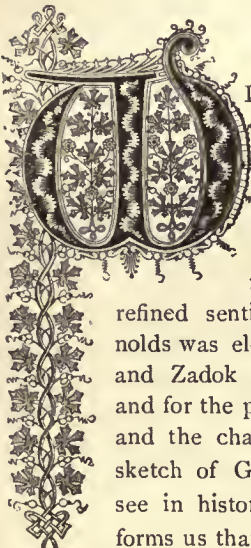
LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*Mr. L. D. Ewing*



## WM. L. D. EWING.



WILLIAM LEE D. EWING, Governor of Illinois Nov. 3 to 17, 1834, was a native of Kentucky, and probably of Scotch ancestry. He had a fine education, was a gentleman of polished manners and refined sentiment. In 1830 John Reynolds was elected Governor of the State, and Zadok Casey Lieutenant Governor, and for the principal events that followed, and the characteristics of the times, see sketch of Gov. Reynolds. The first we see in history concerning Mr. Ewing, informs us that he was a Receiver of Public Moneys at Vandalia soon after the organization of this State, and that the public moneys in his hands were deposited in various banks, as they are usually at the present day. In 1823 the State Bank was robbed, by which disaster Mr. Ewing lost a thousand-dollar deposit.

The subject of this sketch had a commission as Colonel in the Black Hawk War, and in emergencies he acted also as Major. In the summer of 1832, when it was rumored among the whites that Black Hawk and his men had encamped somewhere on Rock River, Gen. Henry was sent on a tour of reconnoissance, and with orders to drive the Indians from the State. After some opposition from his subordinate officers, Henry resolved to proceed up Rock River in search of the enemy. On the 19th of July, early in the morning, five baggage wagons,

camp equipage and all heavy and cumbersome articles were piled up and left, so that the army might make speedy and forced marches. For some miles the travel was exceedingly bad, crossing swamps and the worst thickets; but the large, fresh trail gave life and animation to the Americans. Gen. Dodge and Col. Ewing were both acting as Majors, and composed the "spy corps" or vanguard of the army. It is supposed the army marched nearly 50 miles this day, and the Indian trail they followed became fresher, and was strewn with much property and trinkets of the red-skins that they had lost or thrown away to hasten their march. During the following night there was a terrific thunder-storm, and the soldiery, with all their appurtenances, were thoroughly drenched.

On approaching nearer the Indians the next day. Gen. Dodge and Major Ewing, each commanding a battalion of men, were placed in front to bring on the battle, but the savages were not overtaken this day. Forced marches were continued until they reached Wisconsin River, where a veritable battle ensued, resulting in the death of about 68 of Black Hawk's men. The next day they continued the chase, and as soon as he discovered the trail of the Indians leading toward the Mississippi, Maj. Ewing formed his battalion in order of battle and awaited the order of Gen. Henry. The latter soon appeared on the ground and ordered a charge, which directly resulted in chasing the red warriors across the great river. Maj. Ewing and his command proved particularly efficient in war, as it seems they were the chief actors in driving the main body of the Sacs and Foxes, in-



cluding Black Hawk himself, across the Mississippi, while Gen. Atkinson, commander-in-chief of the expedition, with a body of the army, was hunting for them in another direction.

In the above affair Maj. Ewing is often referred to as a "General," which title he had derived from his connection with the militia.

It was in the latter part of the same year (1832) that Lieutenant Governor Casey was elected to Congress and Gen. Ewing, who had been elected to the Senate, was chosen to preside over that body. At the August election of 1834, Gov. Reynolds was also elected to Congress, more than a year ahead of the time at which he could actually take his seat, as was then the law. His predecessor, Charles Slade, had just died of Asiatic cholera, soon after the election, and Gov. Reynolds was chosen to serve out his unexpired term. Accordingly he set out for Washington in November of that year to take his seat in Congress, and Gen. Ewing, by virtue of his office as President of the Senate, became Governor of the State of Illinois, his term covering only a period of 15 days, namely, from the 3d to the 17th days, inclusive, of November. On the 17th the Legislature met, and Gov. Ewing transmitted to that body his message, giving a statement of the condition of the affairs of the State at that time, and urging a continuance of the policy adopted by his predecessor; and on the same day Governor elect Joseph Duncan was sworn into office, thus relieving Mr. Ewing from

the responsible situation. This is the only time that such a juncture has happened in the history of Illinois.

On the 29th of December, 1835, Gen. Ewing was elected a United States Senator to serve out the unexpired term of Elias Kent Kane, deceased. The latter gentleman was a very prominent figure in the early politics of Illinois, and a county in this State is named in his honor. The election of Gen. Ewing to the Senate was a protracted struggle. His competitors were James Semple, who afterwards held several important offices in this State, and Richard M. Young, afterward a United States Senator and a Supreme Judge and a man of vast influence. On the first ballot Mr. Semple had 25 votes, Young 19 and Ewing 18. On the eighth ballot Young was dropped; the ninth and tenth stood a tie; but on the 12th Ewing received 40, to Semple 37, and was accordingly declared elected. In 1837 Mr. Ewing received some votes for a continuance of his term in Congress, when Mr. Young, just referred to, was elected. In 1842 Mr. Ewing was elected State Auditor on the ticket with Gov. Ford.

Gen. Ewing was a gentleman of culture, a lawyer by profession, and was much in public life. In person he was above medium height and of heavy build, with auburn hair, blue eyes, large-sized head and short face. He was genial, social, friendly and affable, with fair talent, though of no high degree of originality. He died March 25, 1846.



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*Joseph Duncan*



## Joseph Duncan.



JOSEPH DUNCAN, Governor 1834-8, was born at Paris, Ky., Feb. 23, 1794. At the tender age of 19 years he enlisted in the war against Great Britain, and as a soldier he acquitted himself with credit. He was an Ensign under the dauntless Croghan at Lower Sandusky, or Fort Stephenson. In Illinois he first appeared in a public capacity as Major-General of the Militia, a position which his military fame had procured him. Subsequently he became a State Senator from Jackson County, and is honorably mentioned for introducing the first bill providing for a free-school system. In 1826, when the redoubtable John P. Cook, who had previously beaten such men as John McLean, Elias Kent Kane and ex-Gov. Bond, came up for the fourth time for Congress, Mr. Duncan was brought forward against him by his friends, greatly to the surprise of all the politicians. As yet he was but little known in the State. He was an original Jackson man at that time, being attached to his political fortune in admiration of the glory of his military achievements. His chances of success against Cook were generally regarded as hopeless, but he entered upon the campaign undaunted. His speeches, though short and devoid of ornament, were full of good sense. He made a diligent canvass of the State, Mr. Cook being hindered by the condition of his health. The most that was expected of Mr. Duncan, under the circumstances, was that he would

obtain a respectable vote, but without defeating Mr. Cook. The result of the campaign, however, was a source of surprise and amazement to both friends and foes, as Mr. Duncan came out 641 votes ahead! He received 6,321 votes, and Mr. Cook 5,680. Until this *denouement*, the violence of party feeling smoldering in the breasts of the people on account of the defeat of Jackson, was not duly appreciated. Aside from the great convention struggle of 1824, no other than mere local and personal considerations had ever before controlled an election in Illinois.

From the above date Mr. Duncan retained his seat in Congress until his election as Governor in August, 1834. The first and bloodless year of the Black Hawk War he was appointed by Gov. Reynolds to the position of Brigadier-General of the volunteers, and he conducted his brigade to Rock Island. But he was absent from the State, in Washington, during the gubernatorial campaign, and did not personally participate in it, but addressed circulars to his constituents. His election was, indeed, attributed to the circumstance of his absence, because his estrangement from Jackson, formerly his political idol, and also from the Democracy, largely in ascendancy in the State, was complete; but while his defection was well known to his Whig friends, and even to the leading Jackson men of this State, the latter were unable to carry conviction of that fact to the masses, as mail and newspaper facilities at that day were far inferior to those of the present time. Of course the Governor was much abused afterward by the fossilized Jackson men who regarded party ties and affiliations as above all other issues that could arise; but he was doubtless

sincere in his opposition to the old hero, as the latter had vetoed several important western measures which were dear to Mr. Duncan. In his inaugural message he threw off the mask and took a bold stand against the course of the President. The measures recommended in his message, however, were so desirable that the Legislature, although by a large majority consisting of Jackson men, could not refrain from endorsing them. These measures related mainly to banks and internal improvements.

It was while Mr. Duncan was Governor that the people of Illinois went whirling on with bank and internal improvement schemes that well nigh bankrupted the State. The hard times of 1837 came on, and the disasters that attended the inauguration of these plans and the operation of the banks were mutually charged upon the two political parties. Had any one man autocratic power to introduce and carry on any one of these measures, he would probably have succeeded to the satisfaction of the public; but as many jealous men had hold of the same plow handle, no success followed and each blamed the other for the failure. In this great vortex Gov. Duncan was carried along, suffering the like derogation of character with his fellow citizens.

At the height of the excitement the Legislature "provided for" railroads from Galena to Cairo, Alton to Shawneetown, Alton to Mount Carmel, Alton to the eastern boundary of the State in the direction of Terre Haute, Quincy *via* Springfield to the Wabash, Bloomington to Pekin, and Peoria to Warsaw,—in all about 1,300 miles of road. It also provided for the improvement of the navigation of the Kaskaskia, Illinois, Great and Little Wabash and Rock Rivers; also as a *placebo*, \$200,000 in money were to be distributed to the various counties wherein no improvements were ordered to be made as above. The estimate for the expenses for all these projects was placed at a little over \$10,000,000, which was not more than half enough! That would now be equal to saddling upon the State a debt of \$225,000,000! It was sufficient to bankrupt the State several times over, even counting all the possible benefits.

One of the most exciting events that ever occurred in this fair State was the murder of Elijah P. Lovejoy in the fall of 1837, at Alton, during Mr. Duncan's term as Governor. Lovejoy was an "Abolitionist," editing the *Observer* at that place, and the proslavery slums there formed themselves into a mob,

and after destroying successively three presses belonging to Mr. Lovejoy, surrounded the warehouse where the fourth press was stored away, endeavoring to destroy it, and where Lovejoy and his friends were entrenching themselves, and shot and killed the brave reformer!

About this time, also, the question of removing the State capital again came up, as the 20 years' limit for its existence at Vandalia was drawing to a close. There was, of course, considerable excitement over the matter, the two main points competing for it being Springfield and Peoria. The jealousy of the latter place is not even yet, 45 years afterward, fully allayed.

Gov. Duncan's term expired in 1838. In 1842 he was again proposed as a candidate for the Executive chair, this time by the Whig party, against Adam W. Snyder, of St. Clair County, the nominee of the Democrats. Charles W. Hunter was a third candidate for the same position. Mr. Snyder, however, died before the campaign had advanced very far, and his party substituted Thomas Ford, who was elected receiving 46,901 votes, to 38,584 for Duncan, and 909 for Hunter. The cause of Democratic success at this time is mainly attributed to the temporary support of the Mormons which they enjoyed, and the want of any knowledge, on the part of the masses, that Mr. Ford was opposed to any given policy entertained in the respective localities.

Gov. Duncan was a man of rather limited education, but with naturally fine abilities he profited greatly by his various public services, and gathered a store of knowledge regarding public affairs which served him a ready purpose. He possessed a clear judgment, decision, confidence in himself and moral courage to carry out his convictions of right. In his deportment he was well adapted to gain the admiration of the people. His intercourse with them was both affable and dignified. His portrait at the Governor's mansion, from which the accompanying was made, represents him as having a swarthy complexion, high cheek bones, broad forehead, piercing black eyes and straight black hair.

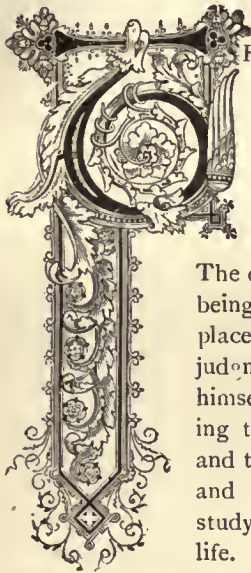
He was a liberal patron of the Illinois College at Jacksonville, a member of its Board of Trustees, and died, after a short illness, Jan. 15, 1844, a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church, leaving a wife but no children. Two children, born to them, had died in infancy.

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





*Thos. Carlin*



**THOMAS CARLIN**, the sixth Governor of the State of Illinois, serving from 1838 to 1842, was also a Kentuckian, being born near Frankfort, that State, July 18, 1789, of Irish paternity.

The opportunities for an education being very meager in his native place, he, on approaching years of judgment and maturity, applied himself to those branches of learning that seemed most important, and thus became a self-made man; and his taste for reading and study remained with him through life. In 1803 his father removed

to Missouri, then a part of "New Spain," where he died in 1810.

In 1812 young Carlin came to Illinois and participated in all the "ranging" service incident to the war of that period, proving himself a soldier of undaunted bravery. In 1814 he married Rebecca Huitt, and lived for four years on the bank of the Mississippi River, opposite the mouth of the Missouri, where he followed farming, and then removed to Greene County. He located the town site of Carleton, in that county, and in 1825 made a liberal donation of land for county building purposes. He was the first Sheriff of that county after its separate organization, and afterward was twice elected, as a Jackson Democrat, to the Illinois Senate. In the Black Hawk War he commanded a spy battalion, a post of considerable danger. In 1834 he was appointed by President Jackson to the position of Receiver of Public Moneys, and to fulfill the office

more conveniently he removed to the city of Quincy

While, in 1838, the unwieldy internal improvement system of the State was in full operation, with all its expensive machinery, amidst bank suspensions throughout the United States, a great stringency in the money market everywhere, and Illinois bonds forced to sale at a heavy discount, and the "hardest times" existing that the people of the Prairie State ever saw, the general election of State officers was approaching. Discreet men who had cherished the hope of a speedy subsidence of the public infatuation, met with disappointment. A Governor and Legislature were to be elected, and these were now looked forward to for a repeal of the ruinous State policy. But the grand scheme had not yet lost its dazzling influence upon the minds of the people. Time and experience had not yet fully demonstrated its utter absurdity. Hence the question of arresting its career of profligate expenditures did not become a leading one with the dominant party during the campaign, and most of the old members of the Legislature were returned at this election.

Under these circumstances the Democrats, in State Convention assembled, nominated Mr. Carlin for the office of Governor, and S. H. Anderson for Lieutenant Governor, while the Whigs nominated Cyrus Edwards, brother of Ninian Edwards, formerly Governor, and W. H. Davidson. Edwards came out strongly for a continuance of the State policy, while Carlin remained non-committal. This was the first time that the two main political parties in this State were unembarrassed by any third party in the field. The result of the election was: Carlin, 35,573; Anderson, 30,335; Edwards, 29,629; and Davidson, 28,715.

Upon the meeting of the subsequent Legislature (1839), the retiring Governor (Duncan) in his mes-



sage spoke in emphatic terms of the impolicy of the internal improvement system, presaging the evils threatened, and urged that body to do their utmost to correct the great error; yet, on the contrary, the Legislature not only decided to continue the policy but also added to its burden by voting more appropriations and ordering more improvements. Although the money market was still stringent, a further loan of \$4,000,000 was ordered for the Illinois & Michigan Canal alone. Chicago at that time began to loom up and promise to be an important city, even the great emporium of the West, as it has since indeed come to be. Ex-Gov. Reynolds, an incompetent financier, was commissioned to effect the loan, and accordingly hastened to the East on this responsible errand, and negotiated the loans, at considerable sacrifice to the State. Besides this embarrassment to Carlin's administration, the Legislature also declared that he had no authority to appoint a Secretary of State until a vacancy existed, and A. P. Field, a Whig, who had already held the post by appointment through three administrations, was determined to keep the place a while longer, in spite of Gov. Carlin's preferences. The course of the Legislature in this regard, however, was finally sustained by the Supreme Court, in a *quo warranto* case brought up before it by John A. McClelland, whom the Governor had nominated for the office. Thereupon that dignified body was denounced as a "Whig Court!" endeavoring to establish the principle of life-tenure of office.

A new law was adopted re-organizing the Judiciary, and under it five additional Supreme Judges were elected by the Legislature, namely, Thomas Ford (afterward Governor), Sidney Breese, Walter B. Scates, Samuel H. Treat and Stephen A. Douglas—all Democrats.

It was during Gov. Carlin's administration that the noisy campaign of "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" occurred, resulting in a Whig victory. This, however, did not affect Illinois politics very seriously.

Another prominent event in the West during Gov. Carlin's term of office was the excitement caused by the Mormons and their removal from Independence, Mo., to Nauvoo, Ill., in 1840. At the same time they began to figure somewhat in State politics. On account of their believing—as they thought, according to the New Testament—that they should have

"all things common," and that consequently "all the earth" and all that is upon it were the "Lord's" and therefore the property of his "saints," they were suspected, and correctly, too, of committing many of the deeds of larceny, robbery, etc., that were so rife throughout this country in those days. Hence a feeling of violence grew up between the Mormons and "anti-Mormons." In the State of Missouri the Mormons always supported the Democracy until they were driven out by the Democratic government, when they turned their support to the Whigs. They were becoming numerous, and in the Legislature of 1840-1, therefore, it became a matter of great interest with both parties to conciliate these people. Through the agency of one John C. Bennett, a scamp, the Mormons succeeded in rushing through the Legislature (both parties not daring to oppose) a charter for the city of Nauvoo which virtually erected a hierarchy co-ordinate with the Federal Government itself. In the fall of 1841 the Governor of Missouri made a demand upon Gov. Carlin for the body of Joe Smith, the Mormon leader, as a fugitive from justice. Gov. Carlin issued the writ, but for some reason it was returned unserved. It was again issued in 1842, and Smith was arrested, but was either rescued by his followers or discharged by the municipal court on a writ of habeas corpus.

In December, 1841, the Democratic Convention nominated Adam W. Snyder, of Belleville, for Governor. As he had been, as a member of the Legislature, rather friendly to the Mormons, the latter naturally turned their support to the Democratic party. The next spring the Whigs nominated Ex-Gov. Duncan for the same office. In the meantime the Mormons began to grow more odious to the masses of the people, and the comparative prospects of the respective parties for success became very problematical. Mr. Snyder died in May, and Thomas Ford, a Supreme Judge, was substituted as a candidate, and was elected.

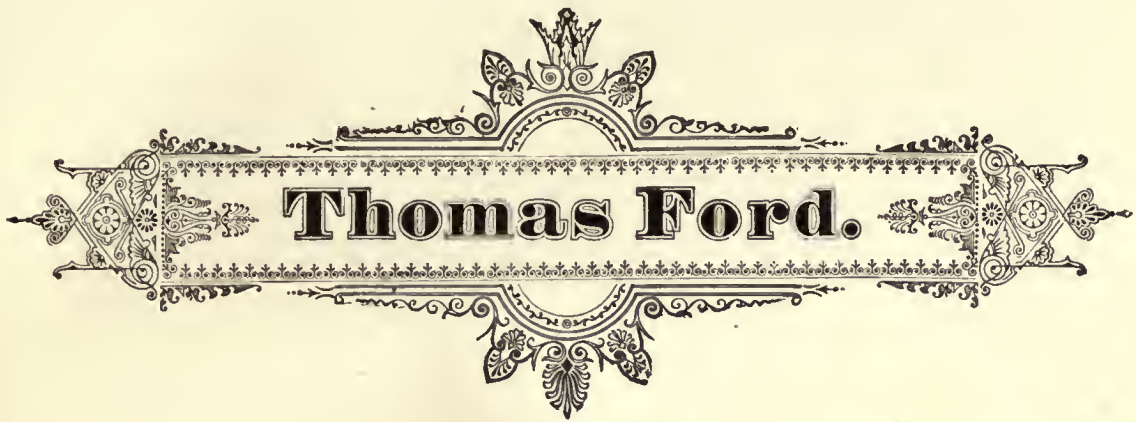
At the close of his gubernatorial term, Mr. Carlin removed back to his old home at Carrollton, where he spent the remainder of his life, as before his elevation to office, in agricultural pursuits. In 1849 he served out the unexpired term of J. D. Fry in the Illinois House of Representatives, and died Feb. 4, 1852, at his residence at Carrollton, leaving a wife and seven children.



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



Thomas Ford



## Thomas Ford.



**T**HOMAS FORD, Governor from 1842 to 1846, and author of a very interesting history of Illinois, was born at Uniontown, Pa., in the year 1800. His mother, after the death of her first husband (Mr. Forquer), married Robert Ford, who was killed in 1802, by the Indians in the mountains of Pennsylvania. She was consequently left in indigent circumstances, with a large family, mostly girls. With a view to better her condition, she, in 1804, removed to Missouri, where it had been customary by the Spanish Government to give land to actual settlers; but upon her arrival at St. Louis she found the country ceded to the United States, and the liberal policy toward settlers changed by the new ownership. After some sickness to herself and family, she finally removed to Illinois, and settled some three miles south of Waterloo, but the following year moved nearer the Mississippi bluffs. Here young Ford received his first

schooling, under the instructions of a Mr. Humphrey, for which he had to walk three miles. His mother, though lacking a thorough education, was a woman of superior mental endowments, joined to energy and determination of character. She inculcated in her children those high-toned principles which distinguished her sons in public life. She exercised a rigid economy to provide her children an education; but George Forquer, her oldest son (six years older than Thomas Ford), at an early age had to quit school to aid by his labor in the support of the family. He afterward became an eminent man in Illinois affairs, and but for his early death would probably have been elected to the United States Senate.

Young Ford, with somewhat better opportunities, received a better education, though limited to the curriculum of the common school of those pioneer times. His mind gave early promise of superior endowments, with an inclination for mathematics. His proficiency attracted the attention of Hon. Daniel P. Cook, who became his efficient patron and friend. The latter gentleman was an eminent Illinois statesman who, as a Member of Congress, obtained a grant of 300,000 acres of land to aid in completing the Illinois & Michigan Canal, and after whom the county of Cook was named. Through the advice of



this gentleman, Mr. Ford turned his attention to the study of law; but Forquer, then merchandising, regarding his education defective, sent him to Transylvania University, where, however, he remained but one term, owing to Forquer's failure in business. On his return he alternated his law reading with teaching school for support.

In 1829 Gov. Edwards appointed him Prosecuting Attorney, and in 1831 he was re-appointed by Gov. Reynolds, and after that he was four times elected a Judge by the Legislature, without opposition, twice a Circuit Judge, once a Judge of Chicago, and as Associate Judge of the Supreme Court, when, in 1841, the latter tribunal was re-organized by the addition of five Judges, all Democrats. Ford was assigned to the Ninth Judicial Circuit, and while in this capacity he was holding Court in Ogle County he received a notice of his nomination by the Democratic Convention for the office of Governor. He immediately resigned his place and entered upon the canvass. In August, 1842, he was elected, and on the 8th of December following he was inaugurated.

All the offices which he had held were unsolicited by him. He received them upon the true Jeffersonian principle,—Never to ask and never to refuse office. Both as a lawyer and as a Judge he stood deservedly high, but his cast of intellect fitted him rather for a writer upon law than a practicing advocate in the courts. In the latter capacity he was void of the moving power of eloquence, so necessary to success with juries. As a Judge his opinions were sound, lucid and able expositions of the law. In practice, he was a stranger to the tact, skill and insinuating address of the politician, but he saw through the arts of demagogues as well as any man. He was plain in his demeanor, so much so, indeed, that at one time after the expiration of his term of office, during a session of the Legislature, he was taken by a stranger to be a seeker for the position of door-keeper, and was waited upon at his hotel near midnight by a knot of small office-seekers with the view of effecting a "combination!"

Mr. Ford had not the "brass" of the ordinary politician, nor that impetuosity which characterizes a political leader. He cared little for money, and hardly enough for a decent support. In person he was of small stature, slender, of dark complexion, with black hair, sharp features, deep-set eyes, a pointed, aquiline nose having a decided twist to one side, and a small mouth.

The three most important events in Gov. Ford's administration were the establishment of the high financial credit of the State, the "Mormon War" and the Mexican War.

In the first of these the Governor proved himself to be eminently wise. On coming into office he found the State badly paralyzed by the ruinous effects of the notorious "internal improvement" schemes of

the preceding decade, with scarcely anything to show by way of "improvement." The enterprise that seemed to be getting ahead more than all the rest was the Illinois & Michigan Canal. As this promised to be the most important thoroughfare, feasible to the people, it was well under headway in its construction. Therefore the State policy was almost concentrated upon it, in order to rush it on to completion. The bonded indebtedness of the State was growing so large as to frighten the people, and they were about ready to entertain a proposition for repudiation. But the Governor had the foresight to recommend such measures as would maintain the public credit, for which every citizen to-day feels thankful.

But perhaps the Governor is remembered more for his connection with the Mormon troubles than for anything else; for it was during his term of office that the "Latter-Day Saints" became so strong at Nauvoo, built their temple there, increased their numbers throughout the country, committed misdemeanors, taught dangerous doctrines, suffered the loss of their leader, Jo Smith, by a violent death, were driven out of Nauvoo to the far West, etc. Having been a Judge for so many years previously, Mr. Ford of course was non-committal concerning Mormon affairs, and was therefore claimed by both parties and also accused by each of sympathizing too greatly with the other side. Mormonism claiming to be a system of religion, the Governor no doubt was "between two fires," and felt compelled to touch the matter rather "gingerly," and doubtless felt greatly relieved when that pestilential people left the State. Such complicated matters, especially when religion is mixed up with them, expose every person participating in them to criticism from all parties.

The Mexican War was begun in the spring of 1845, and was continued into the gubernatorial term of Mr. Ford's successor. The Governor's connection with this war, however, was not conspicuous, as it was only administrative, commissioning officers, etc.

Ford's "History of Illinois" is a very readable and entertaining work, of 450 small octavo pages, and is destined to increase in value with the lapse of time. It exhibits a natural flow of compact and forcible thought, never failing to convey the nicest sense. In tracing with his trenchant pen the devious operations of the professional politician, in which he is inimitable, his account is open, perhaps, to the objection that *all* his contemporaries are treated as mere place-seekers, while many of them have since been judged by the people to be worthy statesmen. His writings seem slightly open to the criticism that they exhibit a little splenetic partiality against those of his contemporaries who were prominent during his term of office as Governor.

The death of Gov. Ford took place at Peoria, Ill., Nov. 2, 1850.

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*Aug C French*





## Augustus C. French.



UGUSTUS C. FRENCH, Governor of Illinois from 1846 to 1852, was born in the town of Hill, in the State of New Hampshire, Aug. 2, 1808. He was a descendant in the fourth generation of Nathaniel

French, who emigrated from England in 1687 and settled in Saybury, Mass.

In early life young French lost his father, but continued to receive instruction from an exemplary and Christian mother until he was 19 years old, when she also died, confiding to his care and trust four younger brothers

and one sister. He discharged his trust with parental devotion. His education in early life was such mainly as a common school afforded. For a brief period he attended Dartmouth College, but from pecuniary causes and the care of his brothers and sister, he did not graduate. He subsequently read law, and was admitted to the Bar in 1831, and shortly afterward removed to Illinois, settling first at Albion, Edwards County, where he established himself in the practice of law. The following year he removed to Paris, Edgar County. Here he attained eminence in his profession, and entered public life by representing that county in the Legislature. A strong attachment sprang up between him and Stephen A. Douglas.

In 1839, Mr. French was appointed Receiver of the United States Land Office at Palestine, Crawford County, at which place he was a resident when

elevated to the gubernatorial chair. In 1844 he was a Presidential Elector, and as such he voted for James K. Polk.

The Democratic State Convention of 1846, meeting at Springfield Feb. 10, nominated Mr. French for Governor. Other Democratic candidates were Lyman Trumbull, John Calhoun (subsequently of Lecompton Constitution notoriety), Walter B. Scates, Richard M. Young and A. W. Cavarly,—an array of very able and prominent names. Trumbull was perhaps defeated in the Convention by the rumor that he was opposed to the Illinois and Michigan Canal, as he had been a year previously. For Lieutenant Governor J. B. Wells was chosen, while other candidates were Lewis Ross, Wm. McMurtry, Newton Cloud, J. B. Hamilton and W. W. Thompson. The resolutions declared strongly against the resuscitation of the old State Banks.

The Whigs, who were in a hopeless minority, held their convention June 8, at Peoria, and selected Thomas M. Kilpatrick, of Scott County, for Governor, and Gen. Nathaniel G. Wilcox, of Schuyler, for Lieutenant Governor.

In the campaign the latter exposed Mr. French's record and connection with the passage of the internal improvement system, urging it against his election; but in the meantime the war with Mexico broke out, regarding which the Whig record was unpopular in this State. The war was the absorbing and dominating question of the period, sweeping every other political issue in its course. The election in August gave Mr. French 58,700 votes, and Kilpatrick only 36,775. Richard Bells, Abolitionist candidate for the same office, received 5,152 votes

By the new Constitution of 1848, a new election for State officers was ordered in November of that year, before Gov. French's term was half out, and he was re-elected for the term of four years. He was therefore the incumbent for six consecutive years, the only Governor of this State who has ever served in that capacity so long at one time. As there was no organized opposition to his election, he received 67,453 votes, to 5,639 for Pierre Menard (son of the first Lieutenant Governor), 4,748 for Charles V. Dyer, 3,834 for W. L. D. Morrison, and 1,361 for James L. D. Morrison. But Wm. McMurtry, of Knox County, was elected Lieutenant Governor, in place of Joseph B. Wells, who was before elected and did not run again.

Governor French was inaugurated into office during the progress of the Mexican War, which closed during the summer of 1847, although the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was not made until Feb. 2, 1848. The policy of Gov. French's party was committed to that war, but in connection with that affair he was, of course, only an administrative officer. During his term of office, Feb. 19, 1847, the Legislature, by special permission of Congress, declared that all Government lands sold to settlers should be immediately subject to State taxation; before this they were exempt for five years after sale. By this arrangement the revenue was materially increased. About the same time, the distribution of Government land warrants among the Mexican soldiers as bounty threw upon the market a great quantity of good lands, and this enhanced the settlement of the State. The same Legislature authorized, with the recommendation of the Governor, the sale of the Northern Cross Railroad (from Springfield to Meredosia, the first in the State and now a section of the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific). It sold for \$100,000 in bonds, although it had cost the State not less than a million. The salt wells and canal lands in the Saline reserve in Gallatin County, granted by the general Government to the State, were also authorized by the Governor to be sold, to apply on the State debt. In 1850, for the first time since 1839, the accruing State revenue, exclusive of specific appropriations, was sufficient to meet the current demands upon the treasury. The aggregate taxable property of the State at this time was over \$100,000,000, and the population 851,470.

In 1849 the Legislature adopted the township organization law, which, however, proved defective, and was properly amended in 1851. At its session in the latter year, the General Assembly also passed a law to exempt homesteads from sale on executions. This beneficent measure had been repeatedly urged upon that body by Gov. French.

In 1850 some business men in St. Louis commenced to build a dike opposite the lower part of their city on the Illinois side, to keep the Mississippi in its channel near St. Louis, instead of breaking away from them as it sometimes threatened to do. This they undertook without permission from the Legislature or Executive authority of this State; and as many of the inhabitants there complained that the scheme would inundate and ruin much valuable land, there was a slight conflict of jurisdictions, resulting in favor of the St. Louis project; and since then a good site has existed there for a city (East St. Louis), and now a score of railroads center there.

It was in September, 1850, that Congress granted to this State nearly 3,000,000 acres of land in aid of the completion of the Illinois Central Railroad, which constituted the most important epoch in the railroad—we might say internal improvement—history of the State. The road was rushed on to completion, which accelerated the settlement of the interior of the State by a good class of industrious citizens, and by the charter a good income to the State Treasury is paid in from the earnings of the road.

In 1851 the Legislature passed a law authorizing free stock banks, which was the source of much legislative discussion for a number of years.

But we have not space further to particularize concerning legislation. Gov. French's administration was not marked by any feature to be criticised, while the country was settling up as never before.

In stature, Gov. French was of medium height, squarely built, light complexioned, with ruddy face and pleasant countenance. In manners he was plain and agreeable. By nature he was somewhat diffident, but he was often very outspoken in his convictions of duty. In public speech he was not an orator, but was chaste, earnest and persuasive. In business he was accurate and methodical, and in his administration he kept up the credit of the State.

He died in 1865, at his home in Lebanon, St. Clair Co., Ill.

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





*J. A. Matteson*



**J**OEL A. MATTESON, Governor 1853-6, was born Aug. 8, 1808, in Jefferson County, New York, to which place his father had removed from Vermont three years before. His father was a farmer in fair circumstances, but a common English education was all that his only son received. Young Joel first tempted fortune as a small tradesman in Prescott, Canada, before he was of age. He returned from that place to his home, entered an academy, taught school, visited the prin-

cipal Eastern cities, improved a farm his father had given him, made a tour in the South, worked there in building railroads, experienced a storm on the Gulf of Mexico, visited the gold diggings of Northern Georgia, and returned *via* Nashville to St. Louis and through Illinois to his father's home, when he married. In 1833, having sold his farm, he removed, with his wife and one child, to Illinois, and entered a claim on Government land near the head of Au Sable River, in what is now Kendall County. At that time there were not more than two neighbors within a range of ten miles of his place, and only three or four houses between him and Chicago. He opened a large farm. His family was boarded 12

miles away while he erected a house on his claim, sleeping, during this time, under a rude pole shed. Here his life was once placed in imminent peril by a huge prairie rattlesnake sharing his bed.

In 1835 he bought largely at the Government land sales. During the speculative real-estate mania which broke out in Chicago in 1836 and spread over the State, he sold his lands under the inflation of that period and removed to Joliet. In 1838 he became a heavy contractor on the Illinois & Michigan Canal. Upon the completion of his job in 1841, when hard times prevailed, business at a stand, contracts paid in State scrip; when all the public works except the canal were abandoned, the State offered for sale 700 tons of railroad iron, which was purchased by Mr. Matteson at a bargain. This he accepted, shipped and sold at Detroit, realizing a very handsome profit, enough to pay off all his canal debts and leave him a surplus of several thousand dollars. His enterprise next prompted him to start a woolen mill at Joliet, in which he prospered, and which, after successive enlargements, became an enormous establishment.

In 1842 he was first elected a State Senator, but, by a bungling apportionment, John Pearson, a Senator holding over, was found to be in the same district, and decided to be entitled to represent it. Matteson's seat was declared vacant. Pearson, however with a nobleness difficult to appreciate in this day of

greed for office, unwilling to represent his district under the circumstances, immediately resigned his unexpired term of two years. A bill was passed in a few hours ordering a new election, and in ten days' time Mr. Matteson was returned re-elected and took his seat as Senator. From his well-known capacity as a business man, he was made Chairman of the Committee on Finance, a position he held during this half and two full succeeding Senatorial terms, discharging its important duties with ability and faithfulness. Besides his extensive woolen-mill interest, when work was resumed on the canal under the new loan of \$1,600,000 he again became a heavy contractor, and also subsequently operated largely in building railroads. Thus he showed himself a most energetic and thorough business man.

He was nominated for Governor by the Democratic State Convention which met at Springfield April 20, 1852. Other candidates before the Convention were D. L. Gregg and F. C. Sherman, of Cook; John Dement, of Lee; Thomas L. Harris, of Menard; Lewis W. Ross, of Fulton; and D. P. Bush, of Pike. Gustavus Koerner, of St. Clair, was nominated for Lieutenant Governor. For the same offices the Whigs nominated Edwin B. Webb and Dexter A. Knowlton. Mr. Matteson received 80,645 votes at the election, while Mr. Webb received 64,408. Matteson's forte was not on the stump; he had not cultivated the art of oily flattery, or the faculty of being all things to all men. His intellectual qualities took rather the direction of efficient executive ability. His turn consisted not so much in the adroit management of party, or the powerful advocacy of great governmental principles, as in those more solid and enduring operations which cause the physical development and advancement of a State,—of commerce and business enterprise, into which he labored with success to lead the people. As a politician he was just and liberal in his views, and both in official and private life he then stood untainted and free from blemish. As a man, in active benevolence, social virtues and all the amiable qualities of neighbor or citizen, he had few superiors. His messages present a perspicuous array of facts as to the condition of the State, and are often couched in forcible and elegant diction.

The greatest excitement during his term of office was the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, by Con-

gress, under the leadership of Stephen A. Douglas in 1854, when the bill was passed organizing the Territory of Kansas and Nebraska. A large portion of the Whig party of the North, through their bitter opposition to the Democratic party, naturally drifted into the doctrine of anti-slavery, and thus led to what was temporarily called the "Anti-Nebraska" party, while the followers of Douglas were known as "Nebraska or Douglas Democrats." It was during this embryo stage of the Republican party that Abraham Lincoln was brought forward as the "Anti-Nebraska" candidate for the United States Senatorship, while Gen. James Shields, the incumbent, was re-nominated by the Democrats. But after a few ballotings in the Legislature (1855), these men were dropped, and Lyman Trumbull, an Anti-Nebraska Democrat, was brought up by the former, and Mr. Matteson, then Governor, by the latter. On the 11th ballot Mr. Trumbull obtained one majority, and was accordingly declared elected. Before Gov. Matteson's term expired, the Republicans were fully organized as a national party, and in 1856 put into the field a full national and State ticket, carrying the State, but not the nation.

The Legislature of 1855 passed two very important measures,—the present free-school system and a submission of the Maine liquor law to a vote of the people. The latter was defeated by a small majority of the popular vote.

During the four years of Gov. Matteson's administration the taxable wealth of the State was about trebled, from \$137,818,079 to \$349,951,272; the public debt was reduced from \$17,398,985 to \$12,843,144; taxation was at the same time reduced, and the State resumed paying interest on its debt in New York as fast as it fell due; railroads were increased in their mileage from something less than 400 to about 3,000; and the population of Chicago was nearly doubled, and its commerce more than quadrupled.

\* Before closing this account, we regret that we have to say that Mr. Matteson, in all other respects an upright man and a good Governor, was implicated in a false re-issue of redeemed canal scrip, amounting to \$224,182.66. By a suit in the Sangamon Circuit Court the State recovered the principal and all the interest excepting \$27,500.

He died in the winter of 1872-3, at Chicago.



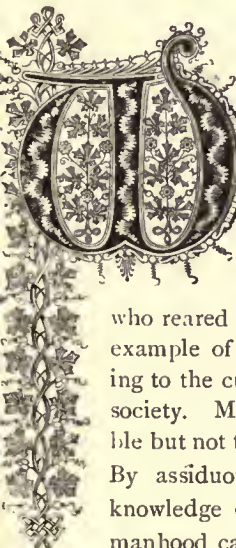
LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



James H. Russell



## William M. Bissell.



WILLIAM H. BISSELL, Governor 1857-60, was born April 25, 1811, in the State of New York, near Painted Post, Yates County. His parents were obscure, honest, God-fearing people, who reared their children under the daily example of industry and frugality, according to the custom of that class of Eastern society. Mr. Bissell received a respectable but not thorough academical education. By assiduous application he acquired a knowledge of medicine, and in his early manhood came West and located in Monroe County, this State, where he engaged in the practice of that profession. But he was not enamored of his calling: he was swayed by a broader ambition, to such an extent that the mysteries of the healing art and its arduous duties failed to yield him further any charms. In a few years he discovered his choice of a profession to be a mistake, and when he approached the age of 30 he sought to begin anew. Dr. Bissell, no doubt unexpectedly to himself, discovered a singular facility and charm of speech, the exercise of which acquired for him a ready local notoriety. It soon came to be under-

stood that he desired to abandon his profession and take up that of the law. During terms of Court he would spend his time at the county seat among the members of the Bar, who extended to him a ready welcome.

It was not strange, therefore, that he should drift into public life. In 1840 he was elected as a Democrat to the Legislature from Monroe County, and was an efficient member of that body. On his return home he qualified himself for admission to the Bar and speedily rose to the front rank as an advocate. His powers of oratory were captivating. With a pure diction, charming and inimitable gestures, clearness of statement, and a remarkable vein of sly humor, his efforts before a jury told with irresistible effect. He was chosen by the Legislature Prosecuting Attorney for the Circuit in which he lived, and in that position he fully discharged his duty to the State, gained the esteem of the Bar, and seldom failed to convict the offender of the law.

In stature he was somewhat tall and slender, and with a straight, military bearing, he presented a distinguished appearance. His complexion was dark, his head well poised, though not large, his address pleasant and manner winning. He was exemplary in his habits, a devoted husband and kind parent. He was twice married, the first time to Miss James,



of Monroe County, by whom he had two children, both daughters. She died soon after the year 1840, and Mr. B. married for his second wife a daughter of Elias K. Kane, previously a United States Senator from this State. She survived him but a short time, and died without issue.

When the war with Mexico was declared in 1846, Mr. Bissell enlisted and was elected Colonel of his regiment, over Hon. Don Morrison, by an almost unanimous vote,—807 to 6. Considering the limited opportunities he had had, he evinced a high order of military talent. On the bloody field of Buena Vista he acquitted himself with intrepid and distinguished ability, contributing with his regiment, the Second Illinois, in no small degree toward saving the wavering fortunes of our arms during that long and fiercely contested battle.

After his return home, at the close of the war, he was elected to Congress, his opponents being the Hons. P. B. Fouke and Joseph Gillespie. He served two terms in Congress. He was an ardent politician. During the great contest of 1850 he voted in favor of the adjustment measures; but in 1854 he opposed the repeal of the Missouri Compromise act and therefore the Kansas-Nebraska bill of Douglas, and thus became identified with the nascent Republican party.

During his first Congressional term, while the Southern members were following their old practice of intimidating the North by bullying language, and claiming most of the credit for victories in the Mexican War, and Jefferson Davis claiming for the Mississippi troops all the credit for success at Buena Vista, Mr. Bissell bravely defended the Northern troops; whereupon Davis challenged Bissell to a duel, which was accepted. This matter was brought up against Bissell when he was candidate for Governor and during his term of office, as the Constitution of this State forbade any duelist from holding a State office.

In 1856, when the Republican party first put forth a candidate, John C. Fremont, for President of the United States, the same party nominated Mr. Bissell for Governor of Illinois, and John Wood, of Quincy, for Lieutenant Governor, while the Democrats nominated Hon. W. A. Richardson, of Adams County, for Governor, and Col. R. J. Hamilton, of Cook County, for Lieutenant Governor. The result of the

election was a plurality of 4,729 votes over Richardson. The American, or Know-Nothing, party had a ticket in the field. The Legislature was nearly balanced, but was politically opposed to the Governor. His message to the Legislature was short and rather ordinary, and was criticised for expressing the supposed obligations of the people to the incorporators of the Illinois Central Railroad Company and for reopening the slavery question by allusions to the Kansas troubles. Late in the session an apportionment bill, based upon the State census of 1855, was passed, amid much partisan strife. The Governor at first signed the bill and then vetoed it. A furious debate followed, and the question whether the Governor had the authority to recall a signature was referred to the Courts, that of last resort deciding in favor of the Governor. Two years afterward another outrageous attempt was made for a re-apportionment and to gerrymander the State, but the Legislature failed to pass the bill over the veto of the Governor.

It was during Gov. Bissell's administration that the notorious canal scrip fraud was brought to light, implicating ex-Gov. Matteson and other prominent State officials. The principal and interest, aggregating \$255,500, was all recovered by the State excepting \$27,500. (See sketch of Gov. Matteson.)

In 1859 an attempt was discovered to fraudulently refund the Macalister and Stebbins bonds and thus rob the State Treasury of nearly a quarter of a million dollars. The State Government was implicated in this affair, and to this day remains unexplained or unatoned for. For the above, and other matters previously mentioned, Gov. Bissell has been severely criticised, and he has also been most shamefully libelled and slandered.

On account of exposure in the army, the remote cause of a nervous form of disease gained entrance into his system and eventually developed paraplegia, affecting his lower extremities, which, while it left his body in comparative health, deprived him of locomotion except by the aid of crutches. While he was generally hopeful of ultimate recovery, this mysterious disease pursued him, without once relaxing its stealthy hold, to the close of his life, March 18, 1860, over nine months before the expiration of his gubernatorial term, at the early age of 48 years. He died in the faith of the Roman Catholic Church, of which he had been a member since 1854.

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*John Wood*





## John Wood.

**J**OHN WOOD, Governor 1860-1, and the first settler of Quincy, Ill., was born in the town of Sempronius (now Moravia), Cayuga Co., N. Y., Dec. 20, 1798. He was the second child and only son of Dr. Daniel Wood. His mother, *nee* Catherine Crause, was of German parentage, and died while he was an infant. Dr. Wood was a learned and skillful physician, of classical attainments and proficient in several modern languages, who, after

serving throughout the Revolutionary War as a Surgeon, settled on the land granted him by the Government, and resided there a respected and leading influence in his section until his death, at the ripe age of 92 years.

The subject of this sketch, impelled by the spirit of Western adventure then pervading everywhere, left his home, Nov. 2, 1818, and passed the succeeding winter in Cincinnati, Ohio. The following summer he pushed on to Illinois, landing at Shawneetown, and spent the fall and following winter in Calhoun County. In 1820, in company with Willard Keyes, he settled in Pike County, about 30 miles southeast of Quincy, where for the next two years he pursued farming. In 1821 he visited "the Bluffs" (as the present site of Quincy was called, then uninhabited) and, pleased with its prospects, soon after purchased a quarter-section of land near by, and in the following fall (1822) erected near the river a small cabin,

18 x 20 feet, the first building in Quincy, of which he then became the first and for some months the only occupant.

About this time he visited his old friends in Pike County, chief of whom was William Ross, the leading man in building up the village of Atlas, of that county, which was thought then to be the possible commencement of a city. One day they and others were traveling together over the country between the two points named, making observations on the comparative merits of the respective localities. On approaching the Mississippi near Mr. Wood's place, the latter told his companions to follow him and he would show them where he was going to build a city. They went about a mile off the main trail, to a high point, from which the view in every direction was most magnificent, as it had been for ages and as yet untouched by the hand of man. Before them swept by the majestic Father of Waters, yet unburdened by navigation. After Mr. Wood had expatiated at length on the advantages of the situation, Mr. Ross replied, "But it's too near Atlas ever to amount to anything!"

Atlas is still a cultivated farm, and Quincy is a city of over 30,000 population.

In 1824 Mr. Wood gave a newspaper notice, as the law then prescribed, of his intention to apply to the General Assembly for the formation of a new county. This was done the following winter, resulting in the establishment of the present Adams County. During the next summer Quincy was selected as the county seat, it and the vicinity then containing but four adult male residents and half

that number of females. Since that period Mr. Wood resided at the place of his early adoption until his death, and far more than any other man was he identified with every measure of its progress and history, and almost continuously kept in public positions.

He was one of the early town Trustees, and after the place became a city he was often a member of the City Council, many times elected Mayor, in the face of a constant large opposition political majority. In 1850 he was elected to the State Senate. In 1856, on the organization of the Republican party, he was chosen Lieutenant Governor of the State, on the ticket with Wm. H. Bissell for Governor, and on the death of the latter, March 18, 1860, he succeeded to the Chief Executive chair, which he occupied until Gov. Yates was inaugurated nearly ten months afterward.

Nothing very marked characterized the administration of Gov. Wood. The great anti-slavery campaign of 1860, resulting in the election of the honest Illinoisan, Abraham Lincoln, to the Presidency of the United States, occurred during the short period while Mr. Wood was Governor, and the excitement and issues of that struggle dominated over every other consideration,—indeed, supplanted them in a great measure. The people of Illinois, during all that time, were passing the comparatively petty strifes under Bissell's administration to the overwhelming issue of preserving the whole nation from destruction.

In 1861 ex-Gov. Wood was one of the five Delegates from Illinois to the "Peace Convention" at Washington, and in April of the same year, on the breaking out of the Rebellion, he was appointed

Quartermaster-General of the State, which position he held throughout the war. In 1864 he took command as Colonel of the 137th Ill. Vol. Inf., with whom he served until the period of enlistment expired.

Politically, Gov. Wood was always actively identified with the Whig and Republican parties. Few men have in personal experience comprehended so many surprising and advancing local changes as vested in the more than half century recollections of Gov. Wood. Sixty-four years ago a solitary settler on the "Bluffs," with no family, and no neighbor within a score of miles, the world of civilization away behind him, and the strolling red-man almost his only visitant, he lived to see growing around him, and under his auspices and aid, overspreading the wild hills and scraggy forest a teaming city, second only in size in the State, and surpassed nowhere in beauty, prosperity and promise; whose people recognize as with a single voice the proverbial honor and liberality that attach to the name and lengthened life of their pioneer settler, "the old Governor."

Gov. Wood was twice married,—first in January, 1826, to Ann M. Streeter, daughter of Joshua Streeter, formerly of Salem, Washington Co., N. Y. They had eight children. Mrs. W. died Oct. 8, 1863, and in June, 1865, Gov. Wood married Mrs. Mary A., widow of Rev. Joseph T. Holmes. Gov. Wood died June 4, 1880, at his residence in Quincy. Four of his eight children are now living, namely: Ann E., wife of Gen. John Tillson; Daniel C., who married Mary J. Abernethy; John, Jr., who married Josephine Skinner, and Joshua S., who married Annie Bradley. The last mentioned now resides at Atchison, Kansas, and all the rest are still at Quincy.



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





*Rich. Yates*

# Richard Yates.



**R**ICHARD YATES, the "War Governor," 1861-4, was born Jan. 18, 1818, on the banks of the Ohio River, at Warsaw, Gallatin Co., Ky. His father moved in 1831 to Illinois, and, after stopping for a time in Springfield, settled at Island Grove, Sangamon County. Here, after attending school, Richard joined the family. Subsequently he entered Illinois College at Jacksonville, where, in 1837, he graduated with first honors. He chose for his profession the law, the Hon. J. J. Hardin being his instructor. After admission to the Bar he soon rose to distinction as an advocate.

Gifted with a fluent and ready oratory, he soon appeared in the political hustings, and, being a passionate admirer of the great Whig leader of the West, Henry Clay, he joined his political fortunes to the party of his idol. In 1840 he engaged with great ardor in the exciting "hard cider" campaign for Garrison. Two years later he was elected to the Legislature from Morgan County, a Democratic stronghold. He served three or four terms in the Legislature, and such was the fascination of his oratory that by 1850 his large Congressional District, extending from Morgan and Sangamon Counties north to include LaSalle, unanimously tendered him the Whig nomination for Congress. His Democratic opponent was Maj. Thomas L. Harris, a very popular man who had won distinction at the battle of Cerro Gordo, in the Mexican War, and who had beaten Hon. Stephen T. Logan for the same position,

two years before, by a large majority. Yates was elected. Two years later he was re-elected, over John Calhoun.

It was during Yates' second term in Congress that the great question of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise was agitated, and the bars laid down for reopening the dreaded anti-slavery question. He took strong grounds against the repeal, and thus became identified with the rising Republican party. Consequently he fell into the minority in his district, which was pro-slavery. Even then, in a third contest, he fell behind Major Harris only 200 votes, after the district had two years before given Pierce 2,000 majority for President.

The Republican State Convention of 1860 met at Decatur May 9, and nominated for the office of Governor Mr. Yates, in preference to Hon. Norman B. Judd, of Chicago, and Leonard Swett, of Bloomington, two of the ablest men of the State, who were also candidates before the Convention. Francis A. Hoffman, of DuPage County, was nominated for Lieutenant Governor. This was the year when Mr. Lincoln was a candidate for President, a period remembered as characterized by the great whirlpool which precipitated the bloody War of the Rebellion. The Douglas Democrats nominated J. C. Allen of Crawford County, for Governor, and Lewis W. Ross, of Fulton County, for Lieutenant Governor. The Breckenridge Democrats and the Bell-Everett party had also full tickets in the field. After a most fearful campaign, the result of the election gave Mr. Yates 172,196 votes, and Mr. Allen 159,253. Mr. Yates received over a thousand more votes than did Mr. Lincoln himself.

Gov. Yates occupied the chair of State during the

most critical period of our country's history. In the fate of the nation was involved that of each State. The life struggle of the former derived its sustenance from the loyalty of the latter; and Gov. Yates seemed to realize the situation, and proved himself both loyal and wise in upholding the Government. He had a deep hold upon the affections of the people, won by his moving eloquence and genial manners. Erect and symmetrical in person, of prepossessing appearance, with a winning address and a magnetic power, few men possessed more of the elements of popularity. His oratory was scholarly and captivating, his hearers hardly knowing why they were transported. He was social and convivial. In the latter respect he was ultimately carried too far.

The very creditable military efforts of this State during the War of the Rebellion, in putting into the field the enormous number of about 200,000 soldiers, were ever promptly and ably seconded by his excellency; and he was ambitious to deserve the title of "the soldier's friend." Immediately after the battle of Shiloh he repaired to the field of carnage to look after the wounded, and his appeals for aid were promptly responded to by the people. His proclamations calling for volunteers were impassionate appeals, urging upon the people the duties and requirements of patriotism; and his special message in 1863 to the Democratic Legislature of this State pleading for material aid for the sick and wounded soldiers of Illinois regiments, breathes a deep fervor of noble sentiment and feeling rarely equaled in beauty or felicity of expression. Generally his messages on political and civil affairs were able and comprehensive. During his administration, however, there were no civil events of an engrossing character, although two years of his time were replete with partisan quarrels of great bitterness. Military arrests, Knights of the Golden Circle, riot in Fulton County, attempted suppression of the Chicago *Times* and the usurping State Constitutional Convention of 1862, were the chief local topics that were exciting during the Governor's term. This Convention assembled Jan. 7, and at once took the high position that the law calling it was no longer binding, and that it had supreme power; that it represented a virtual assemblage of the whole people of the State, and was sovereign in the exercise of all power necessary to effect a peaceable revolution of the State Government

and to the re-establishment of one for the "happiness, prosperity and freedom of the citizens," limited only by the Federal Constitution. Notwithstanding the law calling the Convention required its members to take an oath to support the Constitution of the State as well as that of the general Government, they utterly refused to take such oath. They also assumed legislative powers and passed several important "laws!" Interfering with the (then) present executive duties, Gov. Yates was provoked to tell them plainly that "he did not acknowledge the right of the Convention to instruct him in the performance of his duty."

In 1863 the Governor astonished the Democrats by "proroguing" their Legislature. This body, after a recess, met June 2, that year, and soon began to waste time upon various partisan resolutions; and, while the two houses were disagreeing upon the question of adjourning *sine die*, the Governor, having the authority in such cases, surprised them all by adjourning them "to the Saturday next preceding the first Monday in January, 1865!" This led to great excitement and confusion, and to a reference of the Governor's act to the Supreme Court, who decided in his favor. Then it was the Court's turn to receive abuse for weeks and months afterward.

During the autumn of 1864 a conspiracy was detected at Chicago which had for its object the liberation of the prisoners of war at Camp Douglas, the burning of the city and the inauguration of rebellion in the North. Gen. Sweet, who had charge of the camp at the time, first had his suspicions of danger aroused by a number of enigmatically worded letters which passed through the Camp postoffice. A detective afterward discovered that the rebel Gen. Marmaduke was in the city, under an assumed name, and he, with other rebel officers—Grenfell, Morgan, Cantrell, Buckner Morris, and Charles Walsh—was arrested, most of whom were convicted by a court-martial at Cincinnati and sentenced to imprisonment,—Grenfell to be hung. The sentence of the latter was afterward commuted to imprisonment for life, and all the others, after nine months' imprisonment, were pardoned.

In March, 1873, Gov. Yates was appointed a Government Director of the Union Pacific Railroad, in which office he continued until his decease, at St. Louis, Mo., on the 27th of November following.



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*R. J. Oglesby*



## Richard J. Oglesby.



RICHARD J. OGLESBY, Governor 1865-8, and re-elected in 1872 and 1884, was born July 25, 1824, in Oldham Co., Ky.,—the State which might be considered the "mother of Illinois Governors." Bereft of his parents at the tender age of eight years, his early education was neglected. When 12 years of age, and after he had worked a year and a half at the carpenter's trade, he removed with an uncle, Willis Oglesby, into whose care he had been committed, to Decatur, this State, where he continued his apprenticeship as a mechanic, working six months for Hon. E. O. Smith.

In 1844 he commenced studying law at Springfield, with Judge Silas Robbins, and read with him one year. He was admitted to the Bar in 1845, and commenced the practice of his chosen profession at Sullivan, the county seat of Moultrie County.

The next year the war with Mexico was commenced, and in June, 1846, Mr. Oglesby volunteered, was elected First Lieutenant of Co. C, Fourth Illinois Regiment of Volunteers, and participated in the battles of Vera Cruz and Cerro Gordo.

On his return he sought to perfect his law studies by attending a course of lectures at Louisville, but on the breaking out of the California "gold fever" in 1849, he crossed the plains and mountains to the new Eldorado, driving a six-mule team, with a com-

pany of eight men, Henry Prather being the leader.

In 1852 he returned home to Macon County, and was placed that year by the Whig party on the ticket of Presidential Electors. In 1856 he visited Europe, Asia and Africa, being absent 20 months. On his return home he resumed the practice of law, as a member of the firm of Gallagher, Wait & Oglesby. In 1858 he was the Republican nominee for the Lower House of Congress, but was defeated by the Hon. James C. Robinson, Democrat. In 1860 he was elected to the Illinois State Senate; and on the evening the returns of this election were coming in. Mr. Oglesby had a fisticuff encounter with "Cerro Gordo Williams," in which he came out victorious, and which was regarded as "the first fight of the Rebellion." The following spring, when the war had commenced in earnest, his ardent nature quickly responded to the demands of patriotism and he enlisted. The extra session of the Legislature elected him Colonel of the Eighth Illinois Infantry, the second one in the State raised to suppress the great Rebellion.

He was shortly entrusted with important commands. For a time he was stationed at Bird's Point and Cairo; in April he was promoted Brigadier General; at Fort Donelson his brigade was in the van, being stationed on the right of General Grant's army and the first brigade to be attacked. He lost 500 men before re-inforcements arrived. Many of these men were from Macon County. He was engaged in the battle of Corinth, and, in a brave charge at this place, was shot in the left lung with an ounce ball, and was carried from the field in expectation of im-



mediate death. That rebel ball he carries to this day. On his partial recovery he was promoted as Major General, for gallantry, his commission to rank from November, 1862. In the spring of 1863 he was assigned to the command of the 16th Army Corps, but, owing to inability from the effects of his wound, he relinquished this command in July, that year. Gen. Grant, however, refused to accept his resignation, and he was detailed, in December following, to court-martial and try the Surgeon General of the Army at Washington, where he remained until May, 1864, when he returned home.

The Republican, or Union, State Convention of 1864 was held at Springfield, May 25, when Mr. Oglesby was nominated for the office of Governor, while other candidates before the Convention were Allen C. Fuller, of Boone, Jesse K. Dubois, of Sangamon, and John M. Palmer, of Macoupin. Wm. Bross, of Chicago, was nominated for Lieutenant Governor. On the Democratic State ticket were James C. Robinson, of Clark, for Governor, and S. Corning Judd, of Fulton, for Lieutenant Governor. The general election gave Gen. Oglesby a majority of about 31,000 votes. The Republicans had also a majority in both the Legislature and in the representation in Congress.

Gov. Oglesby was duly inaugurated Jan. 17, 1865. The day before the first time set for his installation death visited his home at Decatur, and took from it his only son, an intelligent and sprightly lad of six years, a great favorite of the bereaved parents. This caused the inauguration to be postponed a week.

The political events of the Legislative session of 1865 were the election of ex-Gov. Yates to the United States Senate, and the ratification of the 13th amendment to the Constitution of the United States, abolishing slavery. This session also signalized itself by repealing the notorious "black laws," part of which, although a dead letter, had held their place upon the statute books since 1819. Also, laws requiring the registration of voters, and establishing a State Board of Equalization, were passed by this Legislature. But the same body evinced that it was corruptly influenced by a mercenary lobby, as it adopted some bad legislation, over the Governor's veto, notably an amendment to a charter for a Chicago horse railway, granted in 1859 for 25 years, and now sought to be extended 99 years. As this measure was promptly passed over his veto by both branches of the Legislature, he deemed it useless further to attempt to check their headlong career. At this session no law of a general useful character or public interest was perfected, unless we count such the turning over of the canal to Chicago to be deepened. The session of 1867 was still more productive of private and special acts. Many omnibus bills were proposed, and some passed. The contests over the location of the Industrial College, the Capital, the

Southern Penitentiary, and the canal enlargement and Illinois River improvement, dominated everything else.

During the year 1872, it became evident that if the Republicans could re-elect Mr. Oglesby to the office of Governor, they could also elect him to the United States Senate, which they desired to do. Accordingly they re-nominated him for the Executive chair, and placed upon the ticket with him for Lieutenant Governor, John L. Beveridge, of Cook County. On the other side the Democrats put into the field Gustavus Koerner for Governor and John C. Black for Lieutenant Governor. The election gave the Republican ticket majorities ranging from 35,334 to 56,174,—the Democratic defection being caused mainly by their having an old-time Whig and Abolitionist, Horace Greeley, on the national ticket for President. According to the general understanding had beforehand, as soon as the Legislature met it elected Gov. Oglesby to the United States Senate, whereupon Mr. Beveridge became Governor. Senator Oglesby's term expired March 4, 1879, having served his party faithfully and exhibited an order of statesmanship beyond criticism.

During the campaign of 1884 Mr. Oglesby was nominated for a "third term" as Executive of the State of Illinois, against Carter H. Harrison, Mayor of Chicago, nominated by the Democrats. Both gentlemen "stumped" the State, and while the people elected a Legislature which was a tie on a joint ballot, as between the two parties, they gave the jovial "Dick" Oglesby a majority of 15,018 for Governor, and he was inaugurated Jan. 30, 1885. The Legislature did not fully organize until this date, on account of its equal division between the two main parties and the consequent desperate tactics of each party to checkmate the latter in the organization of the House.

Gov. Oglesby is a fine-appearing, affable man, with regular, well defined features and rotund face. In stature he is a little above medium height, of a large frame and somewhat fleshy. His physical appearance is striking and prepossessing, while his straight-out, not to say bluff, manner and speech are well calculated favorably to impress the average masses. Ardent in feeling and strongly committed to the policies of his party, he intensifies Republicanism among Republicans, while at the same time his jovial and liberal manner prevents those of the opposite party from hating him.

He is quite an effective stump orator. With vehement, passionate and scornful tone and gestures, tremendous physical power, which in speaking he exercises to the utmost; with frequent descents to the grotesque; and with abundant homely comparisons or frontier figures, expressed in the broadest vernacular and enforced with stentorian emphasis, he delights a promiscuous audience beyond measure.

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*John Peck*





## JOHN M. PALMER



JOHN Mc AULEY PALMER, Governor 1869-72, was born on Eagle Creek, Scott Co., Ky., Sept. 13, 1817. During his infancy, his father, who had been a soldier in the war of 1812, removed to Christian Co., Ky., where lands were cheap. Here the future Governor of the great Prairie State spent his childhood and received such meager schooling as the new and sparsely settled country afforded. To this he added materially by diligent reading, for which he evinced an early aptitude. His father, an ardent Jackson man, was also noted for his anti-slavery sentiments, which he thoroughly impressed upon his children. In 1831 he emigrated to Illinois, settling in Madison County. Here the labor of improving a farm was pursued for about two years, when the death of Mr. Palmer's mother broke up the family. About this time Alton College was opened, on the "manual labor" system, and in the spring of 1834 young Palmer, with his elder brother, Elihu, entered this school and remained 18 months. Next, for over three years, he tried variously cooping, peddling and school-teaching.

During the summer of 1838 he formed the acquaintance of Stephen A. Douglas, then making his

first canvass for Congress. Young, eloquent and in political accord with Mr. Palmer, he won his confidence, fired his ambition and fixed his purpose. The following winter, while teaching near Canton, he began to devote his spare time to a desultory reading of law, and in the spring entered a law office at Carlinville, making his home with his elder brother, Elihu. (The latter was a learned clergyman, of considerable originality of thought and doctrine.) On the next meeting of the Supreme Court he was admitted to the Bar, Douglas being one of his examiners. He was not immediately successful in his profession, and would have located elsewhere than Carlinville had he the requisite means. Thus his early poverty was a blessing in disguise, for to it he now attributes the success of his life.

From 1839 on, while he diligently pursued his profession, he participated more or less in local politics. In 1843 he became Probate Judge. In 1847 he was elected to the State Constitutional Convention, where he took a leading part. In 1852 he was elected to the State Senate, and at the special session of February, 1854, true to the anti-slavery sentiments bred in him, he took a firm stand in opposition to the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and when the Nebraska question became a party issue he refused to receive a re-nomination for the Senatorship at the hands of the Democracy, issuing a circular to that effect. A few weeks afterward

however, hesitating to break with his party, he participated in a Congressional Convention which nominated T. L. Harris against Richard Yates, and which unqualifiedly approved the principles of the Kansas-Nebraska act. But later in the campaign he made the plunge, ran for the Senate as an Anti-Nebraska Democrat, and was elected. The following winter he put in nomination for the United States Senate Mr. Trumbull, and was one of the five steadfast men who voted for him until all the Whigs came to their support and elected their man.

In 1856 he was Chairman of the Republican State Convention at Bloomington. He ran for Congress in 1859, but was defeated. In 1860 he was Republican Presidential Elector for the State at large. In 1861 he was appointed one of the five Delegates (all Republicans) sent by Illinois to the peace congress at Washington.

When the civil conflict broke out, he offered his services to his country, and was elected Colonel of the 14th Ill. Vol. Inf., and participated in the engagements at Island No. 10; at Farmington, where he skillfully extricated his command from a dangerous position; at Stone River, where his division for several hours, Dec. 31, 1862, held the advance and stood like a rock, and for his gallantry there he was made Major General; at Chickamauga, where his and Van Cleve's divisions for two hours maintained their position when they were cut off by overpowering numbers. Under Gen. Sherman, he was assigned to the 14th Army Corps and participated in the Atlanta campaign. At Peach-Tree Creek his prudence did much to avert disaster. In February, 1865, Gen. Palmer was assigned to the military administration of Kentucky, which was a delicate post. That State was about half rebel and half Union, and those of the latter element were daily fretted by the loss of their slaves. He, who had been bred to the rules of common law, trembled at the contemplation of his extraordinary power over the persons and property of his fellow men, with which he was vested in his capacity as military Governor; and he exhibited great caution in the execution of the duties of his post.

Gen. Palmer was nominated for Governor of Illinois by the Republican State Convention which met at Peoria May 6, 1868, and his nomination would probably have been made by acclamation had he not persistently declared that he could not accept a can-

didature for the office. The result of the ensuing election gave Mr. Palmer a majority of 44,707 over John R. Eden, the Democratic nominee.

On the meeting of the Legislature in January, 1869, the first thing to arrest public attention was that portion of the Governor's message which took broad State's rights ground. This and some minor points, which were more in keeping with the Democratic sentiment, constituted the entering wedge for the criticisms and reproofs he afterward received from the Republican party, and ultimately resulted in his entire alienation from the latter element. The Legislature just referred to was noted for the introduction of numerous bills in the interest of private parties, which were embarrassing to the Governor. Among the public acts passed was that which limited railroad charges for passenger travel to a maximum of three cents per mile; and it was passed over the Governor's veto. Also, they passed, over his veto, the "tax-grabbing law" to pay railroad subscriptions, the Chicago Lake Front bill, etc. The new State Constitution of 1870, far superior to the old, was a peaceful "revolution" which took place during Gov. Palmer's term of office. The suffering caused by the great Chicago Fire of October, 1871, was greatly alleviated by the prompt responses of his excellency.

Since the expiration of Gov. Palmer's term, he has been somewhat prominent in Illinois politics, and has been talked of by many, especially in the Democratic party, as the best man in the State for a United States Senator. His business during life has been that of the law. Few excel him in an accurate appreciation of the depth and scope of its principles. The great number of his able veto messages abundantly testify not only this but also a rare capacity to point them out. He is a logical and cogent reasoner and an interesting, forcible and convincing speaker, though not fluent or ornate. Without brilliancy, his dealings are rather with facts and ideas than with appeals to passions and prejudices. He is a patriot and a statesman of very high order. Physically he is above the medium height, of robust frame, ruddy complexion and sanguine-nervous temperament. He has a large cranial development, is vivacious, social in disposition, easy of approach, unostentatious in his habits of life, democratic in his habits and manners and is a true American in his fundamental principles of statesmanship.

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

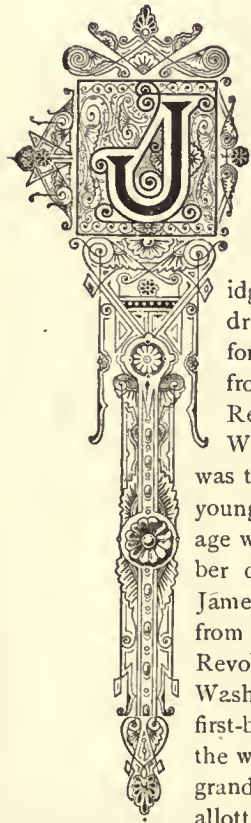




*John L. Beveridge*



## John L. Beveridge.



JOHN LOWRIE BEVERIDGE, Governor 1873-6, was born in the town of Greenwich, Washington Co., N. Y., July 6, 1824. His parents were George and Ann Beveridge. His father's parents, Andrew and Isabel Beveridge, before their marriage emigrated from Scotland just before the Revolutionary War, settling in Washington County. His father was the eldest of eight brothers, the youngest of whom was 60 years of age when the first one of the number died. His mother's parents, James and Agnes Hoy, emigrated from Scotland at the close of the Revolutionary War, settling also in Washington Co., N. Y., with their first-born, whose "native land" was the wild ocean. His parents and grandparents lived beyond the time allotted to man, their average age being over 80 years. They belonged to the "Associate Church," a seceding Presbyterian body of

America from the old Scotch school; and so rigid was the training of young Beveridge that he never heard a sermon from any other minister except that of his own denomination until he was in his 19th year. Later in life he became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which relation he still holds.

Mr. Beveridge received a good common-school education, but his parents, who could obtain a livelihood only by rigid economy and industry, could not send him away to college. He was raised upon a farm, and was in his 18th year when the family removed to De Kalb County, this State, when that section was very sparsely settled. Chicago had less than 7,000 inhabitants. In this wild West he continued as a farm laborer, teaching school during the winter months to supply the means of an education. In the fall of 1842 he attended one term at the academy at Granville, Putnam Co., Ill., and subsequently several terms at the Rock River Seminary at Mount Morris, Ogle Co., Ill., completing the academic course. At this time, the fall of 1845, his parents and brothers were anxious to have him go to college, even though he had not money sufficient; but, not willing to burden the family, he packed his trunk and with only \$40 in money started South to seek his fortune

Poor, alone, without friends and influence, he thus entered upon the battle of life.

First, he taught school in Wilson, Overton and Jackson Cos., Tenn., in which experience he underwent considerable mental drill, both in book studies and in the ways of the world. He read law and was admitted to the Bar, in the South, but did not learn to love the institution of slavery, although he admired many features of Southern character. In December, 1847, he returned North, and Jan. 20, 1848, he married Miss Helen M. Judson, in the old Clark-Street M. E. church in Chicago, her father at that time being Pastor of the society there. In the spring of 1848 he returned with his wife to Tennessee, where his two children, Alla May and Philo Judson, were born.

In the fall of 1849, through the mismanagement of an associate, he lost what little he had accumulated and was left in debt. He soon managed to earn means to pay his debts, returned to De Kalb Co., Ill., and entered upon the practice of his profession at Sycamore, the county seat. On arrival from the South he had but one-quarter of a dollar in money, and scanty clothing and bedding for himself and family. He borrowed a little money, practiced law, worked in public offices, kept books for some of the business men of the town, and some railroad engineering, till the spring of 1854, when he removed to Evanston, 12 miles north of Chicago, a place then but recently laid out, under the supervision of the Northwestern University, a Methodist institution. Of the latter his father-in-law was then financial agent and business manager. Here Mr. Beveridge prospered, and the next year (1855) opened a law office in Chicago, where he found the battle somewhat hard; but he persevered with encouragement and increasing success.

Aug. 12, 1861, his law partner, Gen. John F. Farnsworth, secured authority to raise a regiment of cavalry, and authorized Mr. Beveridge to raise a company for it. He succeeded in a few days in raising the company, of course enlisting himself along with it. The regiment rendezvoused at St. Charles, Ill., was mustered in Sept. 18, and on its organization Mr. B. was elected Second Major. It was attached, Oct. 11, to the Eighth Cavalry and to the Army of the Potomac. He served with the regiment until November, 1863, participating in some 40 bat-

tles and skirmishes: was at Fair Oaks, the seven days fight around Richmond, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. He commanded the regiment the greater part of the summer of 1863, and it was while lying in camp this year that he originated the policy of encouraging recruits as well as the fighting capacity of the soldiery, by the wholesale furlough system. It worked so well that many other officers adopted it. In the fall of this year he recruited another company, against heavy odds, in January, 1864, was commissioned Colonel of the 17th Ill. Cav., and skirmished around in Missouri, concluding with the reception of the surrender of Gen. Kirby Smith's army in Arkansas. In 1865 he commanded various sub-districts in the Southwest. He was mustered out Feb. 6, 1866, safe from the casualties of war and a stouter man than when he first enlisted. His men idolized him.

He then returned to Chicago, to practice law, with no library and no clientage, and no political experience except to help others into office. In the fall of 1866 he was elected Sheriff of Cook County, serving one term; next, until November, 1870, he practiced law and closed up the unfinished business of his office. He was then elected State Senator; in November, 1871, he was elected Congressman at large; in November, 1872, he was elected Lieutenant Governor on the ticket with Gov. Oglesby; the latter being elected to the U. S. Senate, Mr. Beveridge became Governor, Jan. 21, 1873. Thus, inside of a few weeks, he was Congressman at large, Lieutenant Governor and Governor. The principal events occurring during Gov. Beveridge's administration were: The completion of the revision of the statutes, begun in 1869; the partial success of the "farmers' movement;" "Haines' Legislature" and Illinois' exhibit at the Centennial.

Since the close of his gubernatorial term ex-Gov. Beveridge has been a member of the firm of Beveridge & Dewey, bankers and dealers in commercial paper at 71 Dearborn Street (McCormick Block), Chicago, and since November, 1881, he has also been Assistant United States Treasurer's office in the Government Building. His residence is still at Evanston.

He has a brother and two sisters yet residing in De Kalb County—James H. Beveridge, Mrs. Jennet Henry and Mrs. Isabel French.



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*McCallum*



**S**HELBY M. CULLOM, Governor 1877-83, is the sixth child of the late Richard N. Cullom, and was born Nov. 22, 1829, in Wayne Co., Ky., where his father then resided, and whence both the Illinois and Tennessee branches of the family originated. In the following year the family emigrated to the vicinity of Washington, Tazewell Co., Ill., when that section was very sparsely settled. They located on Deer Creek, in a grove at the time occupied by a party of Indians, attracted there by the superior hunting and fishing afforded in that vicinity. The following winter was known as the "hard winter," the snow being very deep and lasting and the weather severely cold; and the family had to subsist mainly on boiled corn or hominy, and some wild game, for several weeks. In the course of time Mr. R. N. Cullom became a prominent citizen and was several times elected to the Legislature, both before and after the removal of the capital from Vandalia to Springfield. He died about 1873.

Until about 19 years of age young Cullom grew up to agricultural pursuits, attending school as he had opportunity during the winter. Within this time, however, he spent several months teaching school.

and in the following summer he "broke prairie" with an ox team for the neighbors. With the money obtained by these various ventures, he undertook a course of study at the Rock River Seminary, a Methodist institution at Mt. Morris, Ogle County; but the sudden change to the in-door life of a student told severely upon his health, and he was taken home, being considered in a hopeless condition. While at Mt. Morris he heard Hon. E. B. Washburne make his first speech.

On recovering health, Mr. Cullom concluded to study law, under the instruction of Abraham Lincoln, at Springfield, who had by this time attained some notoriety as an able lawyer; but the latter, being absent from his office most of the time, advised Mr. Cullom to enter the office of Stuart & Edwards. After about a year of study there, however, his health failed again, and he was obliged to return once more to out-door life. Accordingly he bought hogs for packing, for A. G. Tyng, in Peoria, and while he regained his health he gained in purse, netting \$400 in a few weeks. Having been admitted to the Bar, he went to Springfield, where he was soon elected City Attorney, on the Anti-Nebraska ticket.

In 1856 he ran on the Fillmore ticket as a Presidential Elector, and, although failing to be elected as such, he was at the same time elected a Representative in the Legislature from Sangamon County, by a local coalition of the American and Republican parties. On the organization of the House, he received the vote of the Fillmore men for Speaker. Practicing



law until 1860, he was again elected to the Legislature, as a Republican, while the county went Democratic on the Presidential ticket. In January following he was elected Speaker, probably the youngest man who had ever presided over an Illinois Legislature. After the session of 1861, he was a candidate for the State Constitutional Convention called for that year, but was defeated, and thus escaped the disgrace of being connected with that abortive party scheme to revolutionize the State Government. In 1862 he was a candidate for the State Senate, but was defeated. The same year, however, he was appointed by President Lincoln on a Government Commission, in company with Gov. Boutwell of Massachusetts and Charles A. Dana, since of the *New York Sun*, to investigate the affairs of the Quartermaster's and Commissary Departments at Cairo. He devoted several months to this duty.

In 1864 he entered upon a larger political field, being nominated as the Republican candidate for Congress from the Eighth (Springfield) District, in opposition to the incumbent, John T. Stuart, who had been elected in 1862 by about 1,500 majority over Leonard Swett, then of Bloomington, now of Chicago. The result was the election of Mr. Cullom in November following by a majority of 1,785. In 1866 he was re-elected to Congress, over Dr. E. S. Fowler, by the magnificent majority of 4,103! In 1868 he was again a candidate, defeating the Hon. B. S. Edwards, another of his old preceptors, by 2,884 votes.

During his first term in Congress he served on the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Expenditures in the Treasury Department; in his second term, on the Committees on Foreign Affairs and on Territories; and in his third term he succeeded Mr. Ashley, of Ohio, to the Chairmanship of the latter. He introduced a bill in the House, to aid in the execution of law in Utah, which caused more consternation among the Mormons than any measure had previously, but which, though it passed the House, failed to pass the Senate.

The Republican Convention which met May 25, 1876, nominated Mr. Cullom for Governor, while the other contestant was Gov. Beveridge. For Lieutenant-Governor they nominated Andrew Shuman, editor of the *Chicago Journal*. For the same offices the Democrats, combining with the Anti-Monopolists, placed in nomination Lewis Steward, a wealthy

farmer and manufacturer, and A. A. Glenn. The result of the election was rather close, Mr. Cullom obtaining only 6,800 majority. He was inaugurated Jan. 8, 1877.

Great depression prevailed in financial circles at this time, as a consequence of the heavy failures of 1873 and afterward, the effect of which had seemed to gather force from that time to the end of Gov. Cullom's first administration. This unspeculative period was not calculated to call forth any new issues, but the Governor's energies were at one time put to task to quell a spirit of insubordination that had been begun in Pittsburg, Pa., among the laboring classes, and transferred to Illinois at Chicago, East St. Louis and Braidwood, at which places laboring men for a short time refused to work or allow others to work. These disturbances were soon quelled and the wheels of industry again set in motion.

In May, 1880, Gov. Cullom was re-nominated by the Republicans, against Lyman Trumbull, by the Democrats; and although the former party was somewhat handicapped in the campaign by a zealous faction opposed to Grant for President and to Grant men for office generally, Mr. Cullom was re-elected by about 314,565, to 277,532 for the Democratic State ticket. The Greenback vote at the same time was about 27,000. Both Houses of the Legislature again became Republican, and no representative of the Greenback or Socialist parties were elected. Gov. Cullom was inaugurated Jan. 10, 1881. In his message he announced that the last dollar of the State debt had been provided for.

March 4, 1883, the term of David Davis as United States Senator from Illinois expired, and Gov. Cullom was chosen to succeed him. This promoted Lieutenant-Governor John M. Hamilton to the Governorship. Senator Cullom's term in the United States Senate will expire March 4, 1889.

As a practitioner of law Mr. C. has been a member of the firm of Cullom, Scholes & Mather, at Springfield; and he has also been President of the State National Bank.

He has been married twice,—the first time Dec. 11, 1855, to Miss Hannah Fisher, by whom he had two daughters; and the second time May 5, 1863, to Julia Fisher. Mrs. C is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which religious body Mr. C. is also in sympathy.

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

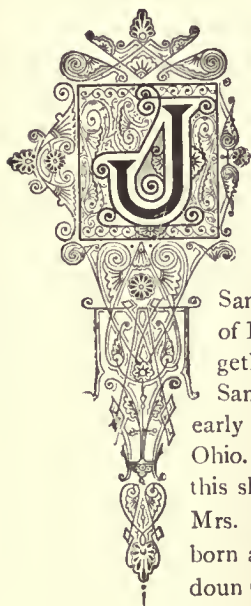


John M. Hamilton





## John M. Hamilton.



two large families of Youngs and Marshalls, well known in that commonwealth; and from the latter family name was derived the middle name of Gov. Hamilton.

In March, 1854, Mr. Hamilton's father sold out his little pioneer forest home in Union County, O., and, loading his few household effects and family (of six children) into two emigrant covered wagons, moved to Roberts Township, Marshall Co., Ill., being 21 days on the route. Swamps, unbridged streams and innumerable hardships and privations met them on their way. Their new home had been previously selected by the father. Here, after many long years of toil, they succeeded in paying for the land and making a comfortable home. John was, of course,

JOHN MARSHALL HAMILTON, Governor 1883-5, was born May 28, 1847, in a log house upon a farm about two miles from Richwood, Union County, Ohio. His father was Samuel Hamilton, the eldest son of Rev. Wm. Hamilton, who, together with his brother, the Rev. Samuel Hamilton, was among the early pioneer Methodist preachers in Ohio. The mother of the subject of this sketch was, before her marriage, Mrs. Nancy McMorris, who was born and raised in Fauquier or Loudoun County, Va., and related to the

brought up to hard manual labor, with no schooling except three or four months in the year at a common country school. However, he evinced a capacity and taste for a high order of self-education, by studying or reading what books he could borrow, as the family had but very few in the house. Much of his study he prosecuted by the light of a log fire in the old-fashioned chimney place. The financial panic of 1857 caused the family to come near losing their home, to pay debts; but the father and two sons, William and John, "buckled to" and persevered in hard labor and economy until they redeemed their place from the mortgage.

When the tremendous excitement of the political campaign of 1860 reached the neighborhood of Roberts Township, young Hamilton, who had been brought up in the doctrine of anti-slavery, took a zealous part in favor of Lincoln's election. Making special efforts to procure a little money to buy a uniform, he joined a company of Lincoln Wide-Awakes at Magnolia, a village not far away. Directly after the ensuing election it became evident that trouble would ensue with the South, and this Wide-Awake company, like many others throughout the country, kept up its organization and transformed itself into a military company. During the ensuing summer they met often for drill and became proficient; but when they offered themselves for the war, young Hamilton was rejected on account of his youth, he being then but 14 years of age. During the winter of 1863-4 he attended an academy at Henry, Marshall County,

and in the following May he again enlisted, for the fourth time, when he was placed in the 141st Ill. Vol. Inf., a regiment then being raised at Elgin, Ill., for the 100-day service. He took with him 13 other lads from his neighborhood, for enlistment in the service. This regiment operated in Southwestern Kentucky, for about five months, under Gen. Paine.

The following winter, 1864-5, Mr. Hamilton taught school, and during the two college years 1865-7, he went through three years of the curriculum of the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio. The third year he graduated, the fourth in a class of 46, in the classical department. In due time he received the degree of M. A. For a few months he was the Principal of Marshall "College" at Henry, an academy under the auspices of the M. E. Church. By this time he had commenced the study of law, and after earning some money as a temporary Professor of Latin at the Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington, he entered the law office of Weldon, Tipton & Benjamin, of that city. Each member of this firm has since been distinguished as a Judge. Admitted to the Bar in May, 1870, Mr. Hamilton was given an interest in the same firm, Tipton having been elected Judge. In October following he formed a partnership with J. H. Rowell, at that time Prosecuting Attorney. Their business was then small, but they increased it to very large proportions, practicing in all grades of courts, including even the U. S. Supreme Court, and this partnership continued unbroken until Feb. 6, 1883, when Mr. Hamilton was sworn in as Executive of Illinois. On the 4th of March following Mr. Rowell took his seat in Congress.

In July, 1871, Mr. Hamilton married Miss Helen M. Williams, the daughter of Prof. Wm. G. Williams, Professor of Greek in the Ohio Wesleyan University. Mr. and Mrs. H. have two daughters and one son.

In 1876 Mr. Hamilton was nominated by the Republicans for the State Senate, over other and older competitors. He took an active part "on the stump" in the campaign, for the success of his party, and was elected by a majority of 1,640 over his Democratic-Greenback opponent. In the Senate he served on the Committees on Judiciary, Revenue, State Institutions, Appropriations, Education, and on Miscellaneous; and during the contest for the election of a U. S. Senator, the Republicans endeavoring to re-

elect John A. Logan, he voted for the war chief on every ballot, even alone when all the other Republicans had gone over to the Hon. E. B. Lawrence and the Democrats and Independents elected Judge David Davis. At this session, also, was passed the first Board of Health and Medical Practice act, of which Mr. Hamilton was a champion, against so much opposition that the bill was several times "laid on the table." Also, this session authorized the location and establishment of a southern penitentiary, which was fixed at Chester. In the session of 1879 Mr. Hamilton was elected President *pro tem.* of the Senate, and was a zealous supporter of John A. Logan for the U. S. Senate, who was this time elected without any trouble.

In May, 1880, Mr. Hamilton was nominated on the Republican ticket for Lieutenant Governor, his principal competitors before the Convention being Hon. Wm. A. James, ex-Speaker of the House of Representatives, Judge Robert Bell, of Wabash County, Hon. T. T. Fountain, of Perry County, and Hon. M. M. Saddler, of Marion County. He engaged actively in the campaign, and his ticket was elected by a majority of 41,200. As Lieutenant Governor, he presided almost continuously over the Senate in the 32d General Assembly and during the early days of the 33d, until he succeeded to the Governorship. When the Legislature of 1883 elected Gov. Cullom to the United States Senate, Lieut. Gov. Hamilton succeeded him, under the Constitution, taking the oath of office Feb. 6, 1883. He bravely met all the annoyances and embarrassments incidental upon taking up another's administration. The principal events with which Gov. Hamilton was connected as the Chief Executive of the State were, the mine disaster at Braidwood, the riots in St. Clair and Madison Counties in May, 1883, the appropriations for the State militia, the adoption of the Harper high-license liquor law, the veto of a dangerous railroad bill, etc.

The Governor was a Delegate at large to the National Republican Convention at Chicago in June, 1884, where his first choice for President was John A. Logan, and second choice Chester A. Arthur; but he afterward zealously worked for the election of Mr. Blaine, true to his party.

Mr. Hamilton's term as Governor expired Jan. 30, 1885, when the great favorite "Dick" Oglesby was inaugurated.

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





*J. W. Fifer*



## Joseph W. Fifer.

**J**OSEPH WILSON FIFER. This distinguished gentleman was elected Governor of Illinois November 6, 1888. He was popularly known during the campaign as "Private Joe." He had served with great devotion to his country during the Rebellion, in the Thirty-third Illinois Infantry. A native of Virginia, he was born in 1840. His parents, John and Mary (Dauiels) Fifer, were American born, though of German descent. His father was a brick and stone mason, and an old

death of Mrs. Fifer, which occurred in Missouri, the family returned to Virginia, but remained only a short time, as during the same year Mr. Fifer came to Illinois. He settled in McLean County and started a brickyard. Here Joseph and his brothers were put to work. The elder Mr. Fifer soon bought a farm near Bloomington and began life as an agriculturist. Here Joe worked and attended the neighbors school. He alternated farm-work, and brick-laying, going to the district school for the succeeding few years. It was all work and no play for Joe, yet it by no means made a dull boy of him. All the time he was thinking of the great world outside, of which he had caught a glimpse when coming from Virginia, yet he did not know just how he was going to get out into it. He could not feel that the woods around the new farm and the log cabin, in which the family lived, were to hold him.

The opportunity to get out into the world was soon offered to young Joe. He traveled a dozen miles barefoot, in company with his brother George, and enlisted in Company C, Thirty-third Illinois Infantry, he being then twenty years old. In a few days, the regiment was sent to Camp Butler, and then over into Missouri, and saw some vigorous service there. After a second time helping to chase Price out of Missouri, the Thirty-third Regi-

Henry Clay Whig in politics. John and Mary Fifer had nine children, of whom Joseph was the sixth, and naturally, with so large a family, it was all the father could do to keep the wolf from the door, to say nothing of giving his children anything like good educational advantages.

Joseph attended school for a while in Virginia, but it was not a good school, and when his father removed to the West, in 1857, Joseph had not advanced much further than the "First Reader." Our subject was sixteen then and suffered a great misfortune in the loss of his mother. After the

ment went down to Milliken's Bend, and for several weeks "Private Joe" worked on Grant's famous ditch. The regiment then joined the forces operating against Port Gibson and Vicksburg. Joe was on guard duty in the front ditches when the flag of surrender was run up on the 4th of July, and stuck the bayonet of his gun into the embankment and went into the city with the vanguard of Union soldiers.

The next day, July 5, the Thirty-third joined the force after Johnston, who had been threatening Grant's rear; and finally an assault was made on him at Jackson, Miss. In this charge "Private Joe" fell, terribly wounded. He was loading his gun, when a minie-ball struck him and passed entirely through his body. He was regarded as mortally wounded. His brother, George, who had been made a Lieutenant, proved to be the means of saving his life. The Surgeon told him that unless he had ice his brother could not live. It was fifty miles to the nearest point where ice could be obtained, and the roads were rough. A comrade, a McLean County man, who had been wounded, offered to make the trip. An ambulance was secured and the brother soldier started on the journey. He returned with the ice, but the trip, owing to the roughness of the road, was very hard on him. After a few months' careful nursing, Mr. Fifer was able to come home. The Thirty-third came home on a furlough, and when the boys were ready to return to the tented field, young Fifer was ready to go with them, for he was determined to finish his term of three years. He was mustered out in October, 1864, having been in the service three years and two months.

"Private Joe" came out of the army a tall, tanned, and awkward young man of twenty-four. About all he possessed was ambition to be somebody—and pluck. Though at an age when most men have finished their college course, the young soldier saw that if he was to be anybody he must have an education. Yet he had no means to enable him to enter school as most young men do. He was determined to have an education, however, and that to him meant success. For the following four years he struggled with his books. He en-

tered Wesleyan University January 1, 1865. He was not a brilliant student, being neither at the head nor at the foot of his class. He was in great earnest, however, studied hard and came forth with a well-stored and disciplined mind.

Immediately after being graduated, he entered an office at Bloomington as a law student. He had previously read law a little, and as he continued to work hard, with the spur of poverty and promptings of ambition ever with him, he was ready to hang out his professional shingle in 1869. Being trustworthy, he soon gathered about him some influential friends. In 1871 he was elected Corporation Counsel of Bloomington. In 1872 he was elected State's Attorney of McLean County. This office he held eight years, when he took his seat in the State Senate. He served for four years. His ability to perform abundance of hard work made him a most valued member of the Legislature.

Mr. Fifer was married in 1870 to Gertie, daughter of William J. Lewis, of Bloomington. Mr. Fifer is six feet in height and is spare, weighing only one hundred and fifty pounds. He has a swarthy complexion, keen black eyes, quick movement, and possesses a frank and sympathetic nature, and naturally makes friends wherever he goes. During the late gubernatorial campaign his visits throughout the State proved a great power in his behalf. His faculty of winning the confidence and good wishes of those with whom he comes in personal contact is a source of great popularity, especially during a political battle. As a speaker he is fluent, his language is good, voice clear and agreeable, and manner forcible. His manifest earnestness in what he says, as well as his tact as a public speaker, and his eloquent and forceful language, make him a most valuable campaign orator and a powerful pleader at the bar. At the Republican State Convention, held in May, 1888, Mr. Fifer was chosen as its candidate for Governor. He proved a popular nominee, and the name of "Private Joe" became familiar to everyone throughout the State. He waged a vigorous campaign, was elected by a good majority, and in due time assumed the duties of the Chief Executive of Illinois.



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*John P. Alford*



## John P. Altgeld.



JOHN P. ALTGELD, the present Governor of Illinois, is a native of Prussia, born in 1848. Shortly after his birth his parents emigrated to America, locating on a farm near Mansfield, Ohio. When but a mere lad, young Altgeld had to walk from the farm to Mansfield with butter, eggs and garden produce, which he peddled from house to house. About 1856, his parents moved to the city of Mansfield, and for a time our subject was engaged morning and evening in driving cattle to and from the pas-

ture, a distance of eight miles. When fourteen years of age he hired out as a farm hand, and continued in that avocation the greater part of his time until he was sixteen years of age, when he enlisted in Company C, One Hundred and Sixty-fourth Ohio Infantry, and served until the close of the war. On being mustered in, the regiment was sent to Washington and was actively engaged in the various campaigns in and around that city until the surrender of Lee. In the fall of 1864, young Altgeld was taken sick, while with his regiment in the front, and the surgeon desired to send him to a hospital in Washington; but he asked to

be allowed to remain with the regiment, and soon recovering from his sickness was actively engaged until the close of the war. He was mustered out at Columbus, Ohio, in the spring of 1865. The succeeding summer he worked with his father on a farm, during which time he became connected with the Sunday-school and was given charge of the Bible class. Before entering the army he had but very limited educational advantages, having attended school but a part of two summers and one winter. He had at home, however, studied the German language and had become familiar with some German authors. Determining to fit himself for a useful life, he resolved to attend a select school at Lexington, Ohio, and in a little eight-by-ten room, meagrely furnished, he kept "bachelor's hall," and in time was so far advanced that he secured a certificate as teacher, and for two years was engaged in that profession. At the end of that time he left home and traveled extensively over the country, working at odd jobs, until he finally reached Savannah, Mo., where he entered a law office, and in 1870 was admitted to the Bar. In the fall of 1872, he ran as Prosecuting Attorney for Andrews County, Mo., and was defeated by four votes. He ran again in 1874 and was elected. But life in the small town of Savannah was a little too monotonous for him, and he determined to locate in Chicago. In October,



1875, he resigned the office of Prosecuting Attorney, moved to Chicago, and at once commenced the practice of law. For some years after he had but little to do with politics, confining himself to his practice and dealing in real estate. One year after his arrival in Chicago he found himself without a dollar, and in debt some \$400. By a streak of good luck, as it might be termed, he won a case in court, from which he received a fee of \$900, and after paying his debt he had \$500 left, which he invested in real estate. This venture proved a successful one, and from that time on the profits of one transaction were invested in others, and to-day he is numbered among the millionaire residents of the great metropolis of the West.

In 1884, Mr. Altgeld was nominated for Congress, but was defeated by three thousand votes. In 1886, he was nominated and elected Judge of the Superior Court of Cook County. His services as Judge were such as to commend him to the people. Early in the year 1892, by the solicitation of

many friends, he announced himself as a candidate for Governor. At the convention held April 27, he received the nomination and at once entered upon an active canvass. Alone, he traveled all over the entire State, and visited and consulted with the leading politicians of every section. He made few public speeches, however, until near the close of the campaign, but it was very evident that he was master of the situation at all times. When the votes were counted at the close of election day, it was found that he had a majority of the votes, and so became the first Democratic Governor of Illinois since 1856.

Born in poverty, alone, single-handed and unaided, he faced the world, and with a determination to succeed, he pressed forward, until to-day he has a National reputation, and is the envied of many. The lesson of his life is worthy of careful study by the young, and shows what can be done by one who has the desire in his heart to attain a front rank among the noted men of the country.





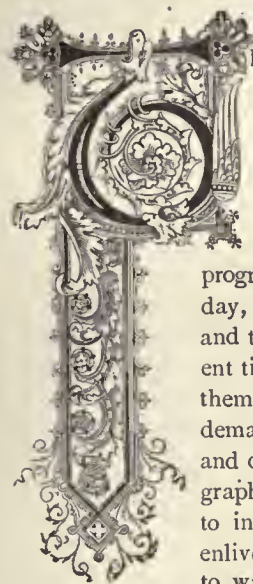
MACON COUNTY,  
ILLINOIS.







# INTRODUCTORY.



THE time has arrived when it becomes the duty of the people of this county to perpetuate the names of their pioneers, to furnish a record of their early settlement, and relate the story of their progress. The civilization of our day, the enlightenment of the age and the duty that men of the present time owe to their ancestors, to themselves and to their posterity, demand that a record of their lives and deeds should be made. In biographical history is found a power to instruct man by precedent, to enliven the mental faculties, and to waft down the river of time a

safe vessel in which the names and actions of the people who contributed to raise this country from its primitive state may be preserved. Surely and rapidly the great and aged men, who in their prime entered the wilderness and claimed the virgin soil as their heritage, are passing to their graves. The number remaining who can relate the incidents of the first days of settlement is becoming small indeed, so that an actual necessity exists for the collection and preservation of events without delay, before all the early settlers are cut down by the scythe of Time.

To be forgotten has been the great dread of mankind from remotest ages. All will be forgotten soon enough, in spite of their best works and the most earnest efforts of their friends to preserve the memory of their lives. The means employed to prevent oblivion and to perpetuate their memory has been in proportion to the amount of intelligence they possessed. The pyramids of Egypt were built to perpetuate the names and deeds of their great rulers. The exhumations made by the archeologists of Egypt from buried Memphis indicate a desire of those people

to perpetuate the memory of their achievements. The erection of the great obelisks were for the same purpose. Coming down to a later period, we find the Greeks and Romans erecting mausoleums and monuments, and carving out statues to chronicle their great achievements and carry them down the ages. It is also evident that the Mound-builders, in piling up their great mounds of earth, had but this idea—to leave something to show that they had lived. All these works, though many of them costly in the extreme, give but a faint idea of the lives and characters of those whose memory they were intended to perpetuate, and scarcely anything of the masses of the people that then lived. The great pyramids and some of the obelisks remain objects only of curiosity; the mausoleums, monuments and statues are crumbling into dust.

It was left to modern ages to establish an intelligent, undecaying, immutable method of perpetuating a full history—immutable in that it is almost unlimited in extent and perpetual in its action; and this is through the art of printing.

To the present generation, however, we are indebted for the introduction of the admirable system of local biography. By this system every man, though he has not achieved what the world calls greatness, has the means to perpetuate his life, his history, through the coming ages.

The scythe of Time cuts down all; nothing of the physical man is left. The monument which his children or friends may erect to his memory in the cemetery will crumble into dust and pass away; but his life, his achievements, the work he has accomplished, which otherwise would be forgotten, is perpetuated by a record of this kind.

To preserve the lineaments of our companions we engrave their portraits, for the same reason we collect the attainable facts of their history. Nor do we think it necessary, as we speak only truth of them, to wait until they are dead, or until those who know them are gone: to do this we are ashamed only to publish to the world the history of those whose lives are unworthy of public record.



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





*E. A. Smith*

# BIOGRAPHICAL.

**H**ON. EDWARD O. SMITH, deceased, was not only one of Decatur's pioneer settlers, but was for many years its most prominent, progressive and public-spirited citizen. He witnessed its growth from a mere hamlet to a prosperous city of nearly twenty thousand inhabitants. In all the years of his long residence here he was ever foremost in promoting the best interests of the place, and did more than any other man to secure to the city its numerous lines of railroad and its substantial prosperity. Whether acting in the capacity of an humble mechanic, sagacious business man or wise legislator, the welfare of Decatur was kept constantly in view. To such men the city is indebted for its present importance, and the BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD of Macon County would be incomplete without some extended mention of one whose history was so inseparably connected with the upbuilding of city and county.

Mr. Smith was a native of Montgomery County, Md., his birth having occurred April 15, 1817, and he was the fourth child in a family of six children born unto Rev. James and Rachel (Owen) Smith. Rev. Mr. Smith was a native Virginian, and a distinguished minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who had preached in Baltimore and Philadelphia. He died in 1825. His wife was a native of Montgomery County, Md., and survived her husband but a few years. Their children were early left orphans and were taken charge of for some years by their maternal grandmother, Mrs. Rachel Owen, a noble and capable woman. Under her judicious guidance Edward

passed the years of his boyhood in work and play, and, having improved the few meagre school privileges to be had at that time, he made his way, at the age of fifteen, to Washington, D. C., where for about two years he served as clerk in a store. The time spent in that city brought but a small return in the way of salary, but the surroundings were such as to make a deep impression on the mind of a thoughtful and observant lad. This was during the first term of Gen. Jackson's administration, when the President was fighting the United States Bank with tremendous energy. At this time, 1832, a panic was spreading through the land, the credit system was crumbling to pieces, and curses loud and deep were rained upon the head of "Old Hickory." The threatened nullification of the tariff laws by South Carolina, and Jackson's vehement declaration and stamping out of incipient rebellion, were another vivid lesson in politics. Calhoun, Clay, Webster and Benton, the political Titans of the time, were to be seen and heard at their best as they contended in the political arena.

It is not strange that with such surroundings Edward O. Smith, being at the most impressionable age, had his mind strongly tuned to political and constitutional questions, and that his whole subsequent life was colored by that early environment. Mr. Smith's active life on his own responsibility began just as the great wave of emigration dashed over the Alleghanies. The wave brought him with it, and he afterwards went with the first breaker over the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevadas. In the autumn of 1834, at the age of

seventeen, the self-reliant lad, with his worldly effects in a bundle across his shoulder, and his entire hard-earned cash capital of \$19 in his trousers pocket, journeyed on foot, following the old National Road across the mountains to Ohio, then a frontier State. After a tramp of five hundred miles, he halted at Springfield, Ohio, where he learned the carpenter's trade with Samuel Price. Some throat trouble coming on, he concluded to try the prairie, and took up his westward journey again. He worked for a time in Montezuma, Ind., and for a year in Terre Haute. In May, 1837, he found himself in Decatur, where he lost not a moment of time in doing his part in the building up of the town. Though but twenty years of age, he entered at once upon the erection of a hotel, a mill and other buildings, the site of which was then in the midst of heavy timber. Although Mr. Smith's time was much occupied in building and other business pursuits, he devoted his spare moments assiduously to reading, and thus acquired a liberal education, or rather possessed himself of a fund of varied and useful information. He kept himself posted on the public questions of the day. His ability and integrity were soon recognized by the people and he became an important factor in State as well as local affairs. He went quietly on with his building operations, with unshaken faith in the destiny of the State, and, steadily investing his profits in land and improving the same, continued in active business in Decatur for sixteen years. In his different business enterprises he was successful, but while he loved to make money he did not let its power harden his heart or warp his judgment. Surrounded by a society that had a superstitious dread of such an innovation, he built a theatre and dedicated it to Free Speech, a dedication that money could not induce him to dishonor.

In 1843, Mr. Smith married Miss Harriet Krone, a native of Lewisberry, York County, Pa., born September 11, 1826, and a daughter of David and Ruth (Worley) Krone, who were natives of the Keystone State. In 1839 they came to Decatur, where they kept a hotel, at which Mr. Smith boarded, and it was there that the acquaintance led to marriage. Though Miss Krone was but

seventeen years of age when married, she proved a sensible, faithful and tender wife and mother. Hers was indeed a busy life. The rearing of a large family at that time meant much of which the present generation has but little conception. Among the pioneers many kinds of work, from butchering to coloring and weaving, were done at home. Workmen on the farm or in the shop usually boarded with their employers, and politicians, preachers, peddlers and friends were frequent callers, and usually made it a point to stop all night. All this meant a vast amount of work and worry for the mistress of the house, but patiently and uncomplainingly she made the sacrifices demanded of her, looking well to the ways of her household and promoting her husband's interests in every possible way. During his absence in California on two different occasions of three years each, she not only had the care of the large family, but had to look after his property and business affairs, and this, combined with the added anxiety and suspense regarding his whereabouts and safety, made her life no easy one. Faithful to every trust committed to her, and wise and judicious in her management of the home, credit is largely due to her for their success in accumulating a competency. Her useful life was characterized by many acts of kindness and charity, and her home was the abode of genuine, open-handed hospitality.

Mrs. Smith became the mother of four sons and six daughters, all of whom grew to manhood and womanhood, and with one exception all are living at this writing. Rachel R., widow of Judge A. J. Gallagher, resides in New York. James D. lives in Roseburg, Ore. Lydia A. married Aquilla Toland, and after his death married George B. McKee, of San Jose, Cal. M. Ella is the wife of Rev. S. S. Hebbard, of Viroqua, Wis. Harriet is the wife of Frank Moore, of Decatur. Laura S. is the wife of E. Lester Brown, of Elmwood, Ill. Edward O. resides near Moweaqua, Ill. Lowell A. is near Dalton City, Ill. Gertrude is the widow of George W. Waltz, of LaFayette, Cal.; and Thomas C. died in San Jose, Cal., at the age of twenty-four. The mother of this family died January 16, 1867. For his second wife, on the 15th of April, 1869, Mr. Smith married Mrs. Catherine Hillman, of Elm-



wood, Ill., and the fruit of this marriage was one daughter, Kathryne, living with her mother in San Jose, Cal. Mrs. Smith is a daughter of the late Hiram Brown, of Cummington, Mass., and is one of the Board of Lady Managers of the California World's Fair Commission.

In 1847, Mr. Smith was elected a member of the Illinois Constitutional Convention, representing Piatt and Macon Counties. In 1848, he was the Whig candidate for State Senator for the central counties of the State, and was elected by a flattering majority. One of his first efforts in the Senate was to secure, through resolutions of the State Legislature, a donation from the National Government of lands for the construction of the Illinois Central and the Northern Cross (now the Wabash) Railroads. This was successful so far as the Illinois Central was concerned, and to Mr. Smith belongs the credit of taking the first steps in that great project. He was active in securing for Macon County several of her railroads, and was an incorporator and original director of one of them. While in the Constitutional Convention, he was one of the authors of the special provision, adopted by a separate vote, levying a two-mill tax to liquidate the State debt. This proved to be a wise measure, for the State bonds, which had fallen to thirty per cent., were soon taken by eastern capitalists at par.

Mr. Smith made a number of overland trips to California for the benefit of his health, usually taking with him droves of cattle and horses. At that time such a journey was full of adventure and often of suffering and danger. He first went in 1853. Remaining on the Coast a few years, he realized liberal profits from his ventures and returned to Decatur and erected a number of business buildings. In 1858, business being in a depressed condition, he started on a second trip to California. On his return to Decatur in 1861, after an absence of three years, Mr. Smith was elected Mayor of the city, and, this being the first year of the Rebellion, the duties of the office were unusually important. Many regiments of soldiers were fed at the city's expense, and new questions were constantly arising which required prompt attention. During the war he did all in his power as an official to assist the Union cause, and also

contributed liberally of his own means. He supported Lincoln for re-election, but after the war acted with the Democratic party. He made one exception, however, and always voted for Gen. R. J. Oglesby at every opportunity, for between these two there existed from their first acquaintance in 1837 a warm and intimate friendship that quite bridged the chasm of politics. He was well acquainted with prominent men of the State, including Lincoln, Douglas, Palmer, Trumbull, Logan and Yates, and was not unworthy to stand among them.

In 1870, Mr. Smith removed to California and for the remaining years of his life made San Jose his home, where he was held in high esteem. As he had a hand in the formation of the constitution of Illinois, so he now took a seat in the Constitutional Convention of California, and found work there well suited to his taste and capacity. Mr. Smith was a public-spirited man, a genuine patriot. Never an office-seeker, he faithfully filled the responsible positions to which he was called by the popular voice. To him belongs the rare distinction of having been selected to assist in framing the constitution of two great States of the Union—Illinois and California. His business sagacity was always freely devoted to the unselfish advancement of public interest. No man did more than he in planning and constructing the network of railways to which the thriving city of Decatur largely owes her prosperity. Without the advantages of a higher education in his youth, he was a man of rare intelligence, well informed, a reader of good books, thoughtful, with a wide and deep interest in all that concerned the welfare of humanity. He was broad and liberal in all his views, a man who did his own thinking and quietly shaped his own creed, counting Truth as of equal authority, come from where it would. He was not only successful in this world's affairs, but had an abiding confidence in our continued identity in another world, which is closely bound to this, and that bonds of love and friendship formed here are not sundered by death. In his domestic relations, Mr. Smith was exceedingly fortunate and happy. Toward his wife and children he was a model of thoughtful affection and generosity. He

gave to them with a liberal hand of the wealth that he had accumulated by his toil and enterprise. The strong points of his character were what might be termed the heroic type. He was fearlessly loyal to his convictions of truth and to his sense of duty. In the presence of danger he was unconscious of fear, and bore the severest trials with unyielding fortitude. In journeys across thousands of miles of unbroken wilderness, infested by bands of hostile Indians, and beset by dangers undreamed of, and by privations under which the stoutest hearts were often overcome, his bravery and fortitude saved his own life and that of many others. He threw his strong arm of protection around whomsoever he chanced to meet in need of succor, and shared with them his last morsel of food. He made no profession. His life was his creed. His political career was clean, and he was known as a man who could not be corrupted. His influence could not be purchased. However much he might be mistaken he was honest. In the fall of 1889, with his wife and youngest daughter, he carried out the dream of his life, crossed the Atlantic and made an extended tour of Europe, visiting many of the chief points of interest, his trip including a visit to the Paris Exposition and the world-renowned Passion Play. On his many journeys he was chary of good-bye scenes, preferring to start on a trip across the continent as though he was going to a neighbor's, and it was in pathetic keeping that his departure on the mystic journey was instant and without a parting word. He passed away suddenly of heart disease March 8, 1892, at his home in San Jose, and three days later his remains were interred in Oak Hill Cemetery.



**L**EWIS F. SKELLEY, the popular and efficient City Clerk of Decatur, who is now serving his second term in that office, has lived in the city for twenty-two years. He came here from Goshen, Ind., his birth having occurred

on a farm near that place February 22, 1853. His father, Walter Skelley, was a native of Ireland, who, crossing the briny deep, took up his residence in the Hoosier State. He crossed the Atlantic in 1826, landing in St. Johns, Newfoundland. Upon a farm near Goshen he resided until some sixteen years ago, when he died at the age of eighty. His wife had passed away five weeks previous, in her seventy-third year. They had been married fifty-one years.

Our subject is the youngest of their twelve children, ten of whom grew to manhood and womanhood and are still living. William now makes his home in Napa City, Cal.; Francis, who formerly engaged in the grocery business in Decatur, is now a farmer of Decatur Township; Patrick is living with his brother Lawrence in De Witt, Iowa; Mary is the wife of Ed Perry, of Omaha, Neb.; Matthew is engaged in farming in Elkhart, Ind.; Lawrence carries on agricultural pursuits near De Witt, Iowa; John makes his home in Decatur; Isabel is the wife of George Purl, of Goshen, Ind.; Teresa is the wife of John Collins, of Goshen; and Lewis completes the family.

Upon his father's farm in the Hoosier State our subject was reared to manhood, and in the common schools of the neighborhood acquired a good education. His two brothers, Francis and John, had removed to Decatur about the close of the war, and in 1871 they were joined by our subject, then a young man of eighteen years. Here he secured employment as a salesman with the firm of Milligan & Skelley, who were doing a grocery business, and continued in their store for two years. He was then employed in the book store of M. D. Coffeen and continued to devote his energies to that business for several years. In the mean time Mr. Milligan sold out his interest in the grocery store to our subject, and in 1879 the firm name was changed to Skelley & Co., and he did business along that line until the spring of 1882.

On the 20th of August, 1878, Mr. Skelley was joined in marriage with Miss Mary De Courcey, daughter of Patrick and Catherine De Courcey, of Decatur. They have become the parents of three sons, two of whom are living: Arthur, a lad of thirteen years; and Lewis, eight years of age.



James, the second son, died at the age of nine years. The Skelley family have a pleasant and comfortable home at No. 954 East William Street.

Our subject entered upon his official career in December, 1882, when he went into the County Clerk's office, serving as Deputy under George P. Hardy, with whom he continued up to the time of his election to the office of City Clerk, in 1891. In the spring of that year he was nominated on the Republican ticket, being opposed by F. C. Betzer, and although he had to overcome quite a strong Democratic majority he won the contest by a vote of one hundred and ninety-six. So faithfully did he fill the office that in 1893 he was again nominated by his party and won the election over C. W. Montgomery by a majority of fifty. The promptness and fidelity which he manifested in the discharge of his duties have won him warm commendation.



**W**ILLIAM C. OUTTEN, who is engaged in the practice of law as a member of the firm of Outten & Page, of Decatur, is a prominent member of the Macon County Bar, and the liberal patronage which he receives attests his skill and ability. His entire life has been passed in this State, his birth having occurred in Cass County July 23, 1843. His father, Purnel Stout Outten, was a native of Fayette County, Ky., and throughout the greater part of his life has followed farming and stock-raising. He married Rachel R. Berry, who was born in Virginia, and they became the parents of four children: Mary, wife of R. D. Wilson, of Decatur; Rachel, deceased; and William and Sarah, deceased. The mother died in 1846, and in 1848 Mr. Outten married Mary J., daughter of George and Lydia Ross, of Cass County, Ill. They had one child, George T., who was married, and died leaving two children, George C. and Cora B. The father of our subject came to Illinois in 1836, locating in Cass County, where he made his home until the spring of 1853, when

he came to Macon County. He had entered four hundred acres of land here in 1836, and in 1853 he built a house and began the development of his farm. Through his energy and good judgment he has been successful, and is one of the wealthiest men of Mt. Zion Township. His second wife having died April 27, 1893, he is now, in his eighty-fourth year, residing with his daughter, Mrs. R. D. Wilson, in Decatur, Ill. He has been a life-long member of the Methodist Church, and for many years was an office-holder in that organization.

Thomas Outten, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Virginia. He was a farmer and stock-trader, and died in middle life in Kentucky. William Berry, the maternal grandfather, was also a Virginian by birth, and became a pioneer of Cass County, Ill., where he died when past the age of four-score years.

William C. Outten lived in the county of his nativity until his tenth year, when with the family he came to this county. He was reared to manhood upon a farm, and in the common district schools acquired his primary education, which was supplemented by study in the Mt. Zion Academy. He afterward attended the Wesleyan University of Bloomington, Ill. Returning to Macon County on the completion of his course, he embarked in farming during the summer season, while in the winter he taught school for five months. He then devoted his energies exclusively to agricultural pursuits until the spring of 1873, when he removed to Ann Arbor, Mich., where he remained for two years engaged in the study of law. On his return to Decatur he entered the law office of Nelson & Roby, and afterward became a partner in the firm. On Mr. Nelson's election to the position of Circuit Judge, he continued with Mr. Roby, under the firm name of Roby & Outten, for a year, when E. P. Vail, the present Circuit Judge, was admitted to partnership. Business was then carried on under the style of Roby, Outten & Vail until the spring of 1881, when Mr. Roby retired. The two remaining partners carried on operations together until 1888, when Mr. Vail was elected to the Bench. Mr. Outten was then alone in practice until 1889, when the present firm of Outten & Page was established. Our subject has occupied



one office room since 1875. It is located at No. 207 South Park Street, and he enjoys a liberal patronage.

The home of Mr. Outten is situated at No. 570 West Prairie Street, and is presided over by an accomplished lady, to whom he gave his name September 28, 1865. In her maidenhood she was Miss Sarah Farrell, daughter of William E. and Anna D. (Ross) Farrell, of Macon County. Three children were born unto them, but all are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Outten hold an enviable position in social circles, and are members of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he serves as Trustee. His temperance principles have led him to espouse the cause of the Prohibition party. In addition to his home he owns a farm of one hundred and twenty acres near Henry City, Ill., and another tract of twenty acres in the same locality. Mr. Outten is a man of firm convictions, inflexible in support of what he believes to be right, and his honorable, upright career has gained him universal regard.



**S**TEBBINS KING, M. D., of Decatur, is not only well known to the medical profession and in social circles of this community, but is a gentleman and scholar of high attainments, who of late years has devoted much time to the study of metaphysics and psychology. He is the author of the "Black Spectre," published in "Godey's Lady's Book" in January, 1892, and has been the contributor of several interesting articles to the "Arena," among others a metaphysical story entitled "George Wentworth," which will appear in the September or October number of that magazine. Its sequel, "Lucile Gastrell," will be published in the near future. These articles set forth great metaphysical truths, clothed in a romantic covering.

The father of our subject is A. C. King, a retired merchant of Le Roy, McLean County, Ill. He is still a hale and hearty man at this writing

(1893), although he has reached the age of ninety years. He was born in Suffield, Conn., May 20, 1803, and in 1830 removed to Terre Haute, Ind., where he engaged in merchandising. The following year he returned to Hatfield, Mass., and married Emeline F. Stebbins, a native of Springfield, that State, who was born January 30, 1811. Bringing his young wife to the West, he continued in business in Terre Haute until 1837. In 1848 he went into business in Toronto, Ind., and in 1851 he opened a merchandise establishment in Le Roy, Ill., where he is still living. His wife died at Terre Haute, Ind., October 21, 1842. There were three children born of that union: James, of this sketch; William Rose, who was born September 5, 1838, and died October 1, 1849; and Caroline Rose, born September 13, 1840. For his second wife, Mr. King wedded Mrs. Bonnell, and unto them were born two children: Ellen Amelia, who was born January 4, 1845, and died in 1875; and Edward William, who was born July 22, 1848, and is a merchant of Le Roy. In 1875, Mr. King married Mrs. Emeline Cochrane, with whom he is still living.

We now take up the personal history of the Doctor, who was born in Terre Haute, Ind., May 9, 1836. He there attended school, and during vacations clerked in his father's store. He afterward engaged in teaching for about three years, and in 1856 began the study of medicine with Drs. Noble and Coleman, of Le Roy, Ill. He attended lectures at Rush Medical College, of Chicago, in 1858 and 1859, and in the winter of 1859-60 attended the Medical College of Ohio, in Cincinnati, from which he was graduated the following spring. Immediately afterward, he was elected physician at the Hotel for Invalids in Cincinnati. Later, he began practice in Lemont, Cook County, and was there married, December 31, 1860, to Miss Mary E. Carter, who was born at St. Catharines, Ontario, then Upper Canada. Her father, John Carter, died when she was quite small, and she was reared by her uncle, John Telyea, of Lemont.

In 1863, the Doctor left his home and practice and entered the army as a surgeon, serving until November, 1865, when he resigned his position. For the first six months he was surgeon in charge

of the Thirty-fifth Iowa Infantry, after which he was on duty as post surgeon at Vicksburg, whence he was transferred to Natchez, Miss., where he was in charge of the Officers' General Hospital, as well as the United States General Hospital. He was also military health officer of the city, and while still wearing the blue opened an office in Natchez, where he remained ten years. He enjoyed a large practice and gained the friendship and respect of many Southern people while still in the army.

It was while in Natchez that Dr. King was made a Mason. Becoming impressed with the beauties of Masonry while an army surgeon, he wished to unite with the order, and one day he happened to speak about joining to Samuel Stewart, of the Andrew Jackson Lodge of Natchez, saying that he presumed he would have to send his application North and be elected there before he could have the degrees conferred at Natchez. Mr. Stewart assured Dr. King that that would not be necessary, and that he could be elected there, for, although the lodge was largely composed of Confederate soldiers, Masonry knew no North and no South. His fellow-citizens of Natchez also prevailed upon the Doctor to accept the position of editor of the *Natchez Courier*, a tri-weekly, which advocated the colonization of the negro, and in connection with his regular practice he served on the editorial department of that paper for two years.

At the earnest solicitation of his wife's people, Dr. King returned to the North and resumed practice in Decatur May 4, 1874. He and his wife have a pleasant home at No. 844 North Water Street. They have two children: Cora Belle, wife of Frank P. Roach, a dry-goods merchant of Decatur; and Le Roy Carleton, who is United States agent for the California Fig Syrup Company.

The Doctor belongs to the Medical Society of Central Illinois, and is also a member of the Capital City Medical Society, and of the Illinois Army and Navy Medical Association. He has been very successful in his practice and thereby has gained a handsome competency, so that hereafter he intends to devote much of his time to literary pursuits, making a study of metaphysics. He is an associate member of the Society for Psychical Re-

search, an international organization, composed of the leading scientific men of England, France and the United States. His wife is Secretary of the Chautauqua Circle and of the Woman's Club, and devotes much of her time to literature. The Doctor and his wife are members of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, and our subject is a prominent Mason, having taken high degrees in that fraternity. In politics, he is a supporter of the Prohibition party.



ALFRED N. DIEHL holds a responsible position as foreman of the Hatfield Milling Company, of Decatur. He is a man of good business ability, industrious and enterprising, who has been connected with this mill since 1876, and has long served as its foreman. His seventeen years' connection with the company indicates his faithfulness to duty and the confidence reposed in him by his employers.

Mr. Diehl is a native of the Keystone State, his birth having occurred on the 24th of December, in York County. The family is of German descent and was founded in America at an early day. The grandfather of our subject, Jacob Diehl, was a native of Pennsylvania, and was a farmer, miller and distiller. He died when past the age of four-score years. Charles Diehl, the father of our subject, was also born in the same State, and became a prominent farmer of York County. He enlisted in the Mexican War, but saw no active service. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Leah Luthman, was of English descent. They were both members of the German Lutheran Church. The father died in 1873, at the age of seventy-six years, and his wife, who survived him until 1876, passed away at the age of sixty-five. They had a family of seven sons and six daughters, and with the exception of two who died in infancy all reached adult age. Those still living are Lucinda, Anna, Susanna, Jacob, Amanda, Rachel, Charles, Alfred N. and Edgar.



We find that the subject of our sketch was educated in the public schools of his native county and remained in Pennsylvania until seventeen years of age. He then followed Horace Greeley's advice and came to the West. It was in the fall of 1861 that he arrived in Illinois, locating in Decatur. In June of the following year, prompted by patriotic impulses and a desire to aid in the preservation of the Union, he entered the service of his country as a member of Company I, Sixty-eighth Illinois Infantry, for three months, and when his term had expired was mustered out, in September, 1862. He then returned to Pennsylvania, where he began learning the miller's trade, but about this time Gen. Lee invaded the State, and he resolved to again take up arms in defense of his country. His parents opposing this, he went to Indiana, and after working on a farm for a short time enlisted in Company A, Eleventh Indiana Cavalry, with which he served through all the campaigns until after the cessation of hostilities. He was frequently engaged in scouting duty, and participated in the battles of Nashville and Spring Hill. In June, 1865, the regiment was ordered to Kansas to guard the Indians, until a treaty had been made which insured peace. They then guarded railroads and overland trains, which were seldom safe from attack in those days.

After the war Mr. Diehl returned to Decatur, and resumed the milling trade, being in the employ of D. S. Shellabarger & Co. for nine years. He then spent one year in Pekin, Ill., holding an interest in the mill, which was destroyed by fire in the spring of 1876. On his return to Decatur, he associated himself with George Priest & Co., owners of a burr-mill. In 1881 and 1882, he superintended the erection of a new mill, which was supplied with a new roller process, eighteen double sets of rolls, with a capacity of four hundred barrels of flour per day. In 1883 it became the property of John Hatfield & Co., and in 1888 the style of the firm was changed to the Hatfield Milling Company, under which name business is now conducted.

On the 9th of April, 1872, Mr. Diehl was married to Miss Annie Garver, daughter of David and Anna (Melhorn) Garver, who came from Penn-

sylvania to Macon County in an early day. Socially, Mr. Diehl is a member of Dunham Post No. 141, G. A. R. In politics, he is a staunch supporter of the Republican party, and served as Alderman of the Fourth Ward from 1882 until 1884. His hopes of benefiting his financial condition by emigrating to the West have been realized, for he has met with fair success during his residence in Illinois.



CASSIDY CHENOWETH, M. D., has engaged in the practice of medicine in Decatur since 1869. He was graduated from Rush Medical College on the 3d of February of that year, and immediately took up his life work in this city, where his father, Dr. W. J. Chenoweth, had already gained an enviable reputation as one of the leading physicians of Macon County. Our subject was the elder child and only son of that veteran practitioner. His sister, Eliza, is the widow of Richard Piper, who was a photographer, and perhaps the most popular artist that has ever lived in Decatur. He was killed several years ago by being thrown from a buggy while visiting in Kentucky. Mrs. Piper now makes her home with her father.

The gentleman whose name heads this sketch was born on the 28th of March, 1848, at Poplar Plains, Fleming County, Ky., and was brought by his parents to Illinois when a lad of six years. He was reared to manhood in this city, and in the earlier days knew every man, woman and child living in this place. He attended the public schools, but his health was delicate and he left school for a time, going out on his father's farm, in the northwestern part of the county. As a child he learned a great deal about medicine in his father's office, and from his seventeenth year he has been a close student of medicine and surgery. Choosing its practice as his life work, he entered Rush Medical College and was graduated, as before stated. In order to further perfect himself, he went to Europe in 1873, and spent about



six months in London, attending the hospitals of that city. He made a specialty of the study of throat and lung diseases, and has excellent success in practice along that line. In the following fall he returned to Decatur. He has earned his well-deserved popularity through his skill and ability, and is enjoying a large and lucrative practice. The Chenoweths are by popular consent the leading physicians of the Hub City.

The lady who now bears the name of Mrs. Chenoweth was, in her maidenhood, Miss Harriet M. Honn, daughter of Samuel Franklin Honn, of Chicago, and a sister of Mrs. Mary Belle Freeley, the author of "Fair to Look Upon." Their family numbers only two children: William James, a young man of twenty-one years; and Bruce II., who is studying law with Charles C. La Forge, of Decatur.

Dr. Chenoweth is a member of the Illinois Medical Society, the Macon County Medical Society, and the District Medical Society of Central Illinois. He is also connected with the leading clubs of the city, and holds membership with Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T. In politics he is a stalwart Republican. He is recognized as one of the leading and influential citizens of Decatur, for he always takes a prominent part in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community and the promotion of those enterprises which will advance the educational, moral and social interests of the place.



**C**HARLES M. FARNHAM, who devotes his time and attention to agricultural pursuits, is the owner of a good farm on section 5, Milan Township. He was born on the 17th of February, 1851, in Tunbridge, Vt., and was the youngest in a family of three children, two sons and a daughter. Hebbard, the eldest child, is now engaged in agricultural pursuits in the Green Mountain State, and the sister died in infancy.

The father of our subject, Milo Farnham, was also born in Vermont and was of Welsh descent. His grandfather came from Wales to this country in Colonial days and served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, valiantly aiding the Colonies in their struggle for independence. Milo Farnham was a mechanic by trade and spent his entire life in the State of his nativity, where he died at the age of forty-five years. His wife, who was of English lineage, was also a native of Vermont, and was called to the home beyond when sixty-two years of age.

We now take up the personal history of our subject, whose well and worthily spent life deserves a place in this volume. He was only about a year old at the time of his father's death, and then went to live with his grandparents, with whom he remained until fourteen years of age. He then began earning his own livelihood by working as a farm hand by the month, and was thus employed for several years, when, in connection with his brother, he purchased a small farm, which together they cultivated until 1877. In that year Mr. Farnham sold his interest in the farm to his brother, and, coming to Illinois, sought a home in Macon County, where he has since resided. He hoped to better his financial condition by this remove, and his hope has been realized.

After his arrival in this State, Mr. Farnham again worked as a farm hand by the month for a period of two years, after which he rented land for five years. It was in Moultrie County that he first purchased a farm, and he carried on its cultivation and development for six years. When that period had passed by he sold his land and, coming to Macon County, his next purchase made him the possessor of the farm on which he now resides. It comprises eighty acres of arable land, and its well-tilled fields yield to the owner a golden tribute in return for the care and cultivation he bestows upon them.

In October, 1883, Mr. Farnham was married to Miss Ollie Bromley, of this county, a daughter of Brewel and Laura Bromley. One child has been born of their union, Maude, a little maiden of two summers, who is the delight of the household and the joy of her parents. In his political faith, Mr.

Farnham is a Republican. His wife is a member of the Baptist Church, and to its support he contributes liberally, giving freely of his means, as he does to all other enterprises calculated to promote the general welfare or aid in the upbuilding of the county.



**S**ULLIVAN BURGESS, City Engineer of Decatur, is one of the honored pioneers of this county and also one of the pioneers in railroad work in Illinois. He has superintended the construction of hundreds of miles of road in this State and surveyed as much more. When we see that it is only through the railway system that the great West has been opened, and that thereby Illinois has become one of the first States in the Union, we see how much is due to those pioneers of railroad construction.

The life of our subject has been an eventful one. He was born in old Concord, Mass., June 6, 1828, in the old Wright Tavern, where Maj. Piteairn, who commanded the British troops, made his headquarters and stirred the historical glass of wine with his bleeding fingers, swearing that he would make the Yankees bleed worse than that. The youth of Mr. Burgess was passed in the cultured atmosphere which surrounded Concord, then the home of Thoreau, the Alcotts, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Ralph Waldo Emerson. He was a great favorite of the last-named, who was a great lover of children. Mr. Burgess' father kept the livery stable and often drove Emerson to Boston. The parents of our subject, Silas and Ann (Eaton) Burgess, were both descended from old Puritan families, and named their son in honor of Gen. Sullivan. He acquired a most excellent education in the fine schools of Concord, from which he was graduated. At the age of eighteen he engaged with an engineering corps, employed in the survey of the Vermont-Central Railroad, and in the winter of 1849 he carried the chain across the river to Montreal for the Victoria Bridge, crossing on the ice, which

was then full of holes, making the trip a very dangerous one.

In the fall of 1852, having become assistant engineer in charge of construction, Mr. Burgess went to Springfield, Ill., with the chief engineer, Col. Carter, to engage in the survey of the Wabash Railroad. The only road in the capital city at that time was one running from Meredosia to Springfield, a distance of fifty miles. It was made of old strap iron rail. In December of that year they ran a line to Decatur, and with a party of surveyors Mr. Burgess came to this city on a preliminary survey, reaching his destination on Christmas Day. Here he made his headquarters and began to arrange for the permanent location of the line, having charge of the construction as resident engineer. He found Macon County at that time an almost unimproved prairie. There were few settlements and this city was a mere hamlet. In 1855, Mr. Burgess superintended the building of the road to Danville. From 1856 until 1861 he engaged in real-estate business, including the selling of land for the Illinois Central Railroad Company as a general railroad agent, probably selling some ten thousand acres of land to original settlers.

During this time, Mr. Burgess was married. In 1857, he wedded Miss Strobeck, of Potsdam, N. Y., a cousin of the late Col. Nathan Tupper. After a short married life of a year and a-half she was called to the home beyond. On the 30th of October, 1860 in Abington, Mass., Mr. Burgess married Miss Sarah J. Brown, and unto them were born two children: Annie Evelyn, wife of J. R. Haworth, of Des Moines, Iowa; and Silas Norton, who is employed to add the finishing touches to fine furniture in a Chicago factory.

In April, 1861, Mr. Burgess began the survey for the Decatur & Champaign Railroad Company, now the Illinois Central, but after Ft. Sumpter was fired upon all railroad construction ceased and attention was turned to the raising of troops. During the war our subject and D. S. Stafford invented a riding cultivator for farm use, which proved quite successful. At the State Fair of 1863 held at Decatur, it took the first premium. This induced Barber & Hawley, of Pekin, Ill., manufacturers of the Haynes Harvester, to come to Decatur



and build what is now the Chambers, Bering & Quinlan agricultural implement shops, investing about \$50,000 in the same. They made a contract with Messrs. Stafford & Burgess to manufacture their cultivators, paying a royalty of \$5 on each one. In 1863 they manufactured twenty-five hundred, in 1864 four thousand, and in 1865 five thousand.

During this time, Mr. Burgess traveled on the road introducing the cultivator for the manufacturers. In 1867 the Decatur & East St. Louis Railroad was incorporated by local parties, and our subject and C. A. Tuttle were engaged to make the survey and make plans and specifications. The property afterwards passed into the hands of the Wabash Company, by which Mr. Burgess was employed as civil engineer in constructing the road to Litchfield, a distance of sixty miles. This completed in the fall of 1870, he was employed by the Decatur & State Line Railroad Company in the same capacity on a road to Chicago, now a part of the Wabash system. In 1871, he went to Bloomington and was made Chief Engineer of the Bloomington & La Fayette Railroad, having charge of the construction from Bloomington to the State line. In 1874, he was elected City Engineer of Decatur holding the position for six years. From 1880 until 1882, he was employed on the survey and construction of the branch road from Bates to Jersey Landing. This was intended to bridge the Mississippi, but when Gould secured possession of the east bridge at St. Louis the line was practically abandoned. During the succeeding three years, Mr. Burgess traveled in California and the West for his health, but indolence and idleness being utterly foreign to his nature, he could not lay aside all work, so aided in building street railways. In 1886 and 1887, he was engaged in making surveys from Centralia southward for the Jacksonville & Southeastern Railroad, and was then appointed City Engineer of Decatur, which office he has since filled.

Although the greater part of his attention has been given to railway construction, Mr. Burgess has devoted some time to other interests. Messrs. Tuttle & Burgess built a sawmill in Ramsey, Ill., and cleared fifteen hundred acres of land, making

the timber into railroad ties, lumber and wood for fuel purposes. At one time they had five thousand cords on hand. Nearly all of the fourteen miles of brick paving in the city has been done under our subject's supervision. He was for several years superintendent of the Water Works of Decatur, and in 1858 Tuttle & Burgess purchased an interest in the hardware store of Close & Morehouse, which Mr. Burgess managed for a year and a-half. In 1866, he established a manufactory in Springfield, Ohio, for the building of cultivators. Few men have led a more busy or useful life than Mr. Burgess. On the large Transportation Building at the World's Fair in Chicago is a quotation from Macaulay, saying that to no one are we more indebted than to him who has made rapid transit possible. We thus see then what a debt of gratitude is due Mr. Burgess for his work in constructing the magnificent railroad system of Illinois, which surpasses that of any other State in the Union.



**D**R. JOSEPH KING, who is now living a retired life at No. 719 North Main Street, Decatur, was born in Wythe County, W. Va., on the 31st of December, 1808. His parents, William and Catherine (Steffy) King, were natives of the same State and were of German descent. The former was a farmer of his native State and lived upon the old King homestead, which he had inherited from his father, John King. Having survived his wife several years, he died at the old home at the age of seventy. Their children were Joseph; Reuben and Elizabeth, both deceased; Valentine, a resident of Marshall, Ill.; William, also deceased; and Christopher, who is farming on the old homestead in Virginia.

The subject of this sketch was reared to manhood in West Virginia and Ohio. His early education was acquired in the old-time subscription schools. Having determined to enter the medical profession, he became a student in the Sixth Street Ohio Medical College, of Cincinnati, and later began prac-

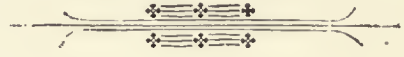


tice in Virginia. On leaving the Old Dominion, he removed to Lancaster, Ohio, where he continued in practice for a time, but later returned to Virginia. Subsequently he once more made his home in Lancaster, and in 1837 came to Illinois, taking up his residence in Decatur, where he has since made his home, covering a period of fifty-five years. The county was then in its infancy; there were often large herds of deer to be seen, and wolves were very numerous and troublesome. The prairie grass grew higher than a man's head, and it seemed that the work of upbuilding and developing the county had scarcely begun, but the Doctor at once energetically began practice and successfully continued the prosecution of his profession until quite recently.

On the 8th of December, 1842, Dr. King married Miss Maryette Packard, a native of Vermont and a daughter of Syllas and Lydia (Tracey) Packard, who emigrated to Illinois in 1830, coming the whole distance with a team in company with two other families. They left their homes in Vermont in April and arrived in Macon County in June. They had started for Springfield, but learning that the Government land was all sold in that locality they decided to locate in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Packard became the parents of three sons and two daughters, but one son died in infancy, and Catherine Agnes, the eldest, also died when quite young. John Eberle, a druggist of Decatur, married Sarah Emma Jackson, and unto them has been born a daughter, Lillian Clara. Clara L. is the wife of R. R. Montgomery, a real-estate agent of Decatur, and they have three children, Robert Du Fay, Richard J. and Cora May. Willic J. is married and lives in Chicago.

The Doctor was the founder of Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M.; also of Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M., in both of which he still holds membership. He is also one of the charter members of the Odd Fellows' lodge of Decatur, and his wife belongs to the Episcopal Church. In politics, he was formerly a Whig, but since the organization of the Republican party has been one of its stalwart supporters. His long residence in the county and his professional duties have brought him a wide acquaintance, and his well-spent life has gained him

many warm friends. He has been a witness of almost the entire growth and development of the county, and well deserve representation among its honored pioneers.



CHARLES W. CLOUD, a prosperous farmer and pioneer settler of Macon County, residing on section 12, Milan Township, was born October 17, 1852, in Moultrie County, just across the county line from where he now resides. He is the second in a family of six children, whose parents were Joel and Nancy (Rayborn) Cloud. The eldest, Martha, is now deceased; Henry is residing in this county; Mary makes her home with her mother; Frank is a real-estate dealer of Decatur; and John G. follows farming in this county. The father of this family was born in Orange County, N. C., and on coming West entered land in Moultrie County. In 1857 he came to this county and settled in Milan Township, where he purchased a tract of wild land from the Illinois Central Railroad Company. He was united in marriage with Miriam Freeland, of Moultrie County, but after two years her death occurred, and in 1849 he was married to Miss Nancy Rayborn. Mr. Cloud was the first settler of Milan Township. He devoted his energies to farm work until October, 1861, when he enlisted in Company H, Fifth Illinois Cavalry, in which he served until the 14th of April, 1862, on which day he departed this life, his death resulting from an attack of the measles. His remains were interred at Pilot Knob, Mo. Mrs. Cloud is a native of Roane County, Tenn., and is of German lineage. In an early day she came to this State, and is still living on the old homestead farm in Milan Township.

We now take up the personal history of our subject, who well deserves representation in this volume, for his entire life has been passed in this community and he has witnessed almost its entire growth and upbuilding. He has always remained

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*J. D. Tait*





*C. R. Fair*

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

at home with his mother and carried on the farm for her. He is an enterprising and successful agriculturist and is now the owner of two hundred and forty-nine acres of rich land. The farm is a valuable and desirable one. It is supplied with good buildings, a substantial residence, the latest improved machinery and all the accessories and conveniences of a model farm of the nineteenth century; and its neat and tasty appearance indicates the careful supervision of the owner.

Mr. Cloud is a man of industry and energy, and to his own efforts may be attributed his success in life, so that he may truly be called a self-made man. He is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and his honorable, upright career has won him high regard. During his long residence in this community he has ever borne his part in the upbuilding and development of the county and has aided in the advancement of its best interests. The family is numbered among the honored pioneers, and this record is well deserving of a place in the history of the county.



JAMES D. TAIT, who is now living a retired life at his pleasant home at No. 240 East Jefferson Street, Decatur, is numbered among the honored pioneers of Macon County, and well deserves representation in this volume. He traces his ancestors back to natives of the Emerald Isle, his grandparents having lived and died in that country. His father, Samuel Tait, was born in Ireland, and, having emigrated to America, became a farmer of Beaver County, Pa., where he died in 1831, at the age of sixty-six years. His wife, who was also born in Ireland, and who bore the maiden name of Martha Hogue, survived him for a number of years, and passed away in Beaver County, at the advanced age of ninety-two. They had a family of nine children, as follows: John, Jane, Robert, Samuel, Thomas, Martha, James D., Ross and Matthew. Only three

of the family beside our subject are now living: Thomas, a resident of Niles, Ohio; Ross, of Newton, Iowa; and Matthew, who makes his home near Newcastle, Pa.

Our subject, the other surviving member, was born in Beaver County, Pa., July 15, 1817, and remained at home until fourteen years of age. His father having died, he was then bound out to learn the saddler's trade. He traveled for a number of years as a journeyman and in 1839 came to this county, establishing the first harness and saddlery shop in Decatur. He followed that business for six years, or until failing health compelled him to abandon it, when he turned his attention to farming, purchasing one hundred and twenty acres of land two miles north of Decatur. A portion of this he bought for \$5 per acre. He now owns a fine farm of two hundred and fifty acres, and its present value, owing to its highly cultivated state and the many improvements thereon, is not less than \$100 per acre. He remained on his farm until 1876, when he removed to the city, where he has a good home property.

On the 14th of June, 1842, Mr. Tait was united in marriage with Miss Susan, daughter of Joseph and Barbara (Benson) Spangler, natives of Pennsylvania. Five children were born unto them, but James, Daniel and Robert are now deceased, Joseph and Felix being the only ones now living. The mother of this family died May 28, 1882. She was a member of the Universalist Church, in which Mr. Tait has served as Trustee for many years. On the 11th of January, 1884, he was again married, this union being with Mrs. Catherine Rea, widow of Samuel Rea, and a daughter of John and Magdeline (Gudtner) Dennis.

In the early days, Mr. Tait served as County Commissioner, and was also Township Assessor, but he has never been an office-seeker. On coming to Decatur he made the journey by way of New Orleans and St. Louis, thence up the Illinois River to Naples, and on foot across the country to this city. He carried his tools on his back and waded through swamps waist deep. On his arrival the southern part of Decatur was covered with timber and brush, and the present site of Central Park was covered with a thick growth of hazel. He has



witnessed the city's growth from a mere village to a city of twenty thousand inhabitants, with fine schools, churches, residences, large manufacturing establishments and industries, and all that goes to make up a thriving and progressive place. He has taken a commendable interest in the growth and development of the place and Macon County, and has ever born his part in the discharge of public duties. He is highly esteemed for his sterling worth and his many excellencies of character, and well deserves mention in the history of the county which numbers him among its pioneers.



**G**EORGE V. LORING is the popular and efficient County Surveyor of Macon County, his home being in Decatur. He was first elected to that office in 1869, and has held the position continuously since, covering a period of almost a quarter of a century. No higher testimonial to his faithfulness and fidelity to duty could be given than the fact of his long-continued service. He had previously been Deputy Surveyor in McLean County for several years, and thus entered the office with experience.

Mr. Loring was born in Worcester County, Mass., May 8, 1837, a son of Lucius and Elizabeth (Moore) Loring. The former was of Scotch descent and was a boot and shoe manufacturer. He died when our subject was only about eight years of age. The Moore family is of Irish origin, and the mother spent her entire life in Massachusetts. Their children were as follows: Elizabeth A., who became the wife of James Babbit, of Oakham, Mass., and who died at the age of thirty, leaving several children; Thomas, a resident farmer of New Braintree Township, Worcester County, Mass.; Lauriet, who became the wife of Ethan Bothwell, and died in Worcester County at the age of thirty-five, leaving a family; Marietta, wife of B. Cornwell, a contractor and builder of Decatur; Theodore, who died at the age of three years; George,

of this sketch; and Frank, who resides on the old Loring homestead with the younger brother, Arthur, who married Miss Lizzie Dean, and has five children.

When a lad of nine summers, his father having died the previous year, our subject left home to earn a livelihood, and has since made his own way in the world. He worked on a farm in Massachusetts, and at intervals attended school. He emigrated to McLean County, Ill., in 1857, being then a young man of twenty years, and went to work on his uncle's farm near Bloomington. The next year he purchased an interest in the farm, which was known as the Ocoya Stock Farm, and was located in Livingston County. Mr. Loring helped to lay out the village of Ocoya, Ill., on the Chicago & Alton Railroad, and became its first Station Agent and Postmaster.

In the fall of 1861, Mr. Loring sold his farm, and in the following spring entered the service of his country, enlisting in Company E, of the Yates Sharpshooters for three years. He served in Mississippi and participated in the battle of New Madrid. Later he was detailed to conduct prisoners captured at Island No. 10 to Chicago. When he returned the Union troops had just won the battle of Shiloh, after which his company advanced to Corinth. He participated in the second battle of Corinth, October 4, 1862, the battle of Iuka and other engagements. After the war was over, he was honorably discharged in Chicago on account of physical disability. He had entered the service as a private, but was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

On returning to his home, Mr. Loring joined a corps of engineers who were surveying in McLean County, and has since been engaged in the business which he to-day follows. He was married in 1868, the lady of his choice being Miss Elizabeth Risley, daughter of A. T. Risley, of Decatur. A family of six children has been born unto them, but Roy died at the age of twelve years, and Cora and Ira both died in infancy. The living members of the family are Frank, a youth of fourteen, who is pursuing a regular college course in St. Louis; Ida May, twelve years of age; and Lucile, a little maiden of six summers. Mr. and Mrs. Loring have

a pleasant home at No. 801 East Wood Street. The lady is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Loring is a true and tried Republican, who warmly advocates the principles of the party which was the Union's defense in the hour of peril. Socially, he is a member of the Grand Army Post of Decatur. For his success in life he deserves great credit, as he had many disadvantages and difficulties to meet in early life.



**W**ILLIAM L. HAMMER, who has laid aside all business cares except the official duties connected with the office of Justice of the Peace, is numbered among the early and representative citizens of Decatur. For forty years he has been identified with the public interests of this city, and well deserves representation in the history of Macon County. Born on the 2d of November, 1817, in Winchester, Clark County, Ky., he is a son of Frederick and Elizabeth (Webb) Hammer, both of whom were natives of that State. He comes of an old family of New Jersey, however, his grandfather, John Hammer, having been born there. The latter was a farmer, and became one of the pioneers of Kentucky, living in Clark and Monroe Counties. Frederick Hammer was a blacksmith and farmer. After attaining to mature years he married Miss Webb, daughter of Aden Webb, her father being a native of England and her mother of Ireland. They were married in Virginia and reared a family of three sons and two daughters, all of whom are now deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hammer were born eight sons and two daughters, seven of whom are now living, as follows: William L., Lucian W., Addison W., Silas R., Seth R., Mary (widow of Andrew D. Northcutt), and Sanford G.

The father of this family was a blacksmith and farmer. He came to Illinois in 1827, locating in Sangamon County, sixteen miles southwest of Springfield, where he made his home for ten years. In 1837, he took up his residence near Moweaqua, Christian County, where he entered a farm of

three hundred and seventy-four acres. That he afterwards sold, and then bought land two miles east of Taylorville, removing to that farm in 1848. Abandoning his trade of blacksmithing, he turned all of his attention to the cultivation of his two hundred and thirty acres of land and to stock-raising. His death occurred at the old home in 1867, in his seventy-third year. His wife survived him three years, and passed away in her seventy-sixth year. They were both for many years members of the Baptist Church, but shortly before his death Mr. Hammer left that denomination and became an adherent of the Christian Church.

We now take up the personal history of our subject, who with his parents came to Illinois when a lad of ten summers. He acquired his education in the schools of his native State and after coming West, and was reared in the usual manner of farmer lads, remaining at home, giving his father the benefit of his services, until twenty-five years of age. He was living in Christian County at the time he attained his majority. In 1846, he was elected Sheriff of that county and served for a term of four years, after which he engaged in merchandising for two years.

On the 11th of October, 1853, a wedding ceremony was performed which united the destinies of Mr. Hammer and Isabel M., daughter of Thomas East, a native of Adams County, Ohio. By their union they became the parents of five sons and three daughters, as follows: Leslie E., now deceased; Park S.; Guy, who died in his second year; Ruth, wife of John E. Grove, a dry-goods salesman of Decatur; Cora, now the wife of Arthur E. Speneer, of Joplin, Mo.; Eve; William A.; and Harold C.

About a year after his marriage, Mr. Hammer left Christian County and came to Decatur. From 1854 until 1856 he engaged in the dry-goods business. Following this latter year he was elected Justice of the Peace to fill a vacancy, and in 1859 was returned to that office. In 1860 he was elected Clerk of the Circuit Court and served eight years, after which he engaged in the banking business with T. O. and E. O. Smith and J. Q. Odor. This connection was continued for six years, when Mr. Hammer retired. He was also engaged in the grocery business during the same period. From



that time, he lived a retired life until 1889, when he was again elected Justice of the Peace, and having been re-elected in the spring of 1893, he now holds the office. He was also honored with the position of Mayor in 1869.

In 1883, our subject was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 11th of August, at the age of forty-nine years, in the faith of the Methodist Church. The "Squire" is a member of the Christian Church, and fraternally is connected with Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M.; Decatur Council No. 16, R. & S. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T. He is also a member of Celestial Lodge No. 186, I. O. O. F. In politics, he was originally a Whig and a disciple of Henry Clay. Since the organization of the Republican party he has been one of its staunch advocates. As we have seen, he has been honored with a number of local offices, and his official duties have ever been discharged with a promptness and fidelity that have won him the commendation of all. He is a public-spirited and progressive citizen, one who manifests a warm interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community in which he has so long made his home. He resides at No. 371 West North Street, and is surrounded by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.



**R**OBERT M. BLACK, who owns a farm of forty acres pleasantly located four miles northeast of Macon, on section 25, South Macon Township, is numbered among the honored pioneers of the county, for he was born in Mt. Zion Township, October 22, 1839. In a family of seven children born unto Abraham and Eleanor (Davidson) Black, he was the fourth in order of birth. Margaret, the eldest, is the wife of George Riber, a blacksmith of Blue Mound; Naney A. became the wife of Abraham Nitzler, and died leaving three children; Sarah Ann is the wife of John Downey, a wagon-maker of Mt. Zion; Robert

is the next younger; Catherine is the widow of James T. Scott, and she too resides in Mt. Zion; and Thomas B. died in the army. The father of this family was born in Virginia in 1800, and when a young man came to Illinois. In this State he married Miss Davidson, who was born in South Carolina in 1811, and with her parents emigrated to Wayne County, Ill., during her early girlhood. From that place the family came to Macon County. Mr. Black served in the Black Hawk War, and throughout his life followed the occupation of farming in pursuit of fortune. His death occurred in 1852, and his wife, who survived him for many years, passed away in 1882.

Our subject was only fourteen years of age when his father died, and as he was the eldest son of the family the care of the farm and the support of his mother and her children devolved upon his young shoulders, but he faithfully performed the task and remained upon the home farm until twenty-two years of age. He then felt that his country needed his services, and, donning the blue, he enlisted on the 13th of August, 1862, as a member of Company C, One Hundred and Sixteenth Infantry, in which he served until the 3d of June, 1863, when he was discharged on account of disability, the effect of an attack of measles.

On being mustered out of service, Mr. Black returned to Macon County, where he has since made his home, with the exception of five years spent in Moultrie County, Ill. On the 6th of June, 1867, he was united in marriage with Miss Susanna E. McMullen, who was born in Ohio November 15, 1848. Five children, three sons and two daughters, grace this union: Charles, now a resident farmer of Woodbury County, Iowa; Dora May, wife of George Traugher, a farmer of Macon County; David Thomas, Burton and Naney Ellen, who are still under the parental roof.

Mr. Black is a Republican in politics, having supported that party since attaining his majority. Socially, he is a member of Tom White Post No. 529, G. A. R., of Mt. Zion, which was named in honor of Capt. Tom White, who commanded the company of which our subject was a member. Mr. Black is now serving as Commissioner of Highways and as School Director of his district, and



the community finds in him a faithful and capable officer. He is a man of strict integrity, whose word is as good as his bond. The same generous spirit that prompted his care of his mother, and the same loyalty which caused him to go to the front during the late war, have characterized his entire life and made him numbered among the best citizens of his native county.

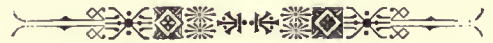


**H**ENRY P. PAGE, an attorney-at-law of Decatur, and a member of the firm of Outten & Page, comes from an old family of the Bay State, which was probably established there in early Colonial days. His paternal grandfather was born in that State, and became a well-to-do farmer of Hawley, Mass. His maternal grandfather, John Putnam, was also a native of Massachusetts, and was a sheep-raiser and farmer. Their children, Phineas L. Page and Julia Putnam, who became the parents of our subject, were born, reared and married in Massachusetts. The latter died in 1869, at the age of forty-two years. She was a member of the Congregational Church, to which Mr. Page also belongs. The latter left his old home in 1873, and removed to Ann Arbor, Mich., where he engaged in the practice of law for some time, but is now living retired in Chicago, Ill. He held a number of public offices during his residence in Massachusetts, and was at one time Judge of the City Courts of Pittsfield. He was again married, in 1871, his second union being with Miss Lora A., daughter of Elijah Eldridge, of Springfield. By his first union he had four sons: Henry, of this sketch; Dwight B., who died April 3, 1893, at the age of thirty-one years; Charles S. and William L. By the second union was born a son, Benjamin E.

The subject of this sketch spent the first thirteen years of his life in the State of his birth, and in its public schools obtained his early education. He accompanied his father on his removal to Michigan, and afterward became a student at Ann Ar-

bor, in the University of Michigan, from which institution he was graduated in the Class of '83. When his school life was ended, he came to Decatur, and in this city engaged in teaching for four years. Determining to enter the legal profession, while teaching he took up the study of law, and in 1887 was admitted to the Bar, since which time he has been engaged in active practice. In 1889 he formed a partnership with William C. Outten, under the firm name of Outten & Page, which connection has continued up to the present.

On the 22d of June, 1886, Mr. Page was united in marriage with Miss Anna A. Farrell, daughter of William E. and Anna D. (Ross) Farrell. Two daughters grace this union, Florence S. and Helen. Socially, our subject is connected with Decatur Council No. 92, R. L. In politics he is independent and is not an aspirant for political preferment, desiring rather to devote his time and attention to his profession, in which he will no doubt win an enviable reputation, for he has already secured a liberal patronage.



**J**OHN R. MILLER, who resides at his beautiful home at No. 303 West Main Street is one of the well-known citizens of Decatur. He was born in Bourbon County, Ky., September 9, 1831. His father, John A. Miller, was a native of the same State, and came of a family of German origin, which was founded in Kentucky in 1800. He was a soldier in the War of 1812, and, as a member of Johnson's cavalry, took part in the battle with the Indian chief, Tecumseh. His death occurred in 1842. His wife bore the maiden name of Jane Levesque, and was of French descent. She was called to her final home in 1847.

The brother of our subject, Jacob H. Miller, was born in Bourbon County, Ky., and came to Decatur in 1861. He had formerly lived in Crawfordsville, Ind., and was an intimate friend of Lew

Wallace. In his early years he was a prominent Mason. After coming to Decatur he was made Treasurer of the County Agricultural Board, which position he held for many years, or until his death. He was also Treasurer of the old volunteer fire department, and after his death the department had his portrait painted in oil to hang in their hall. He was a fine-looking gentleman, very popular, and had the respect and esteem of a large circle of friends and acquaintances. He made his home with our subject, and there died December 14, 1881, at the age of forty-seven.

John R. Miller remained with his mother until he began serving a four-years apprenticeship to the tailor's trade, and after his term was completed he remained with his employer for several years longer. In Paris, Bourbon County, Ky., September 1, 1856, he wedded Miss Mary E. Galloway, who was born in Fayette County, Ky., February 17, 1826. Her grandfather, David Galloway, lived in Botetourt County, Va., and Mrs. Miller has in her possession an old paper dated April 18, 1779, which is his oath of allegiance to the State of Virginia. He was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, December 9, 1736, and died March 2, 1812. He was married September 23, 1762, to Mary Johnson, who was born August 10, 1739, and died February 12, 1813. Their marriage certificate is in the possession of Mrs. Miller, as is the old family Bible, printed in Edinburgh in 1764. Mrs. Miller also has many other interesting relics of Colonial and Revolutionary days, including some handsome needlework done by her grandmother more than one hundred years ago.

Joseph Galloway, father of Mrs. Miller, was born in Kentucky June 25, 1782, and was married February 17, 1821, to Elizabeth Crawford, daughter of the Rev. James Crawford, a Presbyterian minister, who built the Walnut Hill Church, seven miles from Lexington, Fayette County, and to its advancement devoted his life. His old autograph hymn-book, which was printed in Philadelphia in 1795, and in which he has placed the date 1797, is in the possession of his granddaughter. It was used by him through fifty years of active service in the ministry. The centennial celebration of the erection of the old stone church

built through his instrumentality was celebrated some ten years ago, and Mrs. Miller, his only surviving descendant, received a special invitation to be present on the occasion. Joseph Galloway died December 12, 1842, and his wife passed away March 2, 1845.

Immediately after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Miller removed to Decatur, where they have since made their home. He purchased property, and soon afterward began selling lots to a real-estate man. This was his beginning in real-estate dealings, which he has since extensively followed. As a member of the firm of Miller & Packard, he laid out an addition in the northwestern part of Decatur. He formerly owned the entire block on which the postoffice now stands, there making his home for thirty-five years. He has erected several of the business houses of the city, including the postoffice, which was built in 1874. He also built the City Hall. His life has been one of untiring energy and enterprise, and his perseverance and good management have won him the handsome property which is but the just reward of his labors.

In politics Mr. Miller is a staunch supporter of the Democratic party and keeps well informed on the issues of the day, but he has never been a politician in the sense of office-seeking. He greatly enjoys travel, and takes much delight in fishing and other outdoor sports. He has a pleasant cottage at Mackinaw Falls, where each summer he and his estimable wife spend several weeks.



**F**RANCIS E. DESPRES, who is engaged in general farming on section 21, Pleasant View Township, is a native of the Buckeye State. He was born in Wayne County on the 2d of December, 1847. His father was born in France in 1823, and with his parents came to America when only six years of age. He was reared to manhood upon a farm, and in 1864 came to Macon County, where he has since made his home.



Here he has engaged in farming, having purchased land soon after his arrival. The mother of our subject, who bore the maiden name of Euphrosena Cotty, is also a native of France, who was born in 1823 and is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Despres had a family of twelve children, but eight of that number are now deceased. Those who still survive are Mary, wife of James M. Day, a farmer residing in southwestern Kansas; Francis E., of this sketch; Jennie, wife of Millard Pope, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in this community; and Delphia, wife of Fred Ketchum, a machinist of Bluff Springs, Sangamon County, Ill.

In taking up the sketch of Francis Despres, we present to our readers a life record of one of Macon County's worthy citizens. The first sixteen years of his life were passed under the parental roof in the State of his nativity. He then came with his parents to Macon County, where he has since resided. Upon the home farm he remained, giving his father the benefit of his services, until twenty-four years of age, when he was married to Miss Pauline Young, who is the daughter of Benedict and Cecelia Young, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. The young couple began their domestic life upon a part of the old home farm, which Mr. Despres rented and which he operated until 1882. In that year he went with his family to southwestern Kansas, where he remained for ten years. His business ventures were not very successful, and in that decade he became entirely cured of any desire to make his home in the Sun Flower State. Since his return he has been engaged in the management of the home farm.

By the union of our subject and his wife have been born seven children, three sons and four daughters, as follows: Anna E., wife of Joseph Flynn, who is engaged in school teaching in Macon County; Cecelia G., Eveline M., Francis Benedict, Thomas Edward, Joseph Eugene and Lillie May. The family circle yet remains unbroken by death, and with the exception of the eldest daughter the children are all yet under the parental roof.

Mr. Despres and his family and also his parents are members of the Catholic Church. In politics

he was formerly a Democrat, but he has severed his allegiance to the old party, and now supports the People's party. Throughout the community in which he lives he is widely known and he has a large circle of warm friends, being a popular and pleasant gentleman, who possesses many excellencies of character.



REV. FATHER LOUIS W. LAMMERT, pastor of St. James Roman Catholic Church of Decatur, was born in Iserlohn, Westphalia, Prussia, April 10, 1852, and at the age of twelve years began studying for his life work. When twenty-two years of age he came to the United States. This was in 1874, and in 1876 he finished the theological course in St. Francis Seminary, at Milwaukee, and was ordained in Alton, Ill., on the 29th of June of that year, by Rt. Rev. Peter Baltus. His first work was at East St. Louis, where he served as a substitute in St. Henry's Church. He then went to Cairo, and had charge of St. Joseph's Church until coming to Decatur.

St. James Church, of which he is now pastor, was incorporated in 1877. The previous year a congregation was formed and the church built, which was dedicated on the 1st of January, 1878. The building was erected by Father Joseph Spaeth, who was its pastor for nearly two years. He was succeeded by Father Lammert on the 1st of August, 1879, who has since been in charge. The congregation now numbers about one hundred and fifty families. In 1883, Father Lammert built a parsonage and has recently built an addition to the church and a good schoolhouse. The church property is worth about \$12,000.

The St. James parochial school first convened in a part of the church building, and had but a small attendance, but more than one hundred pupils are now enrolled. These are under the care of two efficient lady teachers. The school building was erected in 1890.



Father Lammert holds the official position of *Defensor Matrimonii* for the diocese of Alton. He has given his entire time to the work of the church and the care of its people, and as the result of his untiring labors the church and its schools are in a flourishing condition.



**G**EORGE DAMERY, who carries on general farming on section 28, Pleasant View Township, Macon County, is one of Erin's noble sons. He was born in County Cork, Ireland, in 1826, and is the fourth in order of birth in a family of eight children born unto James and Elizabeth (Gassnall) Damery. The only survivors of this once large family are our subject, and his brother Arsola, who is now a resident of Connecticut. The parents were also natives of the Emerald Isle, and in 1850 they bade good-bye to their old home and crossed the broad Atlantic to America. On reaching the New World, they settled in Connecticut upon a farm, where they spent the remainder of their lives.

Upon the old homestead in his native land, George Damery spent the days of his boyhood and his youth, and the educational privileges afforded him were those of the public school. He remained in Ireland until twenty-five years of age, when, believing that he could better his financial condition by emigrating to the United States, he made the voyage and became a resident of Connecticut, where, in order to secure a livelihood, he worked by the day and month until 1860. That year witnessed his arrival in Illinois. He first settled in Morgan County, where he worked on a farm by the month for two years. He then determined that his services should prove more beneficial to himself, and began renting land. This he did for five or six years, during which time his efforts were comparatively successful and he acquired some capital. On the expiration of that period he came to Macon County and purchased forty acres of wild prairie land, on which not a furrow had been turned or

an improvement made. Here he has made his home continuously since.

In 1857 Mr. Damery was united in marriage with Miss Johanna Carwin, of Morgan County, Ill., who has proved a faithful companion and helpmate to him. When they removed to their present home, our subject at once turned his attention to its development, and in course of time placed it under a high state of cultivation. The farm now comprises one hundred and twelve acres of rich land, and is considered one of the most highly improved and best farms in the county.

The cause of temperance has long found in Mr. Damery a firm friend and one untiring in his efforts to promote its interest. He votes with the Prohibition party, of which he is a staunch advocate. He was a delegate to the first State Convention of that party held in Illinois. It convened in 1872 and there were only eight delegates, all told. With the Methodist Church he holds membership, and his life is in harmony with his professions. His honorable, upright career, and his many noble deeds have made him one of the most highly respected and esteemed citizens of this community.



**T**HOMAS V. JONES, who is a leading business man of Macon County, holds the position of Vice-President of the Decatur Lumber and Manufacturing Company, which was incorporated in 1887, and which from the beginning has done a constantly increasing business, until it has now assumed extensive proportions. Our subject was born in Pottsville, Pa., on the 8th of July, 1855, and is the only child of Thomas V. and Catherine A. (Lafa) Jones. His mother had been married previous to her union with Mr. Jones, and by her first husband, Mr. Hiler, had several children. When Thomas, Jr., was a lad of eight summers his parents went to California, where his father died after three years. His mother then returned to the East with her son, who at that

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



I am Respectfully  
A. M. Peil M.D.



time was a lad of eleven. They located in Decatur in February, 1866, and here Mrs. Jones spent the remainder of her life, being called to her final rest on the 2d of March, 1893, at the advanced age of seventy-nine years.

At the age of thirteen our subject began work in the sash, door and blind factory of Elwood & Co., with whom he was to remain until he had attained his majority. After spending seven years with them the firm broke up. Although he had not completed his term, Mr. Jones had learned everything in connection with the manufacture of sash, doors and blinds. From the beginning he received seventy-five cents per day, and his wages were soon increased, so that from the age of eighteen years he supported his mother. The firm with which he was employed having failed, he then engaged in repairing cars for a year, and for one year was a brakeman on a local freight on the Wabash Railroad. Later he entered the factory of William Gibson, now deceased, who had been the foreman of the firm with which Mr. Jones was first employed and who had embarked in business for himself. There our subject learned stair-building and all the fine grades of work connected with it, spending seven years in the employ of Mr. Gibson.

On the 24th of December, 1879, Mr. Jones married Miss Florence Adams, who was born in Montezuma, Ind., and is a daughter of William Adams, of Decatur. They have a family of three sons: Harry, a lad of twelve years; Arthur, who has passed eight summers; and Clifford, a baby of a year.

It was in 1886 that Mr. Jones embarked in business for himself, forming a partnership with Henry Prescott, whom he had known from boyhood. They secured an interest in the Niagara Pump Company, investing about \$2,000 in the same, and after increasing the business associated with them W. H. Acuff and James Wiswell. They also started a small planing-mill. After two years this business was amalgamated with that of Mr. Gaddis, who owned a lumber-yard, and the present Decatur Lumber and Manufacturing Company was incorporated. At the end of one year Mr. Wiswell retired, and after two years Mr. Acuff

withdrew. Mr. Prescott is still a Director and stockholder in the company. Mr. Jones is Superintendent of the factory and has charge of all the mechanical work. He employs none but skilled workmen and his payroll calls for \$525 per week for his men.

Mr. Jones began life for himself at the very early age of thirteen years. He may truly be called a self-made man, for he has steadily worked his way upward, unaided by friends or fortune. His example may serve to encourage others, and it is certainly well worthy of emulation. Mr. Jones supports the Democratic party on questions of national importance and at local elections votes independently. He is a member of and takes quite an active interest in Oeur de Lion Lodge No. 17, K. P., of which he is Past Chancellor.



**H**ENRY DINKEL HEIL, M. D., is one of the best-informed medical practitioners of Decatur, where for the past six years he has been engaged in practice. His birth occurred in Whitmore Township, within five miles of the city. He is a son of William and Catherine (Dinkel) Heil, both natives of Germany, the father having been born in Obersell, and the mother in Baden. Having emigrated to America in youth, their marriage was celebrated in Harrisburg, Pa., and in 1854 they journeyed Westward to Illinois, casting in their lot with the settlers of Macon County. They located on a farm in Whitmore Township, and the father devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred about twenty years ago. His mother died May 29, 1885. The Heil family numbered seven children, as follows: Almira, wife of Henry Elrick, an engineer residing in Argenta, Ill.; Henry, of this sketch; William, who married Miss Clara Hendrix, and is a farmer living in Ar-

genta; Julia, who graduated from the Mt. Carroll Female Seminary, and is a leading teacher in the public schools of Illinois; Mary, wife of Frank Boyer, a farmer of Elwin, Ill.; George and Matilda, who are also living in Elwin. Matilda is a graduate of a business college at Dixon, Ill.

The Doctor was a boy of only twelve years when his father died, and the responsibilities of the household and the support of the family devolved very largely upon him, as he was the eldest son. He was thus early inured to hard labor and care, but thereby developed a self-reliance and independence of character that have proved of incalculable benefit to him in later years. At the age of nineteen he entered Westfield College, and after studying for two years engaged in teaching, which profession he followed for four years. It was his desire, however, to enter the medical profession, and in September, 1884, he became a student in Rush Medical College, of Chicago, where he pursued the regular three-years course, embracing six terms. He was graduated in the spring of 1887, with the degree of M. D. (with which he received a certificate of honor), and also with the post-graduate degree.

Upon our subject's graduation he was given a certificate, showing him to have been clinical assistant to Drs. J. P. Ross and John A. Robeson, A. M., M. D., for eighteen months previous to his graduation, in the department of chest and throat diseases. The Doctor was one of the best students of the class and took an honorary diploma as the result of his excellent standing and good work. He has also several other diplomas on throat and nose diseases, and on dental pathology and surgery. He took the second scholarship prize of his class, and we thus see that he is ably fitted for the life work he has undertaken.

The Doctor is certainly a man of fine ability. In his practice he has been very successful and is a rising young physician of sterling qualities. He served as County Physician of Macon County for about two and a-half years. In politics, the Doctor is a Republican, and, socially, he is a member of Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M.; and Chevalier Bayard Lodge, K. P.

**S**AMUEL C. ALLEN, a retired farmer residing at No. 1606 East William Street, Decatur, was born on the 3d of October, 1810, in Loudoun County, Va., ten miles south of Leesburg. The family is of Irish origin. The great-grandfather of our subject, Robert Allen, lived in County Antrim, and died at the advanced age of ninety-four years. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Janet Hair, died in the city of Larne, Ireland, at the age of seventy-five years. Mr. Allen was a farmer and was a ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church. The old homestead is still in the possession of his descendants. The family numbered twenty-four children, eighteen of whom grew to manhood and womanhood. One of the sons became the grandfather of our subject. He was born on the Emerald Isle, and, coming to America at the age of sixteen, lived with a Quaker family in New Jersey. He, too, followed farming. His death occurred in 1799, at the age of eighty-eight years. He had four sons in the Revolutionary War, and one was killed and two died in the service.

James Allen, the father of our subject, was a native of Virginia, and became a farmer of that State. He married Elizabeth Lee, daughter of David Lee, who was of Scotch descent, and lived in New Jersey until 1775, when he removed to Virginia. He married a French lady and became well-to-do. His daughter Elizabeth was born in New Jersey. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Allen located in Loudoun County, Va., and became the parents of fourteen children, namely: William, David L., Samuel (deceased), James, Samuel C., Robert, Lemuel, Margaret, Sarah, Mary, Teresa, Jane, Elizabeth, and one who died in infancy. Only four are now living: Samuel C.; Elizabeth, widow of Dr. Thomas H. Reed, who came to Decatur in 1831; Robert and Lemuel. The father of this family died on the old homestead in Loudoun County, Va., in 1845.

Upon the home farm, Samuel Allen attained to man's estate, and after arriving at mature years managed the place for some time. He had been early inured to hard labor, and was familiar with agriculture in all its details. On the 3d of October, 1831, he left the Old Dominion and traveled



through Ohio and Tennessee on horseback. The following year he came to Macon County, Ill., where his brother David had secured the first deed ever made in Macon County. He purchased two hundred and forty acres of land, much of which he still owns, although some of it has been platted and forms town lots in this city. For a few years after his arrival he operated the grist and sawmill belonging to his brother David, which was the second mill erected in the county, and the only one then in operation. In 1841 he was appointed Postmaster of Decatur, after filling which office he devoted his time to farming and clerking until 1850, when he embarked in merchandising, which he followed for five years. Before that time he had served as Assessor, and later filled the office of County Treasurer for four years.

In December, 1858, Mr. Allen went to Adams County, Ohio, and married Mrs. Jane E. Reid, widow of Minor Reid. She was born in Virginia, and was a daughter of Enos and Mary (Davis) Gore, who were both natives of the same State, but became residents of Ohio. With his young bride our subject returned to this county, and they began their domestic life upon the farm. Five children were born unto them, four now living: Edwin G., of Decatur, who married Miss Minnie Sine, by whom he has two sons, Jay and Rex; William L., who resides on a part of the old homestead, now within the city limits, married Miss Mary Sanders, of Sangamon County, Ill., and has two children, Guy and Roy; Orville R., who married Miss Mamie Stockbridge, and lives near the old homestead; and Frank D. Milton, the third son, died at the age of three years.

After leaving the office of County Treasurer, Mr. Allen engaged in farming until the death of his wife, which occurred in June, 1880, at the age of fifty-three years. She was a member of the Methodist Church. He has since retired from active work and is now living with his son Edwin. For half a century he has been a member of the Baptist Church, with which he united in its earliest days. In politics, he is a stalwart Republican. When our subject came to Macon County, Decatur contained not more than a dozen families. Wolves made the night hideous with their howls,

and wild deer were plentiful, but the deep snow of 1830 and the very severe weather of that winter killed many. Only three persons who were children when Mr. Allen arrived here are now living, Silas Packard and his two sisters. The first white settlers in the county were two brothers by the name of Lorton from St. Joseph, Mich. They were Indian traders and did a thriving business until 1826, when the redmen ceased visiting this part of the country except in very small numbers. The first real pioneer was the hunter and trapper, William Downing, who came from Vandalia in the fall of 1820, and built a log cabin near the site of Capt. D. L. Allen's home. It was the first building erected for a residence within the limits of the county. In 1824, he sold out to John Ward. The first permanent settler was Leonard Stevens, Sr., who built a log house in 1821, three miles north of Decatur. A decade later our subject arrived, and with the history of Macon County he has since been prominently identified, aiding greatly in its upbuilding and advancement. To the pioneers the county owes a debt of gratitude which can never be repaid, but we can cherish and perpetuate their memory by written record, and therefore we gladly give to Samuel Allen a place in this volume.



**H**ENRY H. STAFFORD, head engineer for the Hatfield Milling Company of Decatur, is a native of New York. He was born in Essex County, July 16, 1829, and is a son of Caleb and Rebecca (Eggleston) Stafford. In 1836, when our subject was a lad of seven years, the parents emigrated Westward to Illinois, and locating in Sangamon County there spent the remainder of their lives, the mother dying at the age of fifty-five years, while the father's death occurred at the age of sixty-five.

Mr. Stafford whose name heads this record spent his boyhood upon the home farm, but at the age of nineteen began learning the blacksmith's trade. He did not follow it, however, but



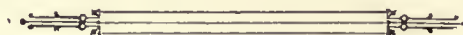
returned to the farm and carried on agricultural pursuits until 1856. In the fall of that year he came to Decatur and secured a position as fireman in the old Frank Priest Mill, which then stood on Decatur Street, and which was burned in 1864. After a year he was placed in charge of an engine and continued to serve in the capacity of an engineer until 1861.

In that year, Mr. Stafford, on the first call for seventy-five thousand volunteers to aid in crushing out the rebellion, enlisted in Company A, Eighth Illinois Infantry, the company being raised in Decatur in April, 1861. He did duty at Cairo for three months. Being then taken sick with typhoid fever, he did not re-enlist, and after his recovery he returned to the mill. He had charge of an engine at Du Quoin and one at Riverton for eighteen months. He then came to Decatur, and since 1857, with the exception of about a year, has served as a mill engineer. In 1870, he secured a position in the mill where he is now employed, it being then owned by Priest & Crissy. Here he has remained continuously since, although the ownership has constantly changed, the firm of Priest & Crissy being succeeded by George Priest, then Priest, Deal & Co. Later it became the property of the Hatfield Company, and subsequently the Hatfield Milling Company was incorporated. Under the supervision of Mr. Stafford new boilers and engines have been placed in the mill. He is an expert and careful engineer and has had no accident, except on one occasion, when the breaking of a pipe crushed his two middle fingers on the right hand.

Mr. Stafford was married in 1851, the lady of his choice being Miss Laretta Ross, of Sangamon County, whose death occurred in 1858. In 1863, in Riverton, he married Lydia A. Wright. By the first union were born two children: Orlando C., who is now Superintendent of the Decatur Brick and Tile Company's works; and Laretta, wife of Emory Morris, of Sangamon County. The children born of the second marriage are: Eleanor, wife of Elmer Miller, of Chicago; Grace, wife of Charles Houghton, of Chicago; Leota, who is now a student in the Jacksonville Institute, of Jacksonville, Ill.; and Charles Henry, who is also

attending school. The family reside at No. 325 South Water Street, in the home which was built by Mr. Stafford in 1857.

Our subject is a member of the Odd Fellows' society of Decatur and has passed all of the chairs. He has attended the Grand Lodge and Encampment, and is a member of the Patriarchs Militant, or Uniformed Degrec. For thirty-seven years he has made his home in this city and has therefore witnessed much of its growth and development. His life has been well and worthily passed and his long-continued service in one mill indicates his faithful performance of duty.



**W**ILLIAM M. BALDRIDGE, who is engaged in the real-estate, loan and insurance business in Decatur, is a native of Decatur County, Ind., his birth having occurred on the 25th of July, 1833. He is one of a family of ten children born unto Ebenezer W. and Elizabeth (Wallace) Baldridge, the former a native of Ohio, and the latter of Kentucky. The paternal grandfather, William Baldridge, was born in Virginia, and spent the latter part of his life in Adams County, Ohio. He was a minister of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, now called the United Presbyterian Church, and preached for about forty years, or until his death, which occurred in 1824. He was the father of twelve sons and three daughters. The maternal grandfather of our subject, Michael Wallace, was a native of Kentucky, and followed farming in Shelby County, that State, and in Decatur County, Ind. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812, and died at his home some years later. He and his family were members of the United Presbyterian Church, and his ancestors as far back as the year 1400 were adherents of the same faith.

Of the eight sons and two daughters in the Baldridge family only three are now living: William, of this sketch; James, who resides in Charleston, W. Va., where he holds the position of tele-

graph operator and ticket agent; and Thomas H., of Catlettsburgh, Ky. The father of this family was a physician, who engaged in the practice of medicine for over forty years, and died June 1, 1893, at the age of eighty-one years. His wife, who was a member of the United Presbyterian Church, died at the age of forty-four, and in 1862 he was again married.

We now take up the personal history of our subject, who spent the greater part of his youth in Ohio and there acquired his early education. He completed his literary studies in the Miami University of Oxford, Ohio, after which he started out in life for himself. He embarked in merchandising in Hamilton, Ohio, and after a short period went to Keokuk, Iowa, where he followed the same business for some time. He also engaged in teaching there, and was distributing clerk in the post-office under the Buchanan administration. In 1858 his connection with the railroad commenced. He began in the freight department, and was afterward conductor on the Des Moines Valley Railroad until 1862, when he went to La Fayette, Ind., and ran trains on the Wabash Railroad for seven and a-half years. Subsequent to that time he was employed in the railroad offices of that road. Later he formed a connection with the Big Four Road. He has performed almost every duty in connection with that line of work, and in all the different capacities has been a faithful and efficient employe. At length, on account of failing health, he left the road in 1873.

On the 21st of September, 1854, Mr. Baldridge married Miss Pamela J. Boyce, daughter of Rev. William M. and Nancy (Grimes) Boyce, the former a native of North Carolina, and the latter of Kentucky. Six children were born of their union, two sons and four daughters: Naunie E., Mary I., Willie M., Allie B., Alva M. and Jennie, but Mary and Willie are now deceased. Allie has become the wife of John H. Mitchell, telegraph operator in South Bend, Ind. He was formerly Deputy County Clerk of Tippecanoe County, Ind., for eight years. They have one child, Joseph B.

On leaving the railroad in 1873, Mr. Baldridge became insurance solicitor in La Fayette, Ind., and followed that business for fifteen years, in connec-

tion with real-estate dealing. In December, 1890, he came to Decatur, and has since made this city his home. Himself and wife are members of the Assembly Presbyterian Church. In his social relations, he is an Odd Fellow, and in politics is a supporter of the Republican principles. He is a genial and pleasant gentleman, and though his residence in Decatur has been of very short duration, he has already become quite popular throughout the community.



**W**ILLIAM J. HUFF, of the Huff Brothers' Lumber and Planing Mill Company, is one of the enterprising, wide-awake and representative business men of Decatur, and is prominent not only in business circles, but is also a leader in church work and a popular gentleman, highly esteemed for his many excellencies of character. As he is widely and favorably known, we feel assured that this record of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers.

On the 27th of December, 1861, Mr. Huff was born in Coshocton County, Ohio, and at the age of eight years came to Illinois with his father, A. Huff, a native of Harper's Ferry, Va. The family located in Douglas County. At the age of twenty William entered the commercial school at Valparaiso, Ind., and also attended a normal school, acquiring a good business education. He then took up his residence in Cerro Gordo, Ill., where he opened a lumber-yard in company with his brother, S. E. Huff. He borrowed \$3,000 of his father to embark in business, and the first year he cleared about \$300 on the lumber, but lost \$200 on the sawmill. Later he established a lumber-yard in Sidney, which he carried on for three years, when he sold out, realizing a good profit. With the exception of \$600 each, which the brothers inherited from their father's estate, they have made all that they now possess as the result of their own efforts.

For three years after being joined by his bro-



ther the partnership continued, and then William sold out and went to Wichita, Kan., where he spent the year 1885. There he secured a position with the Citizens' Bank, after which he secured employment as a real-estate agent with the Lee Loan and Insurance Co., which was then doing a big business. When the land office was opened at Garden City, he went to that place, where he engaged in locating claims for four months. Altogether his business venture in the West proved a very profitable one.

While in Wichita, Mr. Huff was united in marriage, on the 6th of August, 1885, with Miss Cora A. Pitts, who was then living in that city, but had formerly been a resident of Cerro Gordo. By their union was born a son, William Lindley. The mother died on the 1st of April, 1889, when her baby was only eight months old, since which time Mrs. Julia M. Pitts, mother of Mrs. Huff, has been superintending the household of our subject.

On his return to Illinois, Mr. Huff located in Decatur and purchased the interest of C. P. Thatcher in the Thatcher Lumber Company. The firm then became Gaddis & Huff, William J. and S. E. Huff both being members of the firm. Business was carried on under that style for three years, after which the company was incorporated under the name of the Decatur Lumbering and Manufacturing Company. For two years our subject was its Treasurer, after which he retired from the firm. The year 1890 was spent as a lumber-dealer in Englewood, Ill. The present business was established and incorporated December 23, 1891, with a paid-up capital of \$50,000. The incorporators of the company are William J. Huff, who is now President; C. T. Warfield, Vice-President; S. E. Huff, Secretary; and B. F. Huff, of Cerro Gordo, Treasurer. They have a branch business at Cerro Gordo, of which B. F. Huff is local manager. This company deals in lumber, lath and shingles, and manufactures doors, sash, blinds, moldings, wire and picket fence, and makes a specialty of all kinds of stair and porch work. They employ forty men, nearly all of whom are skilled workmen, and to them they pay an aggregate of \$525 per week. Only the finest work is done by the Huff Brothers' Lumber and Planing

Mill Company, and their enterprise is justly ranked among the leading industries of the city. Their business amounts to upwards of \$140,000 annually and is steadily increasing. In his social relations, William Huff is connected with the Odd Fellows' society, and in politics is a stalwart supporter of the Republican party. He holds membership with Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is Trustee, and he is a prominent member of the Young Men's Christian Association, of which he is now serving as President. He takes an active interest in everything pertaining to the educational and moral upbuilding of the community, is a public-spirited and progressive man, and a valued citizen of the thriving county seat of Macon County. His business career has been an eminently successful one, and the industry and enterprise which have characterized his life have gained him a comfortable competence.



**B**ENJAMIN F. DILLEHUNT was born in Hagerstown, Md., March 17, 1815, and was one of a family of five sons and two daughters. He was reared in the State of his nativity, and when a young man learned the carpenter's trade. At length he determined to make a home in the West, believing that better opportunities were afforded there than in the older and more thickly settled States of the East. In 1837 he made his way to St. Louis, and after a few days continued his journey to Springfield, Ill., whence he came to Decatur, making a permanent location here. He entered a large tract of land north of the city, but afterward disposed of much of it, although at his death he still retained possession of one hundred and twenty acres. He engaged in the lumber business for a number of years with I. Shellabarger, and also did carpentering and contract work. He built the court house in Clinton, Ill., and immediately after, his work there having been so satisfactory, he erected another in Urbana, Ill.



On the 28th of January, 1841, Mr. Dillehunt married Miss Martha E. Nesbitt, daughter of William and Sarah (Nettlin) Nesbitt, natives of Philadelphia, Pa. Ten children were born of their union, eight sons and two daughters. Of this number one died in infancy; and Thomas and James died in early childhood. Hiram married Sabina Hollman, who is now deceased. They had five children, four yet living: Carl, Virgil, Leila and Sabina Eva. William married Cora Braden, and with his wife and four children, Laura, Maud, Welby and Clay, resides on the old homestead. Samuel, who follows farming near Blue Mound, wedded Helen Hughes, and they have seven children: Effie, Benjamin, Anna B., Bert, Tott, Bunn and Helen. Martha Elizabeth is the wife of Joseph Tait, a resident of Maeon, Maeon County, by whom she has three children: Daniel, Benjamin and Susan. Benjamin W. married Augusta Buehard, and four children grace their union: Leslie E., Gertrude E., Richard B. and Martha Marie. Anna C. is the wife of Walter Hutchins and they have one child, Clarence. Edwin S. married Addie Haynes, and unto them have been born four children: Thomas, Clara Belle, Lena and Addie.

In the spring of 1892, Edwin Dillehunt, who was a member of the Decatur Fire Department, was nearly burned to death. He was ordered to drive his team and cart into an alley which the spring rains had made very muddy. The horses were stalled and were burned to death. In his endeavor to save the team Edwin was so badly burned that he nearly lost his life, and has not yet recovered from his terrible injuries, being still a great sufferer.

When Mr. and Mrs. Dillehunt, came to Maeon County they found it but sparsely settled, and the city in which they located was but a mere village. Our subject always bore his part in the work of upbuilding and development, and was recognized as a progressive and public-spirited man and valued citizen. His life was one which gained him the high regard of all with whom he came in contact and made his death deeply mourned. He passed away on the 23d of September, 1869. The old homestead is still owned by his widow, and she owns a pleasant residence at No. 335 West

William Street, Decatur, where she is now living. She is a member of the Methodist Church, and a most estimable lady, her friends throughout the community being many.



**D**AYTON DUNHAM, who is now living a retired life in Decatur, was born in Essex County, N.J., November 12, 1814. His father, Henry Dunham, was a tailor and removed from New Jersey to New York about 1816. His wife bore the maiden name of Sarah Ellison, and unto them were born eleven children, but our subject is the only survivor of the family. On emigrating to the West, Henry Dunham located in Richmond, Ind., and a few years later died in Ft. Wayne, that State, of cholera, at the age of sixty years. Some years later his wife was called to her final rest. They were both members of the Methodist Church.

Our subject was quite young when his parents removed to the Empire State, and was still a mere boy when they emigrated to Indiana. When a young man he began learning the latter's trade, which he followed for a few years. On the 9th of July, 1837, was celebrated an important event in his life—his marriage with Miss Marilla Robinson, daughter of Amos and Elizabeth (Hughes) Robinson, both natives of Vermont. Six sons and four daughters were born unto them. Henry D. married Emma Kramer, of Decatur, and they have two children: Eva Myrtle and Orville; Sarah E. is the widow of William Dailey, who died, leaving seven children: George, Hugh, Marilla, Ada, Effie, Ida and Eliza; Amos was killed in the army during the battle of Ft. Donelson; Orvis and Orrin, twins, died when quite young; Caroline E. is the wife of James Bullard, of Decatur, by whom she has had six children: Eddie, Bessie, James, Nathan, Esther (who died at the age of three years), and one who died in infancy; Henrietta is the widow of Robert L. Perry; and Charles E. married Miss Anna Phillips and resides near

Peterson, Iowa, with his wife and four children: Dayton, Charles, Hartwell and Cora.

It was in 1836 that Dayton Dunham came to Macon County, Ill., which was then quite new and sparsely populated. Many of the now thriving towns were not then in existence, and Deatur was but a small hamlet. Here he followed his trade for a while, and also engaged in teaming. Later he gave his attention to farming, and now owns about twenty-eight acres of the old Robinson homestead, which was formerly the property of his parents. When the war broke out he laid aside all business cares to enter the service of his country, joining Company B, Eighth Illinois Infantry, the regiment being commanded by Gov. Oglesby. He served until after the battle of Ft. Donelson, in which engagement he was so badly wounded that he was unfit for further duty. For about three years after the war he was compelled to walk on crutches. His health improving, he then began to work at gardening, which he followed for some years, and for eleven years his wife carried on a greenhouse. In May, 1886, he received a paralytic stroke, and has since been unable to work.

Our subject is a member of Dunham Post No. 141, G. A. R., which was named in memory of his son, who was the first one killed from this neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. Dunham are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and are highly respected people, who have the warm regard and esteem of all who know them.



PETER PERL is the popular and efficient Sheriff of Macon County. He has filled that office for three years, and performs all of the duties of his important position with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of all concerned. Widely is he known throughout Macon County, and in all circles is recognized as a leading and influential citizen.

Born in Big Spring Township, Seneca County,

Ohio, June 24, 1842, our subject is a son of Nicholas and Catherine (Vester) Perl, both of whom were born near Strasburg, Germany. They were also married in the Fatherland, and in 1833 sailed for America, locating in Seneca County, Ohio. The father was a cabinet-maker by trade, but in this country followed farming. His death occurred at the age of eighty-five years. His wife died in her seventy-third year, at the home of her daughter, Elizabeth, in Mankato, Minn. Their eleven children were all born in this country, but only four of the number grew to mature years. Elizabeth is the wife of Frederick Bocgen, who is a machinist of Mankato, Minn.; Nicholas was a carpenter and died, leaving a wife and one child; Peter is the next younger; and Louis is a mechanical engineer of St. Paul, Minn.; he is married and has three children.

The early days of our subject were spent upon his father's farm, and in his home he was taught to speak the German language, but he associated with his English neighbors and thus learned the language of his adopted country. He was educated in both the parochial and public schools, and afterward secured a certificate and engaged in teaching school in Seneca, Fairfield and Stark Counties, Ohio, and in Urbana, Ohio. Later he was employed in the same capacity in Huntington, Ind., and proved a successful teacher. He not only aided others in acquiring knowledge, but his extensive experience in that line proved of great value to him. Coming to Illinois in 1876, he entered a drug store in Peoria, and later was for two years Principal of the public schools of Berlin, Ill.

Mr. Perl has been twice married, his first wife having been Mrs. Mary Meier, by whom he had two children, John and Agnes. In 1878 he was united in marriage with Miss Carrie Luken, daughter of Henry Luken, of Berlin. She has become the mother of two children, Frank and Henry.

At the age of eighteen years, Mr. Perl enlisted in the service of his country as a member of Company H, One Hundred and Twenty-third Ohio Infantry, under Capt. Zimmerman, and was mustered in at Monroeville, where the company

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





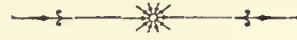
Wm. M. Catto

drilled for about six months. He then went to the front and served in the Army of the Potomac in West Virginia, participating in the Shenandoah Valley campaign. He took part in the battles of Fisher's Hill, Opequon and Cedar Creek, and was honorably discharged in 1865, after Lee's surrender, having followed the Old Flag for three years.

In the year of his marriage Mr. Perl came to Decatur and bought out Charles & Nicholas Laux, undertakers. He then had only \$850, which he had saved from his salary as a teacher. His business career in this city has been one of great success, and his possessions now aggregate \$50,000, which he has made in his business and in fortunate speculations. In politics he is a staunch Democrat. In religious belief he is a Catholic, and his wife is a member of the Lutheran Church. His official career began in 1884, when he was elected Coroner by one hundred and thirty-four votes, overcoming a large Republican majority. In 1889 he was elected by fifty votes as Alderman from the Fourth Ward, and in 1890 was elected by the handsome majority of six hundred and eight to the office of Sheriff. No higher testimonial of his popularity could be given than his election in this Republican county. It has been his unpleasant duty during the term to cause the hanging of W. H. Crawford, the murderer of Lina Mathias, but by those who were present and had witnessed other executions it was pronounced to be the most perfectly managed affair ever seen. Mr. Perl has faithfully discharged every duty devolving upon him, and has proved one of the most efficient officers that has ever served as Sheriff of Macon County.

Mr. Perl has traveled quite widely over this country, but no place furnishes the attractions of a home to him as does Decatur, where his numerous friends have learned to know him as a business man of strict integrity and sterling worth. Although he comes of German parentage, there is no truer American citizen in Macon County. He believes in the free institutions of this country, and takes a commendable pride in upholding and advancing them. Outside of business and public life he shows a different side to his character,

taking great enjoyment in the æsthetic side of life and in branches of higher education. Music has particular attractions for him, and he has considerable ability in that direction.



**D**R. WILLIAM M. CATTO, a member of the firm of Catto & Jones, medical practitioners of Decatur, is a Canadian by birth. He was born near Hamilton, on the 28th of November, 1858, and is the second in a family of six children. The parents, John and Isabella (Angus) Catto, were both natives of Aberdeen, Scotland, and in early life emigrated to America. Of their five sons and one daughter, one died in early childhood. Alexander married Miss Hattie Althouse, and with his wife and two children, Fred and Hattie Belle, lives in Ontario, Canada. Walter was killed in a railroad accident at Tacoma, Wash., at the age of thirty years. He married Helen Lachlin and left three children. John and Bella complete the family. The father engaged in merchandising in Canada during his early years, but for some time past has been engaged in farming and stock-raising near Bucoda, Wash. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, as was his wife, who died in 1878, at the age of forty-five years. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Walter Catto, spent his entire life in Scotland, and died at the age of seventy-eight. The maternal grandfather, William Angus, never left his native land.

The Doctor was reared in Western Ontario, and there acquired his early education, which was supplemented by a course in the Literary College of St. Catharines, Canada. His taste and desire leading him to enter the medical profession, he pursued a course along that line, and was graduated from the Detroit College of Medicine, in Detroit, Mich., in the spring of 1882. He was afterward House Surgeon in the hospital of that city for two years, and has now been engaged in active general practice for eleven years, in which time he has supple-



mented his theoretical knowledge by actual experience, and has thus become a skilled physician.

On the 19th of December, 1882, was celebrated the marriage of Dr. Catto and Miss Florence, daughter of Leonard and Lucinda (Harrington) Nightingale, the former a native of England, and the latter of Canada. They have had four children: Florence, who died at the age of three years; Bruce and Keith; and one son who died in infancy.

In politics, the Doctor is independent. He is connected with the Cœur de Lion Lodge, K. P., and is a member of Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M.; Decatur Council No. 16, R. & S. M.; Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T.; Peoria Consistory, S. P. R. S.; and Medina Temple of the Mystic Shrine. He holds membership with the Presbyterian Church, and his wife is a communicant of the Episcopal Church. Although their residence in Decatur is of comparatively short duration, they have already made many warm friends. When Dr. Catto came to this city he bought out Dr. Harsha, and has had a large practice from the beginning, and it has now assumed extensive proportions. The firm of Catto & Jones occupies four large rooms in one of the best localities in the city, and our subject has one of the largest practices in central Illinois. He has also won a foremost place in the ranks of his professional brethren. He owns a good farm of eighty-five acres three miles east of the city, and has one of the finest residences of the city, located at the corner of William and Edward Streets.



**A**MANDUS H. HILL, who carries on general farming on section 3, Milan Township, is one of the self-made men of Macon County, for he started out in life a poor boy with only \$4 in money. He has worked and labored to secure the prosperity which now crowns his efforts, and his path has not always been a flowery one. He has encountered hardships and difficulties, but

these have been overcome by perseverance and a determined effort, and he therefore deserves all the more credit for his success.

Mr. Hill was born in Wood County, Ohio, November 30, 1851, and is of English and German descent. His parents, John and Hester (Crumm) Hill, had a family of ten children, five sons and five daughters, and our subject is the fifth in order of birth. Eight of the number are still living. The father was born in September, 1823, in Ohio, and there spent his entire life, his death occurring in August, 1888. He always followed agricultural pursuits as a means of livelihood. His wife, who was born in the Buckeye State January 28, 1822, is still living there, making her home with her children. She has reached the age of seventy-one years. Of the family, Wallace W., the eldest, is a physician of Weston, Wood County, Ohio; Jane is the wife of Dolphis Hinkley, a resident farmer of Wood County; George E. is a grain-buyer of Ohio; John Rufus carries on agricultural pursuits in Henry County, Ohio; Amandus is the next younger; Loretta is deceased; Elizabeth is the next younger; Martha is also deceased; Arsina is the wife of Charles Edwards, a farmer of Ohio; and Lester is a school teacher and minister.

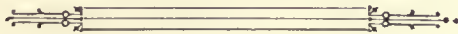
Mr. Hill of this sketch gave his father the benefit of his services and remained upon the home farm until nineteen years of age, when he decided to seek a home in the West. He came to Macon County, Ill., and, locating in Milan Township, was employed as a farm hand by the month for three years. He then rented land and continued its operation for five years, when, with the money he had obtained as the result of his labors, he purchased the farm on which he now resides.

As a companion and helpmate on life's journey Mr. Hill chose Miss Laura Bartlett, who was born in Madison County, Ill., September 5, 1854, and is a daughter of David M. and Naney (Stinson) Bartlett. Her father was born in Illinois October 11, 1830, and in this State made his home until his death, which occurred in February, 1877. He served in the late war and was crippled in the struggle. His wife was also born in Illinois, and was called to the home beyond in 1862. Their family numbered six children, but the eldest,



Mary Ann, died in infancy; Jane is the wife of William Mays, a resident of Nemaha County, Neb.; Altha is the wife of Charles Green, who is engaged in the livery business in Polk County, Neb.; William is a resident farmer of the same State; and Ida Belle died in infancy.

Four children grace the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hill, but Ora, their first-born, died in infancy. Those still at home are Linder, Wilbur and Guy. The parents hold membership with the Christian Church, and their lives abound in good works and deeds. Mr. Hill is a staunch Republican in politics and warmly advocates the principles of that organization. He has served his township as Clerk, and has been Justice of the Peace for six years, discharging his duties with a promptness and fidelity that have led to his re-election and won for him the commendation of all. As the result of his good business management and fair and honest dealing he is now the owner of a valuable farm of two hundred and twenty acres, and devotes his time and attention to agricultural pursuits.



**M**ILTON A. SMITH, proprietor and editor of the *State Sentinel*, the Prohibition organ for central Illinois, published at Decatur, has long been prominent in temperance work, and though his residence in Macon County is of short duration, he is not unknown by reputation to the readers of this volume. He was born on a farm in Massac County, Ill., and is a son of George H. and Lucretia (Hammond) Smith, both of whom were natives of Georgia. On the paternal side he is of English and Irish descent. His maternal grandmother, however, was a Cherokee Indian, and her husband also had Indian blood in his veins. In 1837 the parents of our subject came to Illinois.

Milton received a common-school education, and when only fifteen years of age joined the boys in blue of the Twenty-ninth Illinois Infantry, but was mustered in as a member of Company I, One

Hundred and Twenty-eighth Illinois Infantry, after its consolidation with the Ninth Mounted Infantry. He was in Sherman's army until the close of the war, participating in ninety-six battles and skirmishes and going with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea. When the war was over he was honorably discharged and returned home. He then taught school for a number of years, and became Principal of the Vienna High School. For two years he was a law student, but abandoned that profession to enter the editorial field. For sixteen years he was editor and proprietor of the *Johnson County Journal*, but at length sold that paper, and in 1892 came to Decatur, purchasing the *State Sentinel*. This paper is devoted to the local interests of Macon County, but the principal motive of its publication is the furtherance of temperance principles and the Prohibition party.

In 1874 Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Emma Wright, of Vienna, Johnson County, Ill., and unto them have been born eight children, six yet living: George R., Bessie Lee, May, Effie, Nellie and Earl R. Eunice died at the age of three years; and Lloyd was thrown from a wagon and killed at the age of eight months. The parents and children are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mr. Smith was one of the lay delegates from the southern Illinois Conference at the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church held at Omaha, in May, 1892.

Our subject cast his first Presidential vote while in the army for Abraham Lincoln, and supported the Republican party until his views on the temperance question led him to become a Prohibitionist, as he saw that the old party would not act on that question. He has been prominent in temperance work for a number of years, and his efforts to rid the people of the liquor traffic and its consequences have been productive of much good. He has served as Chairman of the Twelfth Congressional District, and also of the county and State Central Committees of his party, and has been a delegate to two National conventions and several State conventions. One leading characteristic of his was shown in his renouncing the old party, with which he had long been connected, as his conscience led him to enter the Prohibition

field, and he never wavers in carrying out any conviction which he believes to be right. He has been a prominent worker in church and Sunday-school, and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend. He advocates any worthy enterprise calculated to upbuild the community and uphold a higher moral standing. Although his residence in Decatur has been of short duration, he has already won the confidence and good-will of its best citizens and gained the high regard of many.



**H**ON. WILLIAM E. NELSON, County Judge of Macon County, and who for many years has been a prominent member of the Decatur Bar, claims Tennessee as the State of his nativity, his birth having occurred in White County June 4, 1824. His parents, Richard and Eliza (McCampbell) Nelson, were both natives of Tennessee, and were of Irish and Scotch-Irish descent respectively. The paternal grandfather, John Nelson, was a native of Virginia, and was a millwright and millowner. He was a Revolutionary soldier and served throughout the struggle. His death occurred at the advanced age of eighty-five years, at his home in Overton County, Tenn. The maternal grandfather of our subject, Andrew McCampbell, was born in Scotland, and after his marriage to a lady of that country removed to Ireland, whence they emigrated to America, locating in Virginia. Later they became residents of Tennessee, where Mr. McCampbell followed farming in Knox County. He too aided the colonies in their struggle for independence, and died at the age of seventy-five years.

Richard Nelson was an attorney-at-law, and resided in Sparta from the time of his marriage until 1846, when he removed to Carrollton, Miss., where he spent the remainder of his life, dying in 1865, in his sixty-fifth year. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, as is his wife, who is still living in Carrollton, at the age of ninety years. Mr. Nelson served as a member of the Constitu-

tional Convention in Tennessee, and was Judge of the Probate Court for many years in Mississippi. The family numbered five sons and three daughters, but only three are now living: William, of this sketch; Mary F., wife of Charles N. Scott, of Carrollton, Miss.; and Emily, wife of James M. Moore, of College City, Cal.

In the county of his birth our subject was reared to manhood and remained until his removal to Decatur, in June, 1857. His education was acquired in the subscription schools, and at the age of sixteen he began the study of law with his father. In August, 1844, he was admitted to the Bar and engaged in legal practice in White County and the adjoining circuit. As a companion and helpmate on life's journey he chose Miss Mary A. Snodgrass, daughter of Col. James and Margaret (McKinney) Snodgrass, of White County. Their union was celebrated February 26, 1846, and unto them were born five children, three sons and two daughters: Margaret Eliza, James Ridley, Theodore, Flora and Richard. All died in infancy, with the exception of Theodore, a resident of Chicago, who is at present Deputy Recorder of Deeds, and a prominent politician. He married Augusta A., daughter of John R. Blaine, of Decatur, and they have one child, Mary Lena. In November, 1876, the mother of this family, who had been a member of the Church of Christ, died at the age of forty-seven years.

As before stated, Mr. Nelson cast in his lot with the early settlers of Decatur in 1857, and, opening a law office, has since engaged in legal practice. He was appointed by the Governor as one of the committee for the revision of the statutes, and was elected a member of the Twenty-seventh General Assembly of Illinois, which convened immediately after the adoption of the constitution in 1870, and he served throughout all the repeated sessions of that long assembly. He was subsequently elected Circuit Judge of the Fourteenth Circuit, filling the office one term, and has since been elected County Judge of Macon County, being the present incumbent.

In June, 1889, the Judge was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Lucy H. Montgomery, widow of John T. Montgomery, and daughter



of Judge Jephtha G. Hollingsworth, of Elkton, Todd County, Ky. Our subject and his wife are among the most prominent and highly esteemed citizens of Decatur, having a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Judge Nelson is a member of the Christian Church, and belongs to Ionic Lodge No. 312, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T. In politics he is a staunch Democrat, and the principles of Democracy find in him a very warm advocate. Judge Nelson has been frequently honored with many of the leading positions within the gift of his fellow-townsmen, and in the various offices he has filled he has acceptably and faithfully served, doing all in his power to promote the best interests of the people at large. He is a broad and liberal-minded man, and in the court room presides with a dignity and ability that have won him the commendation and respect of all with whom he has been brought in contact.



**W**ILLIAM SCHROLL, a prominent and influential citizen of Decatur, who is now living a retired life at his pleasant home, situated at No. 322 South Union Street, claims Pennsylvania as the State of his nativity. He was born in Cumberland County, about seven miles from Harrisburg, on the 10th of February, 1833, and is a son of George and Elizabeth (Bailey) Schroll. His parents were also natives of the Keystone State. About 1843 they removed from Cumberland to York County, but their home was again about the same distance from the capital city of Pennsylvania. The year 1850 witnessed their emigration Westward. They came to Illinois and located in Wheatland Township, about six miles southeast of Decatur, where the father secured wild land and opened up a farm, upon which he made his home until his death. He cleared two hundred and forty acres of land and placed it under a high state of cultivation. His death occurred in September, 1861, at the age of

fifty-eight years. His wife, who survived him about twelve years, died in 1873 in Decatur. This worthy couple had a family of six children, as follows: Jacob B., who is now living at Farber, Audrain County, Mo.; Ann B., wife of Peter Weiser, who is living in Holdrege, Neb.; William, whose name heads this record; George, who died in Arcola, Mo.; Samuel, who died in Paola, Miami County, Kan.; and Elizabeth, who became the wife of Silas Timmons and died in this county. The three children now deceased were all married and left families.

The subject of this sketch was only ten years of age when his parents removed to York County, Pa., and was a young man of seventeen when they came to Illinois. He remained upon the home farm until twenty years of age and then began learning the carpenter's trade in Decatur with Ricketts & Simpson. When he had mastered the business he continued to follow it as a means of livelihood until 1856, when he turned his attention to the occupation to which he had been reared. He removed to a farm ten miles northwest of Decatur, and was one of the first settlers on the prairie, where he located and where he made his home from 1856 until 1873. He had improved three hundred and sixty acres of land, placing the entire amount under a high state of cultivation. From 1873 until 1876 he made his home in this city, and then returned to the farm, where he lived until 1881. Since that time he has lived a retired life in Decatur. He was formerly engaged quite extensively in buying and shipping stock. He still owns four hundred and eighty acres of valuable land, which he rents. This is divided into two farms, one of three hundred and twenty acres in Hickory Point Township, and the other of one hundred and sixty acres in Illini Township.

The lady who is now Mrs. Schroll was in her maidenhood Miss Thomasine Eleanor Barrow. She was born in Westmoreland, in the north of England, and at the age of nineteen years came to the United States. When a young lady of twenty-two she became the wife of our subject. Their union was celebrated January 16, 1855, and unto them have been born the following children: John



Franklin, a grain dealer at Pierson, Piatt County, Ill.; Charles E., a member of the firm of Buckingham & Schroll, attorneys-at-law; Nellie D., who is a student in the State University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, she having been graduated from the Decatur High School in the Class of '90; and Wilbur Fred, who is now attending the Decatur High School. Charles was a graduate of the High School, and then pursued a four-years course in Harvard University, spending three years in the law school. Five children of the family are now deceased: Willie B., who died at the age of four months; George, who died at the age of thirteen years; Lizzie, who died at the age of a year; Winnefred, whose death occurred in her sixth year; and Lillie, who died in her fourth year.

In political sentiment, Mr. Schroll is a Republican and has served as Alderman of the Third Ward for two years. He is truly a self-made man, for when he began farming he had only \$450. He has made judicious and careful investments, has exercised good judgment in his business affairs, and as the result of his enterprise and industry he has acquired a handsome property, which now enables him to live retired.



**G**EORGE BLACK is one of the prominent farmers and extensive land-owners of Macon County. He resides on section 30, Pleasant View Township, where in an early day he purchased two hundred and eighty acres of land. To this he has added from time to time, as his financial resources have increased, until his possessions now aggregate six hundred and twenty acres of the choicest land in the community. It is needless to say that this farm is a model one. The highly cultivated fields, divided by well-kept fences, the substantial buildings, the improved machinery, all attest the enterprising and progressive spirit of one of Macon County's leading agriculturists.

Mr. Black was born in Sangamon County, Ill.,

May 14, 1826, and is of English descent. His father was a native of Kentucky, and in that State passed his boyhood days. When a young man he came with his parents to Illinois, locating in Sangamon County, where he lived until called to the home beyond. During the early days, when much trouble was experienced with the Indians, he served in the Black Hawk War. His death occurred at the age of fifty years. His wife, who was also born in Kentucky, died at the home of our subject, in this county, at the ripe old age of eighty-four.

In the usual manner of farmer lads, George Black was reared to manhood. Under the parental roof he remained until he had attained his majority, and to his father gave the benefit of his services. When he started out in life for himself he had no capital save a young man's bright hope of the future and a determination to win success if it could be obtained through enterprise and perseverance. As a companion and helpmate on life's journey he chose Miss Lavina Broom, of St. Clair County, Ill., their union being celebrated in 1847.

By the marriage of this worthy couple were born eight children, of whom two died when quite young. Those still living are Andrew C., the eldest, who manages the home farm; Erastus, a well-known agriculturist of Macon County; Bruzilla, wife of Charles Pope, a resident farmer of Christian County, Ill.; David, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in this county; William, who is also a farmer of Macon County; and Chester L., who completes the family and still resides on the home farm. The children have all been provided with good educational privileges and are occupying respected positions in the circles of society in which they move. The mother of this family was called to her final rest on the 12th of March, 1890. She had been a true and faithful helpmate to her husband, and the sorrow felt by her family was shared by a large circle of friends and acquaintances, to whom she was endeared by her many excellencies of character.

After his marriage Mr. Black began farming, and his life has been one of industry. On coming to this county he purchased a part of his present

farm, and as his financial resources have increased, he has extended its boundaries. His well-directed efforts have placed him in a position of wealth and affluence, and he is now numbered among the substantial citizens of this community. In politics he is an inflexible adherent of the Democracy, and for three years he served as School Director, which, however, is the only position that he would consent to accept. The cause of education finds in him a warm friend, and his support and co-operation are given to all those enterprises calculated to promote the general welfare. Mr. Black has made the most of his opportunities and privileges through life and has thus won prosperity.



**B**ERRY H. CASSELL, a retired merchant of Decatur, who is well known as the owner of Cassell Castle, his magnificent home which he erected in 1886, was born in Dauphin County, Pa., May 22, 1823, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Leidig) Cassell, who were also born in the Keystone State. In 1839, they emigrated Westward, locating in Putnam County, Ill., where the mother died at the age of sixty-six years, and the father in the eighty-second year of his age. Our subject remained in Pennsylvania until 1838, when, in his sixteenth year, he came to Illinois, joining his brothers, Augustus, Joseph and Christian, in Putnam County. His brother Henry is now living two miles east of Decatur. Michael L. makes his home in the city; and John is living in Niantic. His sister, Mrs. Esther Albert, makes her home with our subject.

Berry H. Cassell spent about a year in Putnam County, and in the summer of 1839 returned to Pennsylvania, but in the succeeding autumn he again came to Illinois, this time being accompanied by his parents and their family. They made the journey by water to Louisville, Ky., and thence in a one-horse wagon to their destination. So severe was the weather that our subject froze his

feet. About the 20th of November they reached Decatur, then a place of about three hundred inhabitants, whence word was sent to the brother in Putnam County, who came and took the parents home with him. Berry was rather inclined to remain, and did so. Capt. David L. Allen and Col. Leonard Ashton, the former a land-owner and the latter the stage driver, took a great interest in him and offered to secure him a position. Berry had learned the tinner's trade, and they induced him to set up a shop in Decatur. His mother had given him \$1.25, so he opened a tin shop, securing a set of tools of an old man who had a tinker's outfit. His shop was in the basement under the store of Peddecord Bros. & Co., and having secured a small box of tin plate he began business about the middle of January. By the 1st of July he had saved \$75, and in 1842 he was enabled to purchase a complete outfit. He carried on business successfully for ten years longer. In 1846, by the assistance of Peddecord & Prather, he secured a stock of stoves in Albany, N. Y., the first stock, and indeed the first stoves, ever brought to the county. These were soon sold out, and to purchase his second stock Mr. Cassell went to St. Louis. His goods were brought to Decatur by farmers who traded in that city. There was little money in circulation in this community at that day, so Mr. Cassell accepted produce for his goods, and this he traded for hardware in St. Louis.

In 1852, our subject formed a partnership with Henry Prather, and did business under the firm name of Prather & Cassell, carrying an extensive stock of hardware, furniture, agricultural implements, etc. This partnership was continued until 1855, when Mr. Cassell sold his interest and purchased the Herald House, now the St. Nicholas Hotel. He changed its name to the Cassell House, and did an extensive business for two and a-half years. From 1857 until 1860, he engaged in the hardware business in Monticello, Ill., but made his home in Decatur. During the latter year he opened a grocery store in this city, which he carried on until 1865, after which he again carried on the hardware business in Monticello for a year. Since that time he has been engaged extensively in the real-estate business. From time to time as his

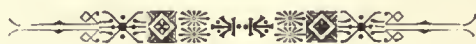


financial resources increased, he made judicious investments, and in 1852 bought two hundred and forty acres of land adjoining the city on the east, for which he paid \$12.50 per acre. This was considered very foolish by many, for no land previous to that time had sold for more than \$10 per acre. He engaged in farming it for several years, and in 1855 built his house upon it. Subsequently portions of it were platted and added to the city, and on various occasions he has made seven additions, and will yet make two more. The Decatur Coal Company's works are now situated on his land, as is also the Union Depot. Others have purchased portions of his property, platted it and added it to the city. We have before mentioned the elegant residence which Mr. Cassell erected in 1886. It is built on a beautiful knoll and is one of the finest homes in the city. He has also erected some store buildings and made other substantial improvements in Decatur.

In early life Mr. Cassell was a Whig, and attended the first Republican convention which convened in Illinois for putting a State ticket in the field. This was held in Bloomington in 1856. He has been an active member of the party since that time, and is greatly interested in its growth and success. He has been honored with several positions of public trust,—was County Recorder in 1846, has served as City Clerk, was Treasurer and Assessor for several years, and has also been Trustee. He was made a Mason in Macon Lodge in 1850, and has been a leading member of the blue lodge, chapter, commandery, council and consistory, and has been Representative to the Grand Lodge.

Mr. Cassell's marriage was celebrated October 26, 1843, Miss Louise M. Shultz, a native of Maryland, becoming his wife. The following children were born of their union: Mary Elizabeth, who died in infancy; Baron H., a farmer residing two and a-half miles east of Decatur; William L., who died in infancy; Clara Owen, who became the wife of John Carroll, but both are now deceased; and Thomas A., who assists his father in the care of his real-estate interests. The Cassell family is one widely known in this community. For almost fifty-five years our subject has been a resident of Macon

County, and has therefore been an eye-witness of the greater part of its growth and development. He has always borne his part in the work of progress and upbuilding, and is numbered both among the valued citizens and the honored pioneers of this community.



JAMES BEARD, a farmer residing on section 10, South Macon Township, was born in Washington County, Tenn., July 26, 1826, and is a son of Thomas and Jane (Hall) Beard. The Beard family is of English lineage and was probably founded in America during Colonial days. The father of our subject was also a native of Tennessee, his birth having occurred in the eastern part of the State in 1804. He followed farming throughout his entire life, and in 1849 emigrated to Macoupin County, Ill., where he made his home until called to his final rest in 1860. His wife was born in the same neighborhood as her son James, and her last days were spent in Macoupin County, she passing away at an advanced age. This worthy couple were the parents of nine children, four of whom are still living. Our subject is the eldest. John Cole is a resident farmer of Macoupin County. Valentine is now living in Carlinville, Ill. John also makes his home in Macoupin County.

No event of special importance occurred during the boyhood and youth of our subject, which were quietly passed under the parental roof until he had attained the age of eighteen. He then began to learn the harness-maker's trade, and in 1849 he accompanied his parents on their removal to the West. He had expected to return to Tennessee in a short time, but on reaching Illinois he was so pleased with the country and its prospects that he determined to make his future home in this State. He secured work as a farm hand by the month, and for a number of years he was employed in that capacity. On coming to Macon County, he made his first purchase of land, consisting of one



hundred and sixty acres, which he bought of the railroad. It was entirely unimproved, but he at once began its development and soon transformed it into a rich tract. Since that time, however, he has disposed of a portion of his property, now owning a forty-acre farm.

The lady who now bears the title of Mrs. Beard was in her maidenhood Miss Sallie Moser. Their marriage was celebrated in Macoupin County, in February, 1866, and for more than a quarter of a century they have now traveled life's journey together. They are members of the Methodist Church, and are highly respected citizens, whose excellencies of character and upright lives have gained them many friends. In his political affiliations, Mr. Beard is a supporter of the Republican party. He has never been a politician in the sense of office-seeking, but has been elected and served as Road Commissioner and School Director. He has led a quiet and unassuming life, yet true to every public and private trust, and his freedom from ostentation has undoubtedly been one of the factors that have gained him the high regard in which he is universally held.



**J**OSEPH P. SMALLWOOD, who for many years has been prominently connected with the business interests of Decatur, but is now living a retired life in his comfortable home at No. 159 West North Street, was born on a farm a mile and a-half from this city, July 10, 1829. His parents, Parmenus and Deborah (Brown) Smallwood, were both natives of Virginia, and after their marriage, which was celebrated in the Old Dominion, emigrated to Ohio, in 1823. The following year they came to Illinois, locating in Macon County, being among its first pioneers. The Indians in this locality were then more numerous than the white settlers, deer and wolves were plentiful, and prairie grass grew higher than a man's head. The father was a farmer, and in the year of his arrival entered three hundred and

twenty acres of land a mile and a-half north of Decatur, which he transformed into a good farm. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812. His death occurred in 1850, at the age of sixty years, and his wife, who survived him until 1877, passed away at the age of eighty. She was a member of the Christian Church. Unto them were born the following children: Thompson, Amanda, Betsy, Susan, Sallie, George, John, Samuel, Douglas, Asbury, Joseph, Gideon, and one who died in infancy. Only four are now living, our subject and his three sisters: Amanda, wife of William Bennett; Betsy, wife of Walter Roben; and Susan, widow of Emanuel Davis.

In taking up the life record of our subject we present to our readers the sketch of a man widely known throughout Macon County. His early education was acquired in the proverbial pioneer schoolhouse, built of logs and furnished with slab seats. He aided in the development of a farm until sixteen years of age, when he determined to follow some other pursuit, and began learning the blacksmith's trade, which he followed for five years. In 1850, during the gold excitement in California, he made his way to that State, where he followed mining for three years, but he did not meet with any great degree of success. In the spring of 1854 he returned to Illinois and resumed farming, to which occupation he devoted his energies until 1859. In that year he traded his land for a steam-mill and engaged in the milling business for about a year. He then went to Montana, where he was engaged in freighting during the summer season for seven years. In 1870 we again find him in Decatur, where he embarked in the clothing and merchant-tailoring business, which he followed for thirteen years. On the expiration of that time he sold out and began improving his farms in Edgar and Shelby Counties. He now owns eight hundred acres of land in Hume and two hundred in Windsor.

In October, 1857, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Smallwood and Miss Mary, daughter of Samuel Frederick, of Decatur. They became the parents of two children, Effie and Sheridan. The latter died when quite young. The former became the wife of John B. Laufer, and is also now

deceased. The mother of this family died in October, 1859, in the faith of the Presbyterian Church, in which she held membership.

In 1885 Mr. Smallwood erected a handsome block known as the Smallwood Flats, 88x40 feet in dimensions and three stories and a basement high. It is heated by hot water, and is supplied with hot and cold water and all modern conveniences. He also owns considerable other city property. In addition, Mr. Smallwood has a stable and feed-yard at No. 355 East Prairie Street, where several hundred horses can be accommodated. He has raised a number of thoroughbred horses, including "Aloha," a celebrated running horse, which he sold in 1892 for over \$20,000. He now has some very fine thoroughbreds in his stables. Mr. Smallwood is a man of enterprise and perseverance, and his keen judgment and good management have been important factors in his success in life. He has made a handsome fortune by his well-directed efforts, and can now live retired, resting in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil.



**R**EBUBEN BETZER, who is now living a retired life in Decatur, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Ross County on the 5th of July, 1824, and is the seventh in order of birth in a family of eleven children, whose parents were William and Margaret (Harvey) Betzer, the former a native of New Jersey, and the latter of Pennsylvania. In 1810 the father had emigrated to the Buckeye State, and two years later he enlisted as a soldier in the War of 1812. Of the family only two are now living. One sister, Barbara, wife of Dr. F. May, was for some time a resident of Decatur, but she and her husband are both now deceased. Michael came to Illinois in 1856, and died in McLean County, this State. Jonathan and Peter both located in Illinois in the same year. The latter died in January, 1876. Jona-

than removed to Kansas in 1865, and now makes his home in Saline County. With the exception of our subject he is the only survivor of the family.

In the usual manner of farmer lads Reuben Betzer was reared to manhood, and at the age of twenty-five years he settled upon a farm adjoining the old homestead, there living until the death of his father. The latter gave to each of his sons land to the value of \$1,000, and to each of his daughters that amount of money.

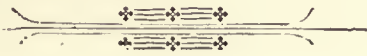
On the 31st of December, 1848, our subject married Miss Sarah Evans, who was born in Ohio in 1826, and spent her maidenhood near Circleville, in Pickaway County. The young couple began their domestic life upon the farm, where they resided until 1865. In that year they determined to seek a home in the West, and, coming to Decatur, located on a farm in Whitmore Township, about six miles northeast of the city. It comprised two hundred and fifteen acres of improved land, and its boundaries have since been extended until it now comprises three hundred and twenty-five acres. To its further development and cultivation Mr. Betzer devoted his energies until 1867, when he laid aside all business cares and came to the city. His farm is highly improved with good barns, fences, a substantial dwelling and all modern necessities and conveniences. He now rents it for \$1,400 per year.

Mr. and Mrs. Betzer have no children of their own, but have given homes to two. Their niece, Effie A. Betzer, came to them at the age of thirteen, and remained with them until her marriage to Amos F. Imboden, a policeman of Decatur. Another niece, Maria L. Evans, lived with Mr. and Mrs. Betzer from her seventh to her twenty-first year. She is now the widow of Frank Spillman, and makes her home in Decatur.

In his political views, Mr. Betzer is a Democrat, but has never sought or desired public office. In early life he was a member of the German Reformed Church, and his wife was a member of the Presbyterian Church. Later they both united with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and since coming to Decatur have held membership with the Old-School Presbyterian Church. Our subject served as Elder in Ohio, and was one of



five who built a church in his neighborhood. His labor and enterprise in former years now enable him to live retired in the enjoyment of life's pleasures. He frequently spends his winters in the South, and the summer of 1892 was spent in California. He has visited many places of interest, and his travels have proved of much pleasure and profit to him.



**J**AMES M. SHADDOCK belongs to that class of people to whom the prosperity and stability of the county is largely due—the farmers. He carries on agricultural pursuits on section 10, South Macon Township, and is numbered among the leading farmers of Macon County. As he is widely and favorably known in the community, we feel assured that this record of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers.

Mr. Shaddock is a native of Virginia. He was born in Caroline County, on the 17th of August, 1848, and is a son of James A. L. Shaddock. His father was also born in the Old Dominion and still resides in that State. He is of English descent, and throughout his entire life he has followed farming. After arriving at years of maturity he wedded Annie E. Rollins, who was also a native of Virginia, and was likewise of English lineage. Ten children were born of their union.

Our subject, who was the third in order of birth, passed his boyhood days quietly under the parental roof, attending the select schools, according to the custom of the South. At the age of twenty-one he determined to seek a home in the West, and, having arrived, at that epoch in a young man's life when he becomes his own master, he made the journey to Macon County, Ill., and cast in his lot with its early settlers. As he had no capital, he had to secure employment in order to provide for his maintenance, and hired out as a farm hand by the month. He was thus employed

for about four years, when he rented land and engaged in farming for himself. As his financial resources were increased and his labors brought him in some capital, he purchased land, and he now owns two hundred acres, comprising a fine farm that is pleasantly situated three miles south of Macon. It is supplied with good buildings and is well fenced, and the highly cultivated fields indicate the careful supervision of a practical and progressive owner.

In March, 1877, Mr. Shaddock was united in marriage with Miss Jemima Atteberry, of this county. By their union has been born a family of five children, of whom one died in infancy. A son and three daughters are still living, namely: Lula May, Maud E., James Franklin and Bertha Ann. They are still under the parental roof and are the joy of the household.

Mr. Shaddock holds membership with the Presbyterian Church, and his wife belongs to the Methodist Church, but they are united in acts of kindness and in the interest which they take in all that is calculated to upbuild humanity. Socially, our subject is a member of Macon Lodge No. 434, K. P. He is now serving his district as School Director, and the cause of education finds in him a loyal friend. In local politics, he votes independently, but at national elections he supports the men and measures of the Democracy.



**R**EV. HENRY W. LESSMAN, Pastor of St. Johannes' Lutheran Church of Decatur, which is located at the corner of Clayton and Orchard Streets, has during his residence in this city, covering a period of three years, not only won the respect and esteem of his own congregation, but has made many friends outside of the denomination. He has labored untiringly in the field which he has chosen, and the best interests of Decatur have certainly been thereby promoted.

Mr. Lessman was born in Hermansburg, Hanover,



Germany, on the 12th of March, 1852, and spent the greater part of his youth in his native land, but at the age of seventeen he bade good-bye to home and friends and crossed the Atlantic to the United States. After his arrival here he became a student in the Concordia Theological College, a German Lutheran school of St. Louis, Mo., from which he was graduated, after having completed the course, in the Class of '73. Soon afterward he was ordained at Sherrill's Mound, Dubuque County, Iowa, by the Rev. J. Osterhus, and took charge of the Lutheran Church in that place, continuing as its pastor for five years. On the expiration of that period he went to Wisconsin and, locating in Berlin, preached for the church in Berlin and the one in Burnett, a neighboring town, for six years. It was in 1890 that he came to Decatur to accept the pastorate of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

On the 4th of June, 1874, Mr. Lessman was united in marriage in Sherrill's Mound, Iowa, with Miss Lizzie Stirnweis, a native of that State. Their union has been blessed with a family of seven children, namely: Tillie, Lydia, Ernest, Emma, Clara, Lena and Walter. Mrs. Lessman has been a faithful helpmate to her husband, aiding him greatly in all his work.

The church of which Rev. Mr. Lessman is now pastor was organized in 1891, being set off from St. Paul's Church. It was established with one hundred and fifty of the two hundred and twenty-five members of St. Paul's Church, and its present membership is one hundred and eighty. The house of worship was erected in 1892, at a cost of \$16,000, and dedicated on the 18th of December of that year by our subject, assisted by Prof. Herzer and Rev. Mr. Hermann, of Nokomis, Ill. A pipe organ was put in at a cost of \$1,500 and two bells costing \$420. The edifice is a brick structure, 42x90 feet, possessing much architectural beauty and tastefully furnished and arranged in the interior. The parochial school carried on in connection with this church was established in 1887, and has now two hundred and twenty-five pupils, under the care of two competent teachers.

Rev. Mr. Lessman is a member of the Missouri Synod. It was entirely through his efforts that

funds were raised for the erection of St. Johannes' Church, and as a result of his untiring labors he has given to his congregation a very pleasant church home.



**N**OAH D. MYERS, M. D., is one of the later, yet one of the important, additions to the medical profession in Decatur. He was born on his father's farm in Jackson Township, Fountain County, Ind., in 1843, and is a son of John and Catherine (Fine) Myers. His grandfather, Jacob Myers, was a son of a Revolutionary hero, and was born and reared in North Carolina. He went to the Northwest on horseback, exploring portions of Indiana, and being pleased with the country resolved to make it his future home when the Indians and wild beasts should become sufficiently subdued to make it possible for a white man to live there. In 1811 he took his family in a wagon to the Hoosier State, but finding that the country was still too wild for settlement, was obliged to leave, taking up his abode in Kentucky. He followed farming at Crab Orchard, where the father of our subject was born. In 1812 he returned with his family to his native State, and there lived until 1829, when he again started for Indiana, arriving in 1830. He was one of the early settlers of what is now Fountain County. His father enlisted in the Revolutionary War, but never returned. The Myers family is of German origin, and was founded in America in early Colonial days.

On the maternal side the Doctor is of German descent. On leaving the Fatherland, his ancestors located in North Carolina, and his great-grandfather also entered the Colonial service. It is supposed that he was killed, as no news was ever received of him after his enlistment. The father of our subject became a well-to-do farmer and sawyer, and built the first steam sawmill in Fountain County. Removing to Jasper County, Ill., he engaged in merchandising in Gila, where he is

now living a retired life, at the age of eighty-one. He served as Postmaster of that place under President Hayes. His wife died in 1891, at the age of seventy-nine.

In the Myers family were eleven children: Maria, who died at the age of four years; Jacob, who was burned to death when eighteen months old; Peter, a resident farmer of Jasper County; Susan, wife of M. M. Sowers, a farmer of the same county; John C., a miller in Harveysburg, Ind.; Levi F., who died in Wallace, Ind., at the age of twenty-two, leaving a wife and one child, Byron F.; Noah D., of this sketch; Mathias, who was drowned at the age of two years; Mary, who became the wife of George W. Myers, a farmer, and died leaving a child, whose death occurred soon after; Amanada C., twin sister of Mary, and wife of James A. Sanders, who resides on the old homestead in Fountain County, Ind.; and Eli L., who is County Superintendent of Schools of Fountain County.

We now take up the personal history of Dr. Myers, who was reared on the home farm in such a community as is described by Edward Eggleston in his "Hoosier School Master." During his early boyhood he had a desire to engage in the practice of medicine, and his dreams of the future soon won him the nickname of "Doc," by which he was known around his father's brick-kiln. At the age of twenty-two he began teaching, and followed that profession for some time, after which he went to the State University in Bloomington, Ind., where he pursued a scientific course. The money which he had acquired was there exhausted and he had to resort to teaching once more to obtain the means to prosecute his medical studies. He began fitting himself for his chosen profession with Dr. A. T. Steele, of Waveland, Ind., with whom he remained three years, when he entered Rush Medical College of Chicago, attending his first course in the winter of 1870-71. That school was burned out in the memorable fire of October 9, 1871, and he became a student in the Medical College of Ohio, at Cincinnati, from which he was graduated on the 2d of March, 1872.

In 1873 Dr. Myers was married to Miss Mattie J. Ward, daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Mais-

grove) Ward, and unto them have been born four children: Bessie L., Minnie M., Lulu P. and Merl M. After his graduation the Doctor began practice in Veedersburgh, Ind., where he remained for a year, and then removed to Brown's Valley, in Montgomery County, where he practiced for eighteen months. On the expiration of that period he went to Jasper County, and located on the present site of the village of Gila. He was the founder of the village, as he built the first house and was instrumental in establishing the postoffice at that place, as well as the mail route. The Doctor did a large practice at Gila for thirteen years, when he removed to Decatur. He thoroughly understands his profession and has become a successful practitioner. He is examining physician for Easterly Camp No. 1626, M. W. A., and is also a member and examining surgeon of the Ancient Order of United Workmen of Decatur, together with Ionic Lodge No. 312, A. F. & A. M. In politics, he is a supporter of the Democratic party, and himself and wife, with their two eldest children, hold membership with the English Lutheran Church. Dr. Myers may truly be called a self-made man. The advantages of his youth were extremely limited and his education, literary and professional, has all been acquired through his own efforts. The ambition and enterprise which led him to carry out the long cherished dream of his youth will always keep him in the front ranks among his professional brethren.



**T**HEODORE COLEMAN is cashier for Hawthorth & Sons, and is widely known in business circles in this city as a man of sterling worth, and as being upright and honorable in all his dealings. For the promotion of the best interests of the city he gives his support, and he is recognized as a leading resident of the community. He was born in Lowell, Mass., August 7, 1852, and is a son of John W. and Nancy W. (Ela) Coleman, whose family numbered three sons and three daughters.



ters, namely: Theodore, Lucy B., Alfred W., James H., Hattie P. (wife of Robert W. Hastie, of Taylorville), and Abby, who died in infancy. The father of this family was a native of Virginia, and the mother of Maine. The former was a clerk in a dry-goods house in early life and afterward served as salesman in the Methodist Book Concern, in Louisville, Ky. In the spring of 1855 he removed to Decatur, and began teaching school. He afterward served as a book-keeper for the Henkle & Priest Mill, and subsequently was with Moorehouse, Wells & Co., and previous to this time he had engaged in farming for four years. He served as Tax Collector in 1868. He was called to the home beyond in the spring of 1869, at the age of fifty-two years. A member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, he was also a local preacher, and both by precept and example taught the way of life. His widow is still living in this city, and is a member of the First Methodist Church.

The Coleman family is of English origin. The grandfather of our subject, James H. Coleman, was a native of Virginia, and became a paving contractor in Louisville, Ky., where he carried on business for some years. His last days were spent near Shelburn, Ind., where he died at the age of eighty-six years. His only daughter is now living near that place. He took quite an active part in politics, supported the Whig party, and ere his death voted for Abraham Lincoln. The maternal grandfather, Theodore Ela, who was a shoemaker by trade, was a native of New Hampshire, but removed to the Pine Tree State in early life, settling in Lowell, where he died at the age of seventy-six.

Theodore Coleman, our subject, was only two and a-half years old when brought by his parents to Illinois. He was reared in this county, and the greater part of his education was acquired in Decatur. He was the first boy graduated from the High School of this city, the year of that event being 1868. While in school he served during vacations and leisure hours as office boy for the firm of Durfee, Warren & Co. for three years, after which he accepted a position with David Martin, remaining in his employ for four years. Since leaving school, he has continuously engaged in book-keeping. For four years he was also em-

ployed by H. W. Hill & Co., and for a year and a-half served as book-keeper for Chambers & Quinlan. In 1879 began his connection with the Hawthorth Cheek-Rower Company, with which he has continued ever since.

On the 6th of January, 1881, Mr. Coleman was joined in wedlock with Miss Linnie Good, daughter of Daniel and Barbara (Barnett) Good, who were natives of Pennsylvania, but resided near Oreana at the time of the marriage of their daughter. Three children bless this union: Daniel Roy, Hattie May and Fannie Lucile. The family hold membership with Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mr. Coleman is one of the Stewards and Trustees. He also belongs to Ionic Lodge No. 312, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M.; and Decatur Lodge No. 364, I. O. G. T., of which he is a charter member. He is a stanch advocate of temperance principles and votes with the Prohibition party. Whatever tends to upbuild the educational and moral interests of the community receives his hearty co-operation, and his aid is never withheld from a worthy enterprise. His service with well-known business firms of the city is a high testimonial to his ability and faithfulness to duty.



**F**RANK WARD, who is engaged in farming and fruit-growing on section 34, Blue Monnd Township, has the honor of being a native of this county. He first opened his eyes to the light of day January 20, 1835, in Wheatland Township, on what is known as the old Ward Farm, three and a-half miles southwest of Decatur. He is the third in order of birth in a family which numbered four sons and one daughter. His father, William Ward, was born in Tennessee in 1802, and remained in that State until eighteen years of age, when he left home and went to Kentucky. In 1822 he became a resident of Greene County, Ill., and in 1825 removed to Macon County, locating on Government land in Wheatland Township,



where he made his home until his death, on the 4th of January, 1854. The mother of our subject, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Wheeler, was also a native of Tennessee. Her father, William Wheeler, was one of the pioneer settlers of this county, coming here in 1825. Her death occurred in June, 1841, and her remains were interred in Walnut Grove Cemetery. The children born unto Mr. and Mrs. Ward were: Larkin, who died in 1864, at the age of thirty-two years; Mary, who died in 1867, at the age of thirty-three; Frank, of this sketch; Hiram, a progressive farmer and stock-raiser, who owns the old homestead; and Rial, a prosperous farmer of Moultrie County. After the death of his first wife Mr. Ward was again married. In November, 1841, he wedded Sarah Ann Abbott, and unto them were born six children, one of whom died in infancy. John A., the eldest, is a farmer of this county; Nancy J. is the wife of Oliver Logan, an agriculturist of Wheatland Township; Margaret E. is the widow of Robert Elder; William J. resides in Morgan, Ill.; and George W. is successfully engaged in farming in Colorado.

Frank Ward, whose name heads this record, was reared to manhood amid the wild scenes of frontier life, and became early inured to the hard labor of developing a new farm. He continued on the old homestead until nineteen years of age, when, on his father's death, he started out for himself to earn his own livelihood. He began work as a farm hand by the month, being thus employed for a year, after which he engaged with a Government surveyor, who was laying out township lines. Four months were spent in that way, and he then again engaged in farm labor for two years. On the expiration of that period he returned to the old homestead and began farming for himself on forty-five acres of land, which he inherited from his father's estate. To agricultural pursuits he has since devoted his energies, and as a farmer he has made of his life a success. He now owns sixty acres of valuable land, the greater part of which is planted in small fruits.

In January, 1859, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Ward and Miss Nancy I. Pasley, who was born in this county May 19, 1841, and is a daugh-

ter of Robert Pasley, an honored pioneer. The children born to them were: Emma E.; Charles E., who is engaged in carpentering; Dora E., who became the wife of Ira G. Warnick and died leaving two children; Allie C. and Ralph, who are living with our subject; and William, who completes the family. One child died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward are members of the Methodist Church, are highly respected people in this community. Their home is the abode of hospitality, its doors being ever open for the reception of their many friends. In his political views, Mr. Ward has always been liberal, supporting the man whom he thinks best qualified to fill the office, regardless of party affiliations. He has been a witness of the growth of Macon County since the days of its early infancy, and well deserves to be numbered among those who laid the foundation for its present prosperity and advanced condition.



**W**ILLIAM C. SMITH, a pioneer residing on section 16, South Wheatland Township, was born July 2, 1819, in Rutherford County, Tenn., about twenty-five miles from Nashville. His grandfather, Robert Smith, was of Scotch lineage, his wife being of Irish descent. He was in the Revolutionary War, and was taken prisoner during the struggle. His death occurred near Princeton, Ky. His son Robert, the father of our subject, was born in Guilford County, N. C., in 1782, and was fourteen years of age when his parents located on the banks of the Cumberland River, near Nashville, Tenn. They afterward took up their residence on Stone River, ten miles from Murfreesboro. The Indians were then quite numerous and the entire country was wild. Robert Smith, Jr., volunteered for service in the War of 1812 under Gen. Jackson, but was forced to return home on account of sickness. He was married in Wilson County, Tenn., to Miss Ellen Wilson, who died when our subject was four years old, leaving three sons and four daughters. One

child died in infancy; Margaret died in 1828, just after the removal of the family to this county; Naney, wife of Henry Trauber, died in Mt. Zion Township; Robert, who served in the Black Hawk War, died in 1835; Elizabeth became the wife of A. M. Wilson, of Mt. Zion, and both are now deceased; Sarah Jane, deceased, was the wife of J. P. Law; and William completes the family. All were born in Tennessee.

The father emigrated with his family to Sangamon County, Ill., with a four-horse wagon and two-horse carriage, and was accompanied by John Wilson and his family. They remained a year in Sangamon County and then came to Macon County. Although the county was not then organized and the land had not yet come into market, Mr. Smith entered over one thousand acres of land in different localities. His home was a log cabin, 20x40 feet in dimensions, and contained two rooms. It stood on the site of our subject's residence, and there he made his home until 1855, when his death occurred, and he was buried in Salem Cemetery. His first wife died in Tennessee, and later he there married Mrs. Jane (Crisp) Allen, whose death occurred in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Mr. Smith was a Jacksonian Democrat, and was acquainted with Andrew Jackson. He held membership with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of this neighborhood, of which he was one of the founders, and was much interested in church work. A prominent and influential citizen, he was widely and favorably known in the community, and is numbered among the honored pioneers. His son, A. W., served as County Commissioner in an early day.

William Smith, whose name heads this record, had very limited school privileges, but his training at farm work was not meagre. He early learned to swing the axe and use the mall and wedge and reap-hook. In the early days he has killed deer and has borne all the experiences of frontier life, sharing in its pleasures and in its hardships. When he had attained a sufficient age he took charge of the old home farm and cared for his father until his death.

In 1842 Mr. Smith was joined in marriage in Blue Mound Township with Miss Lucy J. Pope,

who was born in North Carolina in 1819, and is a daughter of Dempsey Pope, who came to Macon County in 1827. For forty-two years she proved a faithful helpmate and companion to her husband, but was called to her final rest in 1884, having had six children. John W., who was born in 1843, and educated in Mt. Zion Academy, afterward graduated from the law school of Albany, N. Y., and is now an attorney of Chicago. He is the author of "Smith's History of Macon County." George Robinson died at the age of five months. William B., who was born in 1845, and married Miss Goff, of this county, is living upon a part of the old homestead, and is a prominent and representative farmer of the community in which he has spent his entire life. He has served as Assessor and Justice of the Peace of his township. Robert, who resides upon a part of the old homestead, carries on a sawmill and blacksmith shop. He married Belle Wilson, and they have two children. He and his brother William were both students in the academy at Mt. Zion, and he completed his education in Lincoln University, of Logan County. Sarah is the wife of A. L. Myer, a farmer of South Wheatland Township. James Willis, who was educated in Decatur, married Ada Grey and resides in Chicago.

In 1885 our subject was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Mary E. Smith. Her parents were William D. and Marilla (Martin) Baker, who came to Illinois at a very early day. The father is now deceased, but the mother is still living at the age of ninety-four. Mrs. Smith was born in Macon County in 1831, and became the wife of John R. Smith, who enlisted for the war as a member of the One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, and died in the service. Her mother is still living on the farm where she located in the spring of 1829. Her father served on the first grand jury of the county. Her grandfather, Josiah Martin, served throughout the Revolutionary War, and participated in the battle of Cowpens. The members of the Martin family are Mrs. Smith; Rev. N. M., who is living on the old homestead; Mrs. M. L. Dennis, of this county; and Rev. W. P., a minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Hillsboro, Ill.



The subject of this sketch cast his first Presidential vote for Van Buren, and has since been a supporter of the Democratic party. He now owns a good farm, but rents his land and is living a retired life. He has served his township as Road Commissioner. He and his wife are numbered among the most prominent citizens of the community, few having longer resided in Macon County than they. They have been identified with its entire growth and upbuilding, and well deserve mention among its honored pioneers.



**L**EWIS B. CASNER is connected with many of the leading industries of Decatur, is a stockholder in several of its banks, and is prominent in many other business interests of this thriving city of Illinois. The enterprise, ambition and industry of such men as our subject have made Decatur what it is to-day. His name is therefore inseparably connected with its upbuilding, and with pleasure we present this record of his life to our readers. Mr. Casner was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, August 30, 1830, and is a son of Peter and Annie (Holderman) Casner. The father was a native of Pennsylvania, but when a lad of fifteen became a resident of Ohio. In 1841 he located in Mercer County, Ill., accompanied by his family, and four years later came to Macon County, settling in Long Creek Township, nine miles southeast of Decatur. There the mother died. Mr. Casner improved a large farm and died in his fiftieth year. In the family were five children. George, who died about 1879, was a farmer of Long Creek Township; Christopher, a farmer of the same township, died in 1881; Jemima is the widow of Jacob Bear, of Pickaway County, Ohio, and now lives in New Boston, Ill.; Hanson was married, and died in 1852, leaving a daughter, Ella, now the wife of M. L. Dick, of Decatur.

The subject of this sketch was sixteen years of age when he came to this county, and he remained with his mother until a young man of twenty-two.

At that age he embarked in farming for himself on a part of the old homestead, where he remained until 1891. His father had entered the land from the Government and our subject still owns a part of it. At one time Mr. Casner had two thousand acres all in one body, and for years he was extensively engaged in farming and stock-raising. He bred fine stock, and was one of the first to introduce Shorthorn cattle into this county. At the age of twenty-two he had only one hundred and twenty acres of land, so his entire possessions have been acquired since that time, and through his own efforts.

Mr. Casner was married September 22, 1853, to Miss Mary Eleanor Flanigan, who was born in Montgomery County, Ind. They became the parents of four children: Oliver, who died in 1890, at the age of twenty-two; Cordelia, wife of James Wykoff, a farmer of this county; Idola, wife of Dr. John A. Dawson, who is living in Decatur; and Ermina, wife of A. B. Chapman, of Casner. Mrs. Casner's mother bore the maiden name of Eleanor Abernethy, and was born in Virginia. She spent the last winter with Mrs. Casner, but makes her home with her daughter in Crawfordsville, Ill. She has now reached the advanced age of ninety-one years.

As before stated, probably no man in the county has done more for its upbuilding and the promotion of its business interests than our subject. He was influential in securing the Indianapolis, Decatur & Western Railroad, which crosses his farm, and he laid out the town of Casner as a shipping point. There he erected a store, which he carried on for seven years, or until his removal to the city. In 1891 he came to Decatur. Some six years previous, as a member of the firm of Gorin, Dawson & Co., he had established a bank, which in 1891 was incorporated under the name of the Citizens' National Bank. He was one of the incorporators, became Director and Vice-President, and in January, 1892, was elected President. He is also a stockholder in the Decatur Brick and Tile Company, of which he was one of the incorporators, and was its first and is its present President. J. G. Shea, of Danville, is its manager, and O. C. Stafford is in direct charge of the business. The capital stock of



the company is \$30,000. Mr. Casner was also one of the incorporators and first President of the Danville Brick and Tile Company, which has a capital stock of \$75,000 and a capacity of one hundred thousand brick per day. He is also its President at this writing. The Decatur Company has a capacity of fifty thousand brick per day. Of the Leader Manufacturing Company of Decatur he is also a Director. Their plant manufactures brick-making machinery. Mr. Casner is also President of the Farmers' Bank of Decatur, a private bank that opened its doors for business July 22, 1893, and he was one of its leading promoters. A man of keen judgment, deliberate and careful, yet progressive, possessing enterprise and energy, Mr. Casner has proved one of the leading and influential business men of this city, and his industry and fertile resources have not only benefited himself, but have proved of incalculable benefit to the city as well. His straightforward and honorable dealings have made his word as good as his bond, and his honorable career has won him high regard. In politics, in early life he was a Whig, but in 1856 joined the Republican party, which he long supported. He now, however, votes with the Prohibition party.



**C** M. CALDWELL is proprietor of a livery, feed and sale stable of Decatur. He began business in this city in 1870, and for fifteen years has occupied his present location. His stable covers 100x80 feet, and the barn and its contents are valued at about \$25,000. He keeps on hand twenty-five horses and a fine line of buggies and carriages; in fact, everything found in a first-class livery stable. From the public he receives a liberal patronage, which is justly merited.

The life record of Mr. Caldwell is as follows: He was born in Sandusky, Ohio, on the 10th of September, 1840, and during five years of his boyhood resided in Alma, Ohio. From a very early age he has made his own way in the world.

When a lad of ten he began driving a stage from Flint to Saginaw, Mich. His father had located in the latter place when the Indians were paid at that point. Throughout nearly his entire life our subject has been engaged in dealing in horses. For thirty-six years he has been engaged in the livery business, embarking in that enterprise in Saginaw, Mich., soon after the town was started. He afterward followed the same pursuit in Fentonville, Mich., and in 1864 located in Griggsville, Ill. At that place he engaged in breaking horses, which he sold to proprietors of circuses. There he remained until 1870, when he came to Decatur, as before stated. His brother, F. B. Caldwell, was in partnership with him during his residence in Griggsville, and the connection was continued in Decatur until 1883. He is now engaged as a dealer in carriages in Chicago.

In Griggsville, Ill., on the 2d of September, 1868, Mr. Caldwell was married, the lady of his choice being Miss L. Nettie White. She is a native of Massachusetts, but in her maidenhood went to Griggsville, where she remained until after her marriage. Their union has been blessed by the birth of a daughter, Eva Eliza.

In connection with his other business interests, Mr. Caldwell was also engaged in breeding thoroughbred "Wilkes" horses. He owns a farm of one hundred and twenty-four acres, five miles southwest of Decatur, where he has a fine "Wilkes" stallion and a number of standard-bred mares. He is an excellent judge of horses and a lover of the noble steed. He has not only sold many horses in the home market, but has shipped to various points. He was one of the incorporators of the Trotting Association, and continued his membership with the same until 1892.

In his social relations Mr. Caldwell is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in politics is a staunch Republican. He takes an active interest in political affairs and always keeps well informed on the issues of the day. He is now serving as Township Commissioner, a position he has filled for fifteen years with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his constituents. He and two other members of the Board have entire charge of all the roads and

expend about \$15,000 each year on improvements in this line. In connection with D. A. Maffett and C. Amman, he laid out and platted Maffett's Addition to Decatur. He has also handled considerable other real estate. Mr. Caldwell is a public-spirited and progressive man and takes a deep interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the city and its upbuilding.



**J** M. BROWNBACk, who is engaged in the banking business in Blue Mound, and is one of the substantial and representative citizens of that place, is a native of Illinois. He was born on the 16th of October, 1853, in Shelbyville, Shelby County, and is the youngest in a family of seven children whose parents were Henry and Rebecca (Zepp) Brownback. The father was a native of Pennsylvania, and in his youth learned the trade of a cabinet-maker. He was married in the Buckeye State, and with his wife and family emigrated to Shelby County, Ill., in 1850, there making his home until his death, his wife also dying in that county. The Brownback family is of German extraction, the grandparents of our subject having come from Germany to America.

J. M. Brownback, whose name heads this record, passed his early boyhood days upon his father's farm midst play and work. He attended the common schools, and his primary education was supplemented by a three-years course of study in the Normal State University, of Normal, Ill., which he entered at the age of sixteen years. When his school course was ended he carried on a dry-goods store in Normal, owned by his brother, for three years. He then secured work in a bank in Le Roy, Ill., being there employed for about six months, after which he traveled for a publishing house. The next business in which he engaged was that of book-keeping, he having a position in a hotel in Pana, Ill. In 1873 he embarked in business for himself as a dealer in drugs and grains, and ear-

ried on a successful business in that line for twelve years. On the expiration of that period he sold out and removed to Blue Mound, where he opened a bank, which he still owns.

On the 11th of April, 1882, Mr. Brownback was united in marriage with Miss Mary J. Vandever, whose home was in Taylorville, Ill. By their union have been born two children, who are still with their parents: Aleieum and Elloiese.

In his political views, Mr. Brownback is a Republican, and while he feels an interest in political affairs, as every true American citizen should do, he has never sought or desired public office. In his social relations, he is a Knight-Templar Mason, belonging to Blue Mound Lodge No. 682, A. F. & A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T., of Decatur. He takes an active and commendable interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community in which he makes his home, and gives his support to all worthy enterprises calculated to promote the general welfare. He is an enterprising man, and his well-directed efforts through life have brought him success. The bank of which he is now at the head is one of the leading financial institutions of the county, and he is one of the representative business men.



**P**ETER M. SEIBERLING, who is successfully engaged in the grocery business in Blue Mound, is a native of the Keystone State. He was born near Allentown, Pa., on the 17th of May, 1847, and is the fourth in order of birth in a family of fourteen children, whose parents are James and Sarah (Moser) Seiberling. The father of our subject is also a native of Pennsylvania, and was there reared to manhood upon a farm. After attaining his majority, he engaged in keeping tavern for several years. At length he determined to move Westward, and in 1852 emigrated to Ohio, where he purchased a farm, upon which he resided for twelve years.



It was in 1864 that he came to Macon County and purchased land upon which the town of Blue Mound is now located. He is still living on the old homestead, where he has now resided for thirty years. His wife, who is also a native of Pennsylvania, is also residing at the old home. The Seiberling family is of German extraction.

The subject of this sketch spent the first four years of his life in the county of his nativity, and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Ohio, where he remained until sixteen years of age, his boyhood being passed upon the home farm. After coming to Illinois, he remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority, when he started out in life for himself, having received such educational privileges as the public schools afforded. After leaving home he began railroading, being employed on a construction train and as a brakeman. He also served as a conductor on a freight train for a time, but at length he abandoned that pursuit and returned home to engage in partnership with his brother in the grocery business. This connection was continued for about nine years, when he sold his interest in that store.

After selling out, Mr. Seiberling purchased the store which he still owns and occupies, which contains a good brick storeroom, 75x20 feet in dimensions, and which is well filled with a complete stock of groceries, provisions, queensware and everything found in that line. His dealings are always characterized by the strictest honesty and integrity, and he has therefore won the confidence and goodwill of his patrons, who are many.

An important event in the life of Mr. Seiberling occurred on the 24th of December, 1874, when was celebrated his marriage with Miss Clara E. Goodman, a native of Decatur, Ill. Their union has been blessed by a family of six children, of whom five are still living, namely: Edith R., Terrance P., Vera H., Max and Louis. Edwin G., the fourth child, died in infancy. The children are all attending school.

Politically, Mr. Seiberling is a supporter of the Democratic party, with which he has affiliated since attaining his majority. He has been called upon to serve in a number of public positions of

honor and trust, having filled the offices of Township Clerk, Township Collector and Trustee on the Village Board. He was also a member of the School Board for several terms, and in the various positions which he has held his prompt and faithful performance of duty has won him high commendation. Socially, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.



**F**RANK SHLAUDEMANN, an educated gentleman and prominent business man of Decatur, is Vice-President of the Decatur Brewing Company, and also Vice-President of the Decatur Ice and Cold Storage Company. His entire life has been passed in this city, where his birth occurred on the 17th of June, 1862. Under the parental roof the days of his boyhood were passed, and his primary education was acquired in the public schools of the city. He afterward attended the University of Illinois, at Champaign, taking a five-years course as a mechanical engineer in the mechanical department. He was then graduated from that institution in the Class of '82, with the degrees of B. S. and M. E. After his graduation he went to Cleveland, Ohio, and entered the employ of the Brush Electric Light Company. He worked in all the departments of that company and became familiar with every detail of the business. Later he spent six months in Chicago. He had expected to devote his attention to electrical work, but events caused him to abandon this plan. However, he has built two electric machines, one for lighting the ice factory and one for motor purposes in the bottling works, of three-horse power. He put up the first electrical machine in Decatur, a Brush machine of ten-horse power for exhibition purposes.

In October, 1886, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Shlaudeman and Miss Josephine Baum, whose home was in Springfield, Ill. They have a pleasant residence on Webster Street, and are well



known in this community, having many friends. From his boyhood our subject has been familiar with the brewing business, and in 1886 entered the brewery. Since that time he has given his entire attention to the business, and has practically been its manager. He has entire charge of the manufacturing department, and his brother Harry superintends the office and sales. The property covers a tract of several acres. The Decatur Brewing Company was incorporated on the 27th of March, 1888, with a capital stock of \$50,000. Its officers are H. Shlaudeman, President; Frank Shlaudeman, Vice-President; and Harry Shlaudeman, Secretary and Treasurer. It has a capacity of twenty thousand barrels annually, with an annual business of fourteen thousand barrels, and they purchase about fifteen thousand bushels of barley, mainly grown in Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Employment is furnished to twenty-three men. The bottling works are separate from the brewery. Mr. Shlaudeman is an intelligent and cultured gentleman, pleasant and popular, and a man of good business ability.



**A**RCHIBALD DICKSON, one of the representative farmers of Milan Township, who is living on section 14, is of Scotch birth. He was born on the 20th of December, 1837, near Edinburgh, Scotland, and was the fifth in order of birth in a family of eight children, whose parents were Archibald and Inez (Allison) Dickson. William, the eldest child, is now deceased; Georgiana and Peter have also departed this life; James is an extensive cattle dealer of Australia; Adam is a prosperous farmer of Milan Township; Archibald is the next younger; George carries on agricultural pursuits in Clay County, Neb.; and Christiana, wife of Archie McNeil, is still living in Scotland.

The father of this family was born near Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1806, and was there reared to

manhood and married. Crossing the broad Atlantic to America, his death here occurred in 1851. His wife, who survived him for a number of years, was called to her final rest in 1874.

We now take up the personal history of our subject, who spent his early boyhood days in the usual manner of farmer lads, remaining under the parental roof until fourteen years of age, when he began learning the stone-cutter's trade, to which he served a five-years apprenticeship, becoming quite familiar with it. He was a young man of twenty years when, in 1857, he bade adieu to friends and native land and crossed the briny deep to Canada, where he worked at his trade for about ten months. He then went to Janesville, Wis., where he was employed as a farm hand by the month until 1859. That year witnessed his arrival in Macon County, Ill., where he was again employed as a farm hand until after the breaking out of the late war.

On the 3d of September, 1861, Mr. Dickson, prompted by patriotic impulses, responded to the country's call for troops, and enlisted as a member of Company I, Seventh Illinois Cavalry, in which he served until the close of the war. He saw much hard service, participating in many important engagements. He was always found at his post and proved himself a valiant defender of the Stars and Stripes, which now float so proudly over the united Nation. Returning home at the close of the war, Mr. Dickson engaged in the operation of a rented farm until 1869, when he purchased eighty acres of railroad land, on which he now resides. It was quite swampy, and not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made thereon. There were very few houses in the township at the time, and the greater part of the land was still in its primitive condition.

On the 19th of November, 1868, Mr. Dickson wedded Miss Eva M. Allinson, of this county. She died August 2, 1872, leaving a son, James J., who is now a farmer of Shelby County, Ill. Mr. Dickson was again married, February 4, 1874, his second union being with Miss Jennie H. Hall, who was born August 12, 1853, and is a daughter of George and Emma (Galtry) Hall, of New Jersey. Their union has been blessed with seven children, six

yet living: Ella M., Harry A., Mabel, Ollie, and Frank and Grace, twins. Nellie, the eldest, died in infancy.

The family have a beautiful home in Milan Township, Mr. Dickson there owning one hundred and sixty acres of rich land, which is under a high state of cultivation and well improved. In politics he is a stalwart supporter of Republican principles, and has been honored with several official positions of honor and trust. He is now serving his second term as Township Supervisor, and was Assessor for two years, Road Commissioner for four years, Town Clerk and School Director. In all the offices that he has been called upon to fill he has discharged his duties in a prompt and able manner that has won the satisfaction of all concerned. He is alike true to every public and private trust, and his straightforward dealing and his honorable, upright life have placed him among Macon County's best citizens.



**T**HOMAS M. TAYLOR, a farmer and stock-raiser, residing on section 33, Blue Mound Township, has the honor of being a native of Macon County. He first opened his eyes to the light of day August 24, 1850, on the old home farm of the Taylor family. His father, John G. Taylor, was a native of Virginia, and with his parents came to Illinois in 1839, locating near Springfield. He was the second in a family of eleven children born unto David and Sarah (Young) Taylor, but only three of the number are now living: James, who is a resident of this county; Amanda J., wife of Luther Devons, a farmer and stock-raiser of Polk County, Iowa; and Louisa, widow of James Pope, also a resident of Macon County.

John Taylor was reared to manhood amid the scenes of frontier life, and in 1836 came to Macon County, where he entered land from the Government, developing the farm on which his son now Thomas now resides. He was one of the earliest

settlers of the community and was one of the prominent agriculturists. While going to Buffalo, N. Y., with stock, he was killed on the railroad at Toledo, Ohio, in August, 1873. Mr. Taylor had been twice married. He first wedded Elizabeth Warnick, of Macon County, and unto them were born two children: James M., a farmer of Kansas; and Anna, widow of Lyman King. After the death of his first wife Mr. Taylor married Martha M. Dilly, a native of Maryland. Her girlhood days were spent in that State, and with her parents she came to Illinois. She died January 2, 1869, and was buried by the side of her husband in Greenwood Cemetery, of Decatur, where a large and beautiful monument marks their last resting-place. She had also been previously married. On the 13th of October, 1842, she became the wife of William B. Bosworth, who died three years later leaving a son, Joseph B. The parents of our subject had three children besides our subject: Benjamin Z., a resident of Decatur, who, as a partner of Thomas, is engaged in the stock business; William, an insurance agent residing in Chicago; and Jennie, wife of James Durfee, who is engaged in the real-estate business in Decatur.

Thomas Taylor whose name heads this sketch passed his boyhood days quietly upon his father's farm, amid the scenes of frontier life in Macon County. On attaining his majority, he began life for himself and soon was employed by the Japanese Government to take a trainload of stock from the United States to that country. At that time he was only a young man, but he was recommended by R. J. Oglesby, who was then Governor of Illinois. Our subject remained in Japan for one year, after which he returned to the United States, and again coming to the old home farm he purchased his father's herd of thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle. He rented the old farm and also engaged in raising Berkshire hogs. He has since engaged extensively in farming and stock-raising. In 1888 he sold his Shorthorn cattle and began breeding fine thoroughbred horses.

On the 8th of September, 1874, Mr. Taylor married Miss Theola Farnsworth, who was born January 26, 1853, in Washington County, Ohio.



Their union has been blessed with seven children: Anna L., born February 27, 1876; Chloe C., born July 1, 1878; Cora L., born May 28, 1881; Ida A., born February 11, 1883; John Garvey, born September 24, 1884; Jennie D., born August 2, 1888; and Thomas B., born July 3, 1891. The parents of Mrs. Taylor are Abel R. and Cynthia Ann (Sprague) Farnsworth, the former of German, and the latter of Scotch-Irish, descent. They are still living in Blue Mound at a ripe old age. Their family numbered nine children, of whom Mrs. Taylor was sixth in order of birth.

In politics, Mr. Taylor is a staunch Republican, and is one of the leading citizens of the community. He now lives on the old homestead, which his father entered from the Government in 1836. He is recognized as one of the leading farmers and horse-breeders of the county. He has a wide acquaintance throughout central Illinois, and by all who know him is held in high regard for his gentlemanly qualities, his many excellencies of character and his sterling worth. He well deserves representation among the pioneers of his native county.



**J**OHN WARD, who carries on general farming on section 28, South Wheatland Township, was born in this neighborhood September 14, 1842, and is a representative of one of the oldest families of the county. His father, William Ward, was born in North Carolina in 1802, and emigrated to Tennessee, and thence to Illinois. After a year spent in Vandalia, he came to this county, in 1823, accompanied by his mother, brothers and sisters. Here he married Miss Wheeler, a sister of Sheriff Wheeler. He served as a ranger against the Indians under Mr. Wheeler and got a land warrant for his services. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ward were born five children: Larkin and Mary, deceased; Franklin; Hiram; and Rial, of Montrie County. For his second wife, Mr. Ward married Mrs. Abbott, daughter of Thomas

Morris, and a native of Ohio. The children of that union are John; Nancy J., wife of Oliver Logan, of South Wheatland Township; Mrs. Margaret Elder, of Elwin; William J., who is living near Taylorville, Ill.; and George, of Longmont, Colo. The mother of this family resides in Elwin, but the father died in January, 1854. He was one of the first settlers of this community, living in Macon County when it contained only eight families. The Indians, however, were very numerous, wild game of all kinds was plentiful, and the Ward family experienced all the hardships and privations of pioneer life.

The first recollections of our subject are of the log cabin home, a mile and a-half south of his present residence. His father later built a frame house, weather-boarded with walnut lumber. He attended a private school in a log building, and afterward went to the High School in Mt. Gilead and the Academy in Mt. Zion. When he was twelve years of age his father died, and the management of the farm largely devolved upon his young shoulders. In June, 1861, he completed his education, and after aiding in harvesting the crops he enlisted in July as a member of Company E, Forty-first Illinois Infantry. The regiment was organized at Camp Macon and went to St. Louis to guard an arsenal, thence to Bird's Point (Mo.), Paducah (Ky.), and on the Belmont expedition. He participated in the battles of Ft. Henry and Ft. Donelson, and when Pillow made his charge he tried to escape across an open field, but was shot through the right thigh and left in the enemy's hands. Nothing was done to relieve him, and after a day and night he was recaptured, placed in an ambulance wagon and taken to a steamer, on which he was conveyed to Mound City Hospital. After lying there for some time, he went home on a furlough, but as soon as possible he rejoined his regiment, reaching his command at the time of the evacuation of Corinth. For ten months after he returned he was unfit for field duty, and so drove the ambulance most of the time. Going down the river to Vicksburg, he was made Sergeant and participated in the siege of that city. After the surrender he started for Jackson, and at the battle at that place was wounded in the head by a canis-



ter-shot and left for dead on the field. However, he was picked up with the rest of the prisoners and sent in box cars to Richmond, Va. He had to dress his own wound during the eight days' journey. He was confined in Libby and at Belle Isle until September. There he suffered many hardships. The prisoners were given very little to eat, and even the comforts of life were denied them. During his seventy-seven days in prison, his weight was reduced from one hundred and forty-five to ninety-three pounds. In September, 1862, he was paroled, sent to Annapolis, Md., and then to St. Louis. After being exchanged he received a furlough and returned home. In May, 1864, he again reported for duty at Springfield. His regiment had been divided in the mean time and the veterans were sent to Georgia. Mr. Ward joined them at Huntsville, Ala., and took part in the Atlanta campaign. His time having then expired, he was mustered out August 20, 1864, being then only twenty-two years of age.

On his return to the North, Mr. Ward engaged in farming for himself and also began dealing in wood, having saved \$500 during his service in the army. Later he embarked in stock-raising and for many years followed that pursuit. He has lived upon his present farm for a quarter of a century. It comprises one hundred and forty-one acres of rich land, and is conveniently located near Deatur. He is now furnishing gravel and sand for streets. Every improvement upon his place has been made by his own hands and stands as a monument to his thrift and enterprise.

In 1867, in Mt. Zion Township, Mr. Ward married Mattie Lemaster, who was born in Springfield, Ill., and is a daughter of William Lemaster. Five children grace their union: Rosa M.; Minnie B., wife of Adam Phillips, of Blue Mound Township; Maud, Claude and Mattie. The mother is a member of the Christian Church of Deatur, and is a most estimable lady. Mr. Ward is a member of the Grand Army Post of Deatur and the Macon County Veteran Association, and has served as Assessor of his township. He cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln and has since been a stalwart supporter of the Republican party, aiding in all possible ways in its growth and upbuild-

ing. He has been Chairman of the Central Committee and is a valiant supporter of the party of reform, which in years past through its supporters saved the country in her hour of peril. Mr. Ward is a man highly esteemed throughout the community for his sterling worth and strict integrity, is numbered among the early settlers of the county, and is a prominent citizen.



**R**OBERT W. HIGHT, one of the representative farmers of Macon Township, residing on section 14, claims Virginia as the State of his birth, which occurred in Rockbridge County on the 21st of June, 1830. He is the eldest in a family of six children, numbering five sons and one daughter, who were born of the union of Samuel and Margaret (Rapp) Hight. (A sketch of his parents will be found elsewhere in this volume.)

Our subject spent the days of his boyhood and youth in the usual manner of farmer lads, remaining on the old homestead in Virginia until seventeen years of age. He then left his native State and emigrated to Tennessee with the family, spending two years in that State. It was in 1849 that he became a resident of Illinois. In that year his parents removed to Greene County, where Robert remained for five years, when, in 1855, he came to Macon County. Here he purchased wild prairie land and began the improvement of the farm. Upon the tract of which he became the possessor not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made, but his labors have transformed the place into rich and fertile fields, and the farm of to-day bears little resemblance to that of thirty years ago.

July 23, 1863, in Macon County, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Hight and Miss Martha J. Unroe, a native of Virginia. By their union has been born a family of eight children, five sons and three daughters. Ervel, the eldest, is now engaged in the banking business in Assumption, Ill.; Maggie is now the wife of Frank Webb, a mer-

ehant of Decatur; Florence is the wife of John Culver, owner of the marble works of Decatur; Norway, Frank, Robert, Clyde and Ray are the younger members of the family and are still at home. Good educational privileges have been provided the children, thus fitting them for the practical and responsible duties of life. The family is one widely and favorably known in this community and its members rank high in social circles.

In politics, Mr. Hight was formerly a Democrat, but as he entertains and advocates strong temperance principles, his views on that subject led him to identify himself with the Prohibition party, of which he is now a staunch advocate. He has never sought or desired the honors or emoluments of public office, preferring to devote his time and attention to his business interests. Himself and family are members of the Methodist Church. They reside upon a fine farm of four hundred and sixty acres of land, constituting one of the best farms of the neighborhood, with its richly cultivated fields and many improvements. His entire possessions, Mr. Hight has acquired through his own efforts and he may therefore truly be called a self-made man.



**T**HOMAS DAVIS, a self-made man, who started out in life for himself empty-handed, but is now the possessor of a comfortable competence, resides on section 27, South Macon Township, where he owns a good farm. A native of Pennsylvania, he was born in Washington County September 12, 1819, and is a son of George and Hester (Whiteman) Davis. The father was a Pennsylvanian farmer, of Welsh and Irish lineage, and spent his entire life in his native State, dying at the age of thirty-five years. His wife, who was also born in the Keystone State, there remained until called to the home beyond. Their family numbered the following sons and daughters: Isaac, who came to Macon County in

1856, and here resided until his death in 1889; Sarah and Mary Jane, both deceased; Ellen, wife of Charles Guttry, of Belleville, Pa.; Thomas, who is the next younger; Eliza, wife of William Hatfield, of Pennsylvania; Martha, who makes her home in the Keystone State; and Goldsmith, a farmer of Pennsylvania.

Our subject was a lad of only nine summers when he left home and went to live with a farmer and cooper, with whom he remained for nine years, and under his instruction he learned the cooper's trade. He then removed to Licking County, Ohio, where he worked for five years as a farm hand at \$140 per year. On the expiration of that period he invested his money in sheep. In 1846 he went to Muskingum County, Ohio, where he operated a rented farm for a year, and in December, 1848, we find him in Macon County. In connection with a partner named Buckingham, who furnished the capital, Mr. Davis rented a fourteen hundred acre farm for twelve years. During that time he also entered land from the Government. In 1866 our subject purchased Mr. Buckingham's interest in the land and stock, giving him a note for \$48,000. At that time he owned about five thousand acres of land in this and adjoining counties, together with three thousand sheep and a great many head of cattle and hogs. He became one of the leading stock-dealers in central Illinois, doing an extensive business.

In 1854 was celebrated the marriage of our subject and Miss Elizabeth Rogers, of Washington County, Pa., but after fourteen months the lady was called to the home beyond. In 1857 he was again married, his second union being with Miss Margaret Rogers, a sister of the first wife. Three children were born to them, but all are now deceased.

Mr. Davis is a Populist in his political views. His beautiful home farm comprises one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land, and is pleasantly and conveniently located a mile east of Macon. It has all the equipments and appointments of a model farm of the nineteenth century, and in addition to this he also owns five hundred and twenty acres of land elsewhere in this county. His business has been one of prosperity, owing to



his sagacity, far-sightedness and judicious investments. His fair and honest dealing and his perseverance and enterprise gained for him a handsome property, which numbers him among the substantial farmers of Macon County. His example may well serve to encourage others, who, like himself, have to begin life empty-handed and work their way upward, or else be content with always occupying a lowly position.



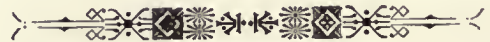
**A**LBERT A. RENFRO, who owns and operates a farm of eighty acres on section 8, Milan Township, is one of the wide-awake and enterprising young farmers of the county, and is a public-spirited and progressive citizen, who always does his part in public affairs and does what he can to promote the general welfare. He is both widely and favorably known in this community. He claims Illinois as the State of his nativity, his birth having occurred in Greene County on the 30th of September, 1857. He is a son of Moses Renfro, who was also born in Illinois, his father having come to this State from Kentucky in an early day. The family located in Wayne County, where Moses Renfro passed the days of his boyhood and youth. He became a farmer and followed that pursuit as a means of livelihood in this State until 1885, when he removed to Missouri, where he now makes his home. He has reached the age of sixty-two years. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Catherine Close, was also a native of Illinois, and her death occurred in this State when our subject was about six years of age. The family numbered four children, two sons and two daughters, the eldest of whom is Albert. Mary Elizabeth is now deceased; John is a resident farmer of Milan Township; and Isafonia is the wife of William George, an agriculturist of Kansas.

In the usual manner of farmer lads our subject passed the days of his boyhood and youth. He remained with his parents until nineteen years of

age and then, in 1877, started out in life for himself, since which time he has been dependent entirely upon his own resources. He at once came to Macon County, where he secured employment as a farm hand, working by the month. Five years were spent in that way, after which he rented a farm and engaged in its operation for eight years. His frugal and industrious life and his good management gained for him some capital in that time and he determined to purchase land, so he bought the farm on which he now resides.

In 1880, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Renfro and Miss Lutheria M. Hill, of Missouri. Seven children were born of the union of our subject and his wife, but one died in infancy. The four sons and two daughters yet living are: James A., Isa B., Howard, Clarence, Mamie and Lena. All are still with their parents.

The Renfro household is the abode of hospitality and its members rank high in the social circles in which they move. Our subject and his wife hold membership with the Methodist Church, are faithful workers in the Master's vineyard, and take an active interest in all that tends to promote the cause of Christianity. In politics he is a supporter of Democratic principles, but has never been an office-seeker. His honorable, upright life, marked by the strictest integrity, has won for him universal confidence and esteem.



**M**ICHAEL C. LIVINGSTON is a farmer and mechanic now residing on section 34, Blue Mound Township. He is one of the worthy citizens that Pennsylvania has furnished to Macon County. A native of the Keystone State, he was born in Cumberland County on the 8th of May, 1841, and is the sixth in a family of seven children. The parents, Michael and Anna (Stofer) Livingston, were also natives of Cumberland County, Pa., and in that State they spent their entire lives. They died within three weeks of each other, when our subject was about eleven



years of age. The father was a farmer by occupation, and in connection with agricultural pursuits he also carried on the carpenter's trade.

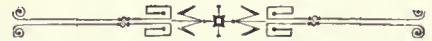
Being thus early left an orphan, Michael Livingston hired out to a farmer in Pennsylvania for two years, and on the expiration of that period he made his way Westward to Macon County, Ill. Here for some time he worked as a farm hand by the month. During his boyhood he also picked up the carpenter's trade, which he followed until July, 1861. The Civil War having then broken out, he determined to enter the service and aid his country in her struggle to preserve the Union. He enlisted as a member of Company A, Eighth Illinois Infantry, in which he faithfully served for three years. On the 20th of December, 1862, he was captured at the battle of Holly Springs, Miss., and was a paroled prisoner for six months. On the 6th of April of the same year he was wounded by a gunshot in the right leg, just below the knee, and for a time was in the field hospital. He participated in a number of important engagements and was always found at his post, faithfully performing any task allotted to him. When his term of service had expired he was honorably discharged.

Having been mustered out, Mr. Livingston returned to his home in Macon County, and worked at the carpenter's trade for about three years. He then purchased a general store in Harristown, which he carried on during the four succeeding years. On the expiration of that period he sold his store and resumed work at the carpenter's trade, which he followed successfully until 1881. He then purchased land, and in connection with carpentering followed farming for ten years. In 1891 he entirely abandoned carpenter work and now devotes himself exclusively to the management of the farm. Mr. Livingston has probably built more large barns in Macon County than any other man. He was a conscientious and expert workman, and from the public received a liberal patronage, which he well deserves.

In 1867 was celebrated the marriage of Michael C. Livingston and Miss Sidney M. Brown, of Macon County, a daughter of F. A. Brown, one of the honored pioneers of this county. From her

father's estate she inherited two hundred acres of land, on which they now reside. It is a beautiful home, pleasantly located and supplied with all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life. By the union of this worthy couple have been born five children, but four of the number are now deceased. Mamie E., the youngest, is still with her parents.

In his social relations Mr. Livingston is connected with the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Summit Lodge No. 431, A. F. & A. M.; and Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M. He is also a member of the Grand Army Post. In politics he is a staunch Republican, having continuously voted with that party since attaining his majority. His wife and daughter are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and to its support he contributes liberally. He was one of the faithful and valiant boys in blue, and in times of peace Mr. Livingston is alike true to his duties of citizenship. He is a progressive and public-spirited man, and his sterling worth has won for him many friends.



**L**OWELL A. SMITH, one of the enterprising and thrifty farmers of Milan Township, resides on section 34, where he has a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres of rich land. This valuable tract is under a high state of cultivation, and in consequence yields to the owner a golden tribute in return for the care and labor he bestows upon it. There are good buildings upon the place, and such accessories as are found upon a model farm of the nineteenth century are not lacking there.

Mr. Smith has spent his entire life in this county, his birth having occurred in the city of Decatur on the 27th of November, 1861. In a family of ten children he is the eighth in order of birth. His parents, Edward O. and Harriet (Krone) Smith, are represented elsewhere in this volume. Lowell remained in his native city until nine years of age, when his parents removed to California, he

accompanying them. The next eleven years of his life were passed on the Pacific Slope, where he pursued his studies and acquired a good High School education. At the age of twenty years he returned to Macon County, and, taking up his residence on the farm which has since been his home, has devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits from that time to the present.

Mr. Smith has been twice married. On the 20th of February, 1884, he was united to Miss Frances Watson, of Christian County, Ill., but after three years she was called to the home beyond. At her death she left two children, who still survive, Lloyd and Forest E. Mr. Smith was again married, on the 12th of March, 1890, when Miss Martha C. Mays, of Moultrie County, Ill., became his wife. Their union has been blessed with one child.

In his political views, Mr. Smith is a staunch supporter of the Democracy, with which he has affiliated since attaining to man's estate. He has served as Justice of the Peace of his township for two terms with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his constituents. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian Church and a most estimable lady. The young couple are widely known throughout this community and their many excellencies of character have gained them many friends. Mr. Smith is a wide-awake and enterprising young farmer, and his energy and perseverance will no doubt make his business career a successful one.



**F**ERNANDO D. BROMLEY, a practical and progressive farmer of Milan Township, residing on section 32, is a native of the Empire State. He was born on the 21st of October, 1831, near Rochester, N. Y., and is the fifth in order of birth in a family of nine children, three of whom are now deceased. The parents were Samuel and Sarah (Potter) Bromley. The father was born in Canada, but when quite young removed with his parents to New York, where he spent his

early life upon a farm. There he was married, and in 1846 he emigrated Westward with his family, locating in Morgan County, Ill., where he spent his remaining days, his death occurring at the advanced age of seventy-seven. The Bromley family is of English and Irish extraction. The mother of our subject was of Scotch and English descent. She was born in the Empire State, and her death occurred in this county at the age of seventy-six.

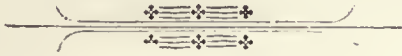
Our subject was only about a year old when his parents left the East and became residents of Michigan, and was a lad of ten summers when the family came to Illinois, where he has since made his home. He remained upon his father's farm until he had attained his majority, and was then united in marriage with Miss Christina Augustine, of Morgan County, who died a year later, leaving one child, Charles, who is now deceased. In August, 1864, Mr. Bromley was again married, his second union being with Miss Christie Ann Clifton, of Scott County, Ill. Ten children were born of their union, but three died in infancy. Those still living are Floyd, who carries on the home farm; Charles A., Roy, Maude, Jessie, Bessie and Kittie.

After his first marriage, Mr. Bromley began farming for himself in Morgan County, Ill., and there remained until 1872, which year witnessed his arrival in Macon County. Here he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land, and upon that farm has since made his home. It now comprises two hundred acres, he having disposed of the remaining forty. His land is under a high state of cultivation and the place is well improved with good buildings and everything that goes to make up a model farm of the nineteenth century. Mr. Bromley's possessions have all been acquired through his own efforts, as he started out in life a poor boy with no capital, and has made all that he has through his own industry and good management.

In his political views, our subject has followed in the footsteps of his father and has always been a staunch supporter of the Democratic party. He served his township as Supervisor, proving a capable and efficient officer. Socially he is a member



of South Macon Lodge No. 642, A. F. & A. M., of Macon, and himself and wife are members of the Baptist Church. They are highly respected citizens and hold an enviable position in social circles. Mr. Bromley is not only numbered among the best citizens, but also ranks as a leading agriculturist, and it is with pleasure that we present this record of his life to our readers.



**J**OHIN N. FULLER, who is living a retired life in Decatur, claims New York as the State of his nativity. He was born in the town of Mt. Hope, Orange County, February 24, 1814, and comes of an old New England family. His grandfather, Jephtha Fuller, was a native of Connecticut, and served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. His son, James D. Fuller, was born in the Empire State, and was a carpenter and millwright by trade. He married Nancy Wheat, daughter of Simeon Wheat and a native of New York. His death occurred in that State, at the age of thirty-three years, and his wife, who long survived him, passed away in Massachusetts, at the age of eighty. She was a member of the Methodist Church, but Mr. Fuller believed in the faith of the Society of Friends.

Our subject is the only one now living of the family of six children. He remained in the Empire State until twenty years of age, and at fifteen began learning the tanner's and currier's trade. He commenced serving a regular apprenticeship, but bought the last six months of the time from his employer and began railroad work. He was first employed as foreman, and afterward did contracting for a number of years, being thus employed in nearly all the Eastern States. He worked on the old Boston & Providence Railroad when it was thought to be a great feat to haul six cars of ten tons' capacity at the rate of six miles an hour.

At the age of twenty-three Mr. Fuller was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Harriet

Horton, of Canton, Mass., and a daughter of Samuel Henshaw Horton. They had one child, Rinaldo H., now deceased. The mother died about 1840. Mr. Fuller then wedded Miss Elizabeth P. Cluff, and they became the parents of a daughter, Harriet, but she also passed away. For his third wife Mr. Fuller chose Miss Elizabeth Bishop, a native of England, and three children grace their union. Harriet became the wife of Preston Murphy, by whom she had one son, Lester F., and after his death married William L. Krigbaum, by whom she has four children: Howard, Daniel, Helen and William L. Jennie became the wife of Joseph Jones, who died leaving two sons, John and Edmund. By her second husband, George Hathaway, she has two children, Alice and George. Bessie became the wife of Harry Ritter, and died leaving a son, Burtram. Mrs. Fuller died about 1872, after which our subject married Mrs. Hannah Parker, widow of Branch Parker, of Jackson, Mich., and a daughter of William Daily. She removed from New York to Michigan in an early day, and was a member of the Presbyterian Church, dying in that faith in 1885.

Mr. Fuller came to Illinois in 1852 and followed railroading, keeping pace with the progress of the times. He made the journey by rail to Clinton, and then drove in a buggy to Decatur, where he took a contract for building about fifteen miles of what is now the Indiana, Decatur & Western Railroad from Decatur east. Moving his family to this city, he has here since made his home. In his railroad experience he was associated with some of the best-known railroad men in the country, and his counsel and advice were frequently sought by those high in railroad circles. He is now living a retired life, enjoying a well-earned rest. His business enterprise has brought him a comfortable competence and he now owns a valuable farm of three hundred and thirty acres near Casner, also a tract of thirty acres just east of Decatur, together with his city property, including his home at No. 432 South Main Street.

Socially, Mr. Fuller is a member of Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T. In religious belief he is a Methodist. In



politics he was a Whig in an early day, but has been a supporter of the Republican party since its organization. For twelve years he held the office of Justice of the Peace, proving a capable and trustworthy official. He has led a busy and useful life, and although he is now well along in years, having possessed a strong and vigorous constitution, he is still well preserved. He can read small print without the aid of glasses, has an excellent memory and writes a good, smooth, business hand that shows a steady nerve. He is popular with both old and young, for his genial and pleasant manner has won him many warm friends.



**F**ELIX B. TAIT is proprietor of F. B. Tait & Co.'s check-rower and corn-planter establishment. This is located at No. 328 East Cerro Gordo Street, and is one of the leading industries of Decatur. Our subject was born in Macon County, about three miles north of the city, November 29, 1850, and comes of an old family of Irish origin, which was founded in America by his paternal grandfather, a native of the Emerald Isle. The maternal grandfather, Joseph Spangler, was born in Germany and was a mere child when he crossed the briny deep. He located in Sangamon County, Ill., in 1835, and there followed the occupation of farming for many years. He also built the Spangler Mill, a few miles east of Decatur. His death occurred in this city at the age of sixty years.

The parents of our subject, James D. and Sussanna (Spangler) Tait, were both natives of Pennsylvania. The former, having lost his father, left home at the age of fourteen years and learned the saddler's trade. Wishing to try his fortune on the broad prairies of the West, and hoping thereby to benefit his financial condition, he came to Decatur in 1839 and opened the first harness and saddlery shop in this place. For about four years he carried on that business, after which he spent the succeeding

two years of his life in operating the Spangler Mill. He then removed to the farm north of Decatur which he still owns. He made it his home until 1876; when he went to California, and after a year spent on the Pacific Slope took up his residence in this city, where he is now living a retired life at the age of seventy-eight. His wife, who was a member of the Universalist Church, died May 28, 1882. In 1884 Mr. Tait wedded Mrs. Catherine Rea, widow of Samuel Rea and a daughter of William Dennis, of Lancaster, Ohio. Mr. Tait is also a member of the Universalist Church, and is a man possessing many excellencies of character.

The subject of this sketch has spent his entire life in the county of his nativity. His early education, acquired in the district schools of the neighborhood, was supplemented by a course in the State Normal School, of Normal, Ill., from which he was graduated in the Class of '73. He then engaged in teaching in Woodstock Seminary for a year, after which he returned to Decatur. Having determined to take up a profession, he began reading law in the office of Smith & Clokey, and was admitted to the Bar at Mt. Vernon, Ill., in 1876. Later he formed a partnership with Hon. John A. Brown, and during the four succeeding years he engaged in the practice of law in this city, but in 1880, owing to failing health, he was forced to abandon his chosen career.

In that year Mr. Tait turned his attention to the manufacture of check-rowers, and since that he has added the manufacture of corn-planners to his business. He began in a small way near the Union Iron Works and continued there until 1882, when, on account of his rapidly increasing trade, which necessitated the providing of larger quarters, the business was moved to the present factory on Cerro Gordo Street. The main building is 50x160 feet, and to this has been added a foundry 45x75 feet, a blacksmith shop 35x70 feet, and a warehouse 50x220 feet. In the factory are employed from eighty-five to one hundred hands, and the sales of the establishment reach \$250,000 per year. The sales in 1893 have increased a-third over those of the previous year.

On the 13th of October, 1892, Mr. Tait was

united in marriage with Mrs. Mary E. Boyer, daughter of David Essick, a native of Pennsylvania. Our subject and his wife hold a high position in social circles and have many warm friends throughout the community. He is a member of the Universalist Church, and she holds membership with the Methodist Church. In politics, he is a supporter of Democratic principles. His success in a commercial way has been well deserved, as he brought to his business enterprise and industry, and as a result of his well-directed efforts and his fair and straightforward dealings he has built up an excellent trade and is now at the head of one of Decatur's leading industries.



**H**ENRY M. WHITMER has been a resident of Decatur since 1860, and is widely known throughout his adopted county. He is prominently identified with the business interests of the city, being a carpenter and contractor and a leading brick manufacturer. Evidence of his busy and well-spent life is shown in many substantial buildings which he has erected, some of which were made from the brick from his yard. Mr. Whitmer is a native of Pennsylvania, having been born in Northumberland County, January 11, 1833, and is one of eight children whose parents were Benjamin and Lydia (Mitchell) Whitmer.

The paternal grandfather, Henry Whitmer, came from an old family of Swiss origin, that was founded in the Keystone State about two hundred years ago. He was born in Lancaster County, Pa., and removed to Northumberland County, where he died in 1876, at the age of ninety years. He was a stone mason and farmer, and was a soldier in the War of 1812. His family numbered two sons and a daughter. The Mitchell family is of Pennsylvania ancestry, and the grandfather was a Pennsylvania cabinet-maker. The parents of our subject were both born in that State, and lived upon a farm in Northumberland County. The

father died about 1878, at the age of sixty-four years, but his widow is still living in Millintown, Pa., at the advanced age of eighty-six. She is a member of the Lutheran Church, to which her husband also belonged. Of their family, consisting of seven sons and a daughter, three died in infancy. The others were: Reuben W., Henry M., Isaac, Samuel H. and Mary. All are now deceased with the exception of our subject and his brother Samuel, a physician of Newport, Pa.

When our subject was quite small, he removed with his parents from Northumberland County to Juniata County, Pa., where he acquired his early education in a log schoolhouse. In 1850, he commenced serving an apprenticeship to the carpenter's trade, which he has followed more or less continuously since. On coming to Illinois in 1860, he located in Decatur, and began business as a carpenter and contractor. This he has carried on continuously since in connection with the manufacture of brick. He does an extensive business in the latter line, turning out twenty thousand brick daily. In the home and foreign markets he finds a ready sale for his product, as is shown by the large production needed to meet the demand.

December 17, 1857, Mr. Whitmer married Miss Anna A. App, daughter of John and Catherine (Gross) App, who were natives of Pennsylvania. Seven children were born of their union, but Ida, the eldest child, died in infancy, as did also one son. Edward, who has a large plant and is engaged in the manufacture of brick in Jacksonville, Ill., as a member of the firm of Whitmer & Son, married Miss Ida Mitchell, of that city, and they have two children. Howard, of Decatur, married Miss Josephine Kerney, of Jacksonville, by whom he has one son, Harry Myrle, who is a partner of H. M. Whitmer & Son and superintendent of the yards. Alberta, who is a teacher of the piano, a student of Prof. Liebling, of Chicago, and a member of the Woman's Club, is at home. Cora is the wife of Arthur McNab, of Decatur, and unto them have been born two children, Anna and Margaret. Frank is the next younger.

The members of the family all belong to the Presbyterian Church. Socially, Mr. Whitmer is



connected with the Masonic fraternity, being a member of the Chapter, and in politics is a Republican. He owns a good farm of one hundred and forty acres in Decatur Township, besides some small tracts of land and some real estate in the city, including his home at No. 700 South Webster Street, which he built in 1866, when it was at the extreme outskirts of the town. He platted Whitmer Addition, and three additions have been made from the original ten acres. From the time he entered upon his life work his career has been a busy one. He has devoted himself assiduously to its interests, and his diligence and enterprise have won for him prosperity. He is now at the head of an important industry and is ranked among the successful and substantial business men of Decatur.



**J**OSEPH MILLER has been connected with the mercantile interests of Blue Mound for twenty-one years, having established a grocery store in that place in 1872. In 1877 he opened his present store, being now engaged as a dealer in clothing, boots and shoes. His store is well stocked, and his moderate prices, his fair and honest dealing, and his earnest desire to please his customers have secured him a good trade. The commercial interests of Blue Mound are well represented by our subject, who is recognized as one of the substantial and representative citizens of the community.

On the 1st of April, 1848, near Chillicothe, Ross County, Ohio, our subject was born. The Miller family is of Welsh extraction. The father of our subject, Abraham Miller, was a native of Virginia, and in the Old Dominion was reared to manhood upon a farm. When a young man he emigrated to Ohio, where he resided until his death, which occurred in 1855. The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Lydia Horbert. She, too, was of Welsh descent and was a native of the Buckeye State. She was called to her final home at the age of sixty-five years, and was laid to rest by the side

of her husband, where a substantial monument has been erected to their memory.

This worthy couple had a family of ten children, eight sons and two daughters, the eldest of whom, George, died at the age of twenty years; Isaac died in infancy; Hezekiah is a farmer and stock-raiser living in Ross County, Ohio; William L. is a prosperous agriculturist and a very extensive stock-dealer, residing on the old homestead in Ross County; Mary E. is the widow of Daniel Goodman and makes her home in the same county; Anna is the wife of Daniel A. Dorsey and is residing in Kearney, Neb.; Jesse was a soldier in the late war and died in the service; James follows farming near Humboldt, Kan.; Joseph is the next in order of birth; and Amos B., who completes the family, is a commission merchant of Dayton, Ohio.

No event of special importance occurred during the early boyhood of our subject, which was passed in attendance at the district schools and in work on the home farm. When only sixteen years of age he enlisted in Company K, One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Ohio Infantry, in which he served until the close of the war. There were four sons of the Miller family who entered the service, and one of the number laid down his life on the altar of his country. When the war was over, Joseph returned to his home in Ross County, Ohio, and resumed work on the home farm, where he remained until he had attained to man's estate. He then purchased a sawmill in Pickaway County, Ohio, which he operated for two years. On selling out he came to Illinois, locating in Christian County, just across the line from Macon County. To the improvement of the farm which he there purchased he devoted his time and attention until 1872, when he rented his land and came to Blue Mound.

On the 10th of August, 1871, Mr. Miller was joined in marriage with Cordelia Overley, of Kinikinnick, Ross County, Ohio, and they became the parents of four children: Mabel, a highly educated young lady; Trenna J.; Joseph, who died in infancy; and Margaret.

On locating in Blue Mound Mr. Miller embarked in the grocery business as a member of the firm of Miller & Seelig, which partnership was continued until 1877, when he purchased Mr. Seelig's inter-



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*John A. Brown*

est. He then disposed of his stock of groceries and opened his present store. He now owns one of the leading clothing and boot and shoe stores in Blue Mound. He occupies a brick building one hundred and twenty-eight feet long, and this is well stocked with everything in this line. Although his attention is largely taken up with his business interests, he has yet found time to devote to public affairs, and has served as President of the Town Board and in the position of School Director. In his political views he is a Republican and warmly advocates the principles of that party. He holds membership with Blue Mound Lodge No. 682, A. F. & A. M.; and with Blue Mound Post No. 347, G. A. R. His wife holds membership with the Presbyterian Church, and he contributes liberally to its support. He also gives freely to every enterprise calculated to prove of public benefit, and the community recognizes in him a valued citizen.



**H**ON. JOHN A. BROWN, a well-known resident of Decatur, was born July 23, 1843, in Abington, Mass., and is of the seventh generation from Rev. Samuel Brown, a Pilgrim preacher, who with his flock of followers in the year 1632 became the first settlers of Abington. The great grandfathers of our subject, on both the paternal and maternal sides, were heroes of the Revolution, and served from the beginning to the end of that struggle, and both of his grandfathers were prominent and influential citizens of Abington, and for years represented their district in the Legislature of the State.

Lysander Brown, the father of our subject, was one of the pioneer boot and shoe manufacturers of his native city. He employed a very large number of men and aided greatly in the growth and prosperity of the community in which he lived. One of the workmen who daily toiled at his shoe bench was Henry Wilson, whose name and fame have since become world-wide. At an early age John A. Brown removed with his parents to Ver-

mont, and on leaving the Green Mountain State went to Ohio, where he remained until 1857. That year witnessed his emigration Westward and saw him located in Hannibal, Mo., where he completed his education in the public schools. At the age of sixteen he commenced the battles of life, and has since made his own way in the world. He secured a position as ticket agent for the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad at Chillicothe, Mo., and was employed in that capacity at the breaking out of the war.

Mr. Brown at once espoused the Union cause, and during the four years' struggle which ensued he rendered efficient aid to the Government in many ways. In 1861 he resigned his position and went to Jacksonville, Ill., being engaged in school teaching for four years in Morgan County. During all this time he was an active member of the Union League, and was frequently called upon to make war speeches. In the spring of 1865, with a span of horses, his entire earthly possessions, he drove to Decatur with a view to making it his future home, and he has since here resided. For a number of years he was connected with the newspapers of Decatur as editor, and was also special correspondent of the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*.

In the meantime Mr. Brown studied law, and in 1875 was admitted to the Bar. He at once entered into partnership with F. B. Tait in the practice of his chosen profession. The new firm was very successful and immediately entered upon a lucrative practice. This connection continued for four years, and on its dissolution Mr. Tait embarked in the manufacturing business, and Mr. Brown still carries on the practice of law. In 1875 Mr. Brown was appointed Master in Chancery of Macon County by Judge C. B. Smith, and was afterwards re-appointed by the same gentleman and by Judges Nelson, Wilkin and Hughes, holding the office for fifteen years. He was also School Treasurer of Decatur Township during all this period. Vast amounts of money in this time passed through his hands, and as the result of his faithfulness to the trust reposed in him he has established a reputation for integrity second to none. His honorable, upright career has made his word as good as his bond.



In 1868 Mr. Brown married Miss Annie L. Fowler, and they have two daughters, May and Jessie. For the past twenty years his aged mother has lived with her son, and although she is now eighty-six years of age she is still hale and hearty. Mr. Brown is President of the Decatur Implement Company, also of the Brown Novelty Company, and at this time, in the prime of life, is regarded as one of the most energetic and prosperous citizens of Macon County. He has always had great faith in Decatur and its future, and has been quick to act where its interests were involved. He has always been a Republican in politics, and while not an office-seeker, in every campaign his voice is heard in advocacy of Republican principles.



**J**EFFERSON G. WILLARD was for a number of years connected with the agricultural interests of Macon County, but is now living a retired life in Decatur, enjoying a well-earned rest, surrounded by the comforts and luxuries which have been supplied through the fruits of his former toil. In January, 1892, he came to the city and built a fine residence at a cost of \$5,000, at No. 752 West Macon Street, where he now makes his home.

Mr. Willard was born in Overton County, Tenn., February 21, 1827, and is a son of William and Martha (Goodpasture) Willard, the former a native of Tennessee, and the latter of Virginia. On the paternal side the family is of English and Scotch origin. The paternal grandfather of our subject, William Willard, was a native of Virginia and served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, after which he was granted a pension by the Government. He reached the advanced age of one hundred and five years. Up to the last he retained his mental and physical vigor and when a centenarian rode fifty miles on horseback in one day. In the spring of 1830, William Willard, Jr., removed with his family to Morgan County, Ill., and entered from the Government three hundred and twenty

acres of land, nine miles west of Jacksonville. Upon that farm he made his home until 1847, when, at the age of forty-seven years, he was called to the home beyond, dying of congestive fever. He had been an enthusiastic Methodist. His wife long survived him and died at the ripe old age of eighty years, in Macon County, November 8, 1861. They were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mr. Willard served as one of the officers of the local congregation. Their family numbered ten children, six sons and four daughters, but only three are now living: Jane, widow of Wilson Smith, a resident of Morgan County, Ill.; Jefferson G., of this sketch; and Abram Jasper, who is living in Coles County, Ill., seven miles south of Mattoon.

Our subject spent his early life in Morgan County, Ill., and when he had attained a sufficient age began his education. The schools of that community were very primitive in character, and in a log schoolhouse he conned his lessons, sitting upon a rude slab bench. In one end of the building was a huge fireplace, and the light was admitted through greased-paper windows. He there, however, laid the foundation for a useful and practical knowledge, which has been acquired through experience and observation. On the 28th of March, 1849, Mr. Willard was married, Miss Aliff C. Averitt becoming his wife. The lady is a daughter of Nathan G. and Mary (Cooper) Averitt, the former a native of Kentucky, and the latter of Tennessee. They became pioneer settlers of Morgan County, Ill., where they located in 1830. Two children were born of the union of our subject and his wife, but one died in infancy. James Monroe is still living with his father in Decatur and is connected with the Municipal Electric Light Company as General Manager. He married Miss Florence Dyke, a native of Tennessee, who died April 17, 1892. They had two children, Clara Averitt and Chester Dyke, twins, but the latter died in infancy.

Upon their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Willard began their domestic life in Morgan County upon a farm and there remained until 1855, when Mr. Willard sold his property in that county and came with his family to Macon County, where he has since made his home. He purchased a farm of three hundred

and twenty acres in Haristown Township, on section 9, and from time to time as his financial resources were increased he has bought more land, until his possessions now aggregate seven hundred and forty acres, a portion of which adjoins the corporation limits of Haristown. While living upon his farm he gave particular attention to raising cattle and hogs and fed most of his grain to his stock. His farm contains the finest and best stocked fishpond in the county, covering several acres, and which is a source of great pleasure to many friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard hold membership with the Christian Church, and for a quarter of a century he was an Elder in the church in Haristown. In politics he is a Prohibitionist. Formerly he was a Democrat for many years, casting his first Prohibition vote for Fisk and Brooks in 1888. He served efficiently as Road Commissioner for twelve years and was President of the Macon County Agricultural Society for three years and was also one of its incorporators. He is a warm friend to the cause of temperance and morality and does all in his power to advance the best interests of the community, and has never had a lawsuit and never served on a petit jury. He has lived so that he has won the confidence and high regard of all with whom he has come in contact, and his life is well worthy of emulation.



**H**ENRY L. HIGHLY, a prominent and influential farmer residing on section 12, South Macon Township, was born on the 12th of June, 1835, in Muskingum County, Ohio, and is the eleventh child of the family of thirteen children born unto Thomas and Susan (Gist) Highly. The father was a native of Pennsylvania, was reared on a farm in the Keystone State, and after his marriage emigrated to Muskingum County, Ohio, where, in the midst of the forest, he hewed out a farm. There he remained for a number of years and reared his family, but at length sold out

and removed to Hocking County, where he purchased a farm, upon which he passed the remainder of his life. He died at the advanced age of eighty-two years. The Highly family is of German origin. The mother of our subject was of Irish lineage, and she too was a native of Pennsylvania. Her death occurred at the age of seventy-eight years. Only four of the family are now living: Thomas A., who carries on farming in Cherokee County, Iowa; Henry, of this sketch; Samuel, a resident farmer of Hocking County, Ohio; and Elizabeth, wife of John Coon, also an agriculturist of Hocking County.

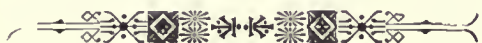
We now take up the personal history of Henry Highly, who is widely and favorably known in this community. He remained at home until fifteen years of age and then left the parental roof to begin work as a farm hand by the month. He was thus employed for three years, after which he engaged in farming on shares, operating the property of one man for ten years. It was in 1861 that he came Macon County, and for a year after his arrival he again worked as a farm hand. He then rented land for a year, after which he purchased eighty acres of railroad land, upon which he has since made his home.

In the Buckeye State, on the 6th of March, 1862, Mr. Highly was united in marriage with Miss Jane Gibson, of Hocking County, Ohio, a daughter of Patrick and Margaret (Flannigan) Gibson, who are mentioned elsewhere in this work in connection with the sketch of J. A. Gibson. The wedding journey of the young couple consisted of a trip to Illinois in a covered wagon, they reaching their destination after fourteen days. Their union has been blessed with two sons: Olney, who now carries on farming in South Macon Township; and James H., who aids in the operation of the home farm.

Mr. Highly is a warm advocate of temperance principles and embodies his views on this subject in his ballot, which he deposits in favor of the Prohibition party. He has served as School Director in his township for twenty years, and his faithfulness and fidelity are indicated by his long continued service. He would never accept other office, however, preferring to devote his attention to his busi-



ness interests. Socially, he has been connected with the Masonic fraternity for thirty years. Himself and family are members of the Presbyterian Church, in which he has for some time served as Elder. Generous and benevolent, he contributes liberally to its support and gives freely of his means to all worthy charities. His life has been an honorable and upright one, well spent in the service of the Master. In his business career Mr. Highly has prospered and now possesses a handsome property, including a fine farm of three hundred and sixty acres, which is under a high state of cultivation and well improved.



**H**ENRY C. MOWRY is one of the enterprising and progressive business men of Macon County. He is extensively engaged in grain dealing in Forsyth for the firm of Day, Sons & Co., of Providence, R. I., and controls a good trade. He was born in Smithfield, Providence County, R. I., March 1, 1835, in the same house where occurred the birth of his father, Asa Mowry, and that of three generations before him. The family is of French and English descent, and is one of the old families of Colonial days. The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Louisa Johnson, and was also born in Rhode Island. Her father, George W. Johnson, was a Revolutionary soldier, and died at the advanced age of ninety-four years.

Asa Mowry was a cooper by trade, but, having studied law, engaged in the practice of the legal profession in the latter part of his life. In religious belief he was a Quaker. He died in May, 1841, but his wife survived him for many years, and passed away July 24, 1883. Of their family of five children one died in infancy. Abbie is still living in the East. Henry is the third in order of birth. Enos died in October, 1863. Edward L., a stone-cutter by trade, is now living a retired life in Rhode Island.

Our subject was about seven years of age when

his father died. He then began work in the cotton mills of his native State, receiving only seventy-five cents per week for his services. He was a faithful little employe, however, who learned the business well, and when only sixteen years of age was appointed to the position of overseer of the Smithfield Mills, having from thirty to sixty hands under his management. He continued work in the mills until 1855, when he began clerking in a clothing store. He was afterward employed in a lumber-yard until the breaking out of the late war, when, laying aside all business cares, he entered the service of his country. The echoes of Ft. Sumter's guns had hardly ceased reverberating when he offered his services to the Government. He enlisted August 17, 1861, and was made Sergeant of Company K, First Rhode Island Infantry. This was the first regiment of which Gen. Burnside had charge, and it was the third that entered Washington City. Mr. Mowry participated in the hard-fought battle of Bull Run and the engagements at Roanoke, Newbury and Fredericksburgh. He was slightly wounded in the left leg by a spent ball, and in 1862 received his final discharge, acting as Lieutenant at the time, though he never received a commission to that office.

After this Mr. Mowry returned to his old home and accepted the position of mail agent on the Providence & Worcester Railroad, to which office he had been appointed before entering the service. He was thus employed until 1867, when he came to Macon County, Ill., locating in Forsyth, where he erected an elevator, cribs and grain office. There he engaged in grain-dealing until 1869, when he went to Mattoon and carried on the same business for the firm of Day, Sprague & Co., of Providence, R. I., having entire charge of their Western department. In 1878 he removed his headquarters to Decatur, but in the latter part of that year returned to Forsyth, where he has since remained.

On the 2d of August, 1872, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Mowry and Miss Henrietta Flood. By their union were born two children: Albert E., who is now station agent and operator at Forsyth; and Alfred H., who died in his sixth year.

The ambition and energy which caused Mr.



Mowry to educate himself in the East Greenwich Academy have characterized his entire life and made his business career one of success. In politics he takes quite an active part and votes with the Democratic party. He has served as Commissioner of Hickory Point Township for several terms, and when only twenty-three years of age, while in Rhode Island, he was elected to the State Legislature. Since 1865 he has been a member of the Masonic fraternity, and also belongs to the Odd Fellows' lodge, the Knights of Pythias order and the Grand Army of the Republic. He is a valued citizen, who takes an active interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community and its upbuilding. His public and private life are alike above reproach, and his long continuance with the firm with which he is now connected is a high testimonial to his fidelity.



ALEXANDER S. FREELAND, who is connected with the agricultural interests of Milan Township and makes his home on section 1, has spent almost his entire life in this locality and is well deserving of representation in this volume. He was born on the 20th of March, 1842, in what was then a part of Macon County, but is now in Moultrie County, and is the only child of David and Sarah (Strain) Freeland, a sketch of whom may be found on another page of this volume.

Alexander was only about a year old at the time of his mother's death. He remained upon the home farm and received instruction from his father for six months and for about nine months was in the country schools, and so acquired only a limited education. The war having broken out, his patriotism was aroused, and he determined to strike a blow in defense of the Union. He was only nineteen years of age when, on the 9th of May, 1861, he enlisted in Company E, Twenty-first Illinois Infantry, with which he served until December 16, 1865, when, peace having been declared,

he was honorably discharged. He participated in the battles of Perryville, Stone River and Chickamauga, the Atlanta campaign, and, in fact, all the engagements in which his regiment took part. At the battle of Nashville a color-bearer had fallen, and from that time on Mr. Freeland carried the Stars and Stripes, which many times led the troops on to victory. In the battle of Stone River he was wounded in the left thigh by a grape shot, and still has the ball in his possession. He was taken to the field hospital for a short time, was thence sent to Nashville for two weeks, and afterward spent four months in Cincinnati. He was also taken prisoner, but made his escape four days after his capture.

When the war was over, Mr. Freeland returned to this county and purchased a team of oxen with money which he had obtained in the service. He then began breaking prairie and has since carried on agricultural pursuits. He now owns one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land, which represents his own labor and energy, and which constitutes one of the best farms in the locality.

On the 9th of January, 1868, Mr. Freeland married Miss Eliza M. Hood, who was born in Shelby County, Ill., September 27, 1851, and is a daughter of Thomas A. and Cynthia (McIntosh) Hood, who were pioneers of this State. A son and ten daughters have been born of their union, and the family circle yet remains unbroken. Luella, the eldest, is now the wife of John Canady, a merchant of Mattoon, Ill.; George C. is a well-educated young man and an accomplished musician; Rosie M., Mary, Eunice, Edna, Alice, Eva, Vida, Frances and Nanie are still at home.

Mr. Freeland is a staunch Republican, who warmly advocates the principles of his party. He is now serving as Road Commissioner of his township, but has never been an aspirant for public office. Socially, he belongs to I. C. Pugh Post No. 481, G. A. R., of Dalton City, and himself and wife are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Mr. Freeland is numbered among the honored pioneers of this community, where for more than half a century he has made his home. He has a very large and interesting collection of old Indian relics, which he gathered in this locality at an

early day. He has borne all the experiences of pioneer life and has witnessed the development of the county, having seen its wild lands transformed into beautiful homes and farms, and its hamlets grow into thriving towns and villages.



**B**ENEDICT YOUNG owns and operates a fine farm of three hundred and sixty acres on section 21, Blue Mound Township. We glance at this place and at once notice its neat appearance, a fact which attests the careful supervision of the thrifty owner. We also see a substantial home, good barns and other outbuildings, the latest improved machinery and well-tilled fields. This place is regarded as one of the best farms in the community, and its owner is recognized as a practical and progressive agriculturist.

Of German birth, Mr. Young is the second in a family of seven children, five sons and two daughters, whose parents were Vincennes and Catherine (Gasser) Young. The father engaged in rafting in his native land, and there spent his entire life. After his death the mother came to America with six of her children, and in Macon County spent her remaining days. She passed away in Decatur at the age of sixty-two years.

Our subject was born in Baden, Germany, on the 2d of March, 1828, and grew to manhood in the Fatherland, where he lived until his thirty-second year. As a means of livelihood he followed rafting, but with a hope of bettering his financial condition he determined to cross the broad Atlantic and seek a home in the New World. Carrying out this resolution, he sailed from Germany in 1859, and after a voyage of thirty days the vessel in which he had taken passage dropped anchor in the harbor of New York. Making his way Westward, he chose Macon County, Ill., as the scene of his future labors, and rented a farm, which he operated some years. He then purchased

the land on which he now resides and which he has since made his home. His labors, however, have wrought a great transformation in the place, for it was then but slightly improved.

In 1852, ere his emigration to the New World, Mr. Young was united in marriage with Miss Cecelia Kilmer, of Baden, Germany, and unto them has been born a family of nine children. In order of birth they are as follows: Laudeline, who carries on farming in Christian County, Ill.; Launes, who follows the same pursuit in Christian County; Pauline, the wife of Frank Dayhuns, a resident farmer of Macon County; Frank, who is engaged in farming in this county; Caroline, wife of Charles Gross, a hotel-keeper of Decatur; Sophia and Anna, who are still at home; John, who is serving as clerk in a hotel in Decatur; and Charles, who completes the family, and aids in the operation of the old home farm.

Mr. Young, his wife and children are members of the German Catholic Church, and are people widely and favorably known in this community. Our subject exercises his right of franchise in support of the Democratic party, but has never sought or desired the honors or emoluments of public office. He came to this county when the locality in which he now resides was very sparsely settled, and has aided in its development and upbuilding and has ever done all in his power for the promotion of the best interests of the community. His well-earned success comes to him as the just reward of his own efforts.



**P**HINEAS B. PROVOST, who for the past ten years has served as Justice of the Peace of Decatur, is one of the self-made men of Macon County, and one of its popular and influential citizens. As he has a wide circle of friends and acquaintances, we feel assured that this record of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers. He is the eldest child of James and



Louisa (Baker) Provost. His paternal grandfather was a native of France; and his grandmother came to this country from Holland. The father of our subject was born in New Brunswick, N. J., and was a blacksmith by trade. The year after the arrival of his son Phineas in Decatur, he came to the West and made his home with our subject until his death, which occurred at the advanced age of eighty-four years, it being caused by an injury sustained in tearing down a building. His wife also died at the home of our subject, in her seventy-sixth year. Of their family, Phineas is the eldest; Lawrence R. is a farmer residing in Decatur Township; Abraham P. is a dealer in sewing-machines in St. Louis; Isaac S. is a carriage-maker of Sturgis, Mich.; Catherine I. is the wife of Frederick Boyer, of Marion, Ind.; Phoebe became the wife of Harry Zettlemeyer, and died leaving four children; Mary A. became the wife of Jefferson Main, and at her death left two children; and James died at the age of a year and a-half.

Phineas Provost was born October 21, 1833, in New Brunswick, N. J., and at the age of sixteen was bound out to a carriage-maker, serving an apprenticeship of five years. The only educational privileges in those days were afforded by the subscription schools. On attaining his majority, his apprenticeship was ended, and the following year Mr. Provost was united in marriage with Miss Julia L., daughter of Stephen Van Valkenburg, who came from one of the early Dutch families of New York. In the spring of 1859, he went South and established a carriage-making shop in Suffolk, Va., where for a time he did a successful business, but on account of the Abolition principles which he held he had to return to New Jersey. Having seen the condition of affairs among the Secessionists, he resolved to strike a blow in defense of the Union, and immediately after the breaking out of the late war enlisted in Company A, First New Jersey Regiment.

Mr. Provost took part in the first battle of Bull Run, and served in the Army of the Potomac. He was three times wounded,—first at the second battle of Bull Run, where he received a flesh wound in the leg, but he did not leave the ranks. Before Fredericksburg, on the Rappahannock, he was

wounded in the neck; and the third wound was received at Crampton's Pass, Md., where he was severely injured. In addition to the two engagements at Bull Run, he participated in the seven days' battle before Richmond, and the battles of Cold Harbor, Fredericksburg and Antietam, together with many skirmishes. His third wound was received before the last-named battle, but nevertheless he entered the fight. However, his injuries proved so serious that he was compelled to resign, and was honorably discharged in 1863. He had enlisted as a private, but was promoted to the rank of Orderly-Sergeant of his company, and was made Sergeant-Major of the regiment, later becoming Second Lieutenant.

On his return from the war, Mr. Provost resumed work at his trade in New York, and after six months went with his family to Tazewell County, in the fall of 1864. Here he began farming, but that life did not agree with his wife, and in consequence he made his home in the city of Decatur, embarking in the furniture business in 1867. To that enterprise he devoted his energies until 1882, when he sold out, and soon afterwards was elected Justice of the Peace. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Provost was blessed with five children. Frank D., the eldest, is now in the United States Mail Service, running from St. Louis to Chicago, and resides in Toledo, Ohio. He married Frances Stetcher, and they have a son, Guy. Stephen F., who married Rya Freeman, is manager of the Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, in Anderson, Ind. Mary A., Frederick and William Edward, the younger members of the family, died in childhood.

Mr. Provost is a member of Ionic Lodge No. 312, A. F. & A. M., of Decatur, and of Dunham Post No. 141, G. A. R. He was also a member of the first Grand Army post ever organized, and has been a member of two military organizations in Decatur, and was First Lieutenant of the Decatur Light Guards. He holds membership with the First Presbyterian Church of this city, to the building of which he contributed liberally. Our subject has done excellent work in Decatur in the active part which he took in establishing the fire department. He had served in fire departments



in New York City and Rahway, N. J., and he raised money for the equipment of the first fire company of Decatur, of which he became chief on its organization. In politics he was a Whig in early life, but since the organization of the Republican party has fought under its banner. Mr. Provost is well known to the citizens of Macon County, where he has made his home for almost thirty years. He has proved a most efficient and capable officer, and during the ten years of his service as Justice of the Peace he has never, with one exception, had his judgments reversed, for his rulings have been fair and unprejudiced. He is a generous, whole-souled man, genial and pleasant in manner, and it would be hard to find in Decatur a person who has more friends than the "Squire."



**E**T. WILLOUGHBY is the owner of a very valuable farm in South Macon Township, comprising one hundred and seventy-two acres of rich land on section 31, and one hundred and sixty acres on section 16. This is divided into fields of convenient size, which in the summer months are clothed in green, but in the fall season become fields of golden grain and reward the care and cultivation of the owner. Upon the place are good buildings, the latest improved machinery, good grades of stock, and all the accessories of a model farm. The place is lacking in no particular, and a glance tells the passer-by that the owner is a progressive agriculturist.

Mr. Willoughby was born in Collinsville, Madison County, Ill., August 18, 1840, and is the second in order of birth in a family of four children whose parents were Thomas Oliver and Sallie Ann (Willoughby) Willoughby. Both were natives of Delaware, and the family is of English origin. In that State they were married, and on leaving the East in 1835 they emigrated to Madison County, Ill. After a short time, however, they returned

to Delaware, but two years later again went to Madison County, where the father remained until his death. The mother spent her last days in St. Clair County. Of their children, Hester is now the widow of John Davis, of Collinsville, Madison County; John Henry B. is a harness-maker and saddler of Collinsville; and one child died in infancy.

Our subject was only about six years of age when his father died, and at the age of ten was left an orphan by the death of his mother. He then went to live with a Mr. Anderson in Madison County, with whom he remained until sixteen years of age, when he became dissatisfied and ran away, going to work for an uncle, with whom he remained until he had become a young man of twenty-two. His education was acquired by attendance at the district schools during the winter season. On the 16th of August, 1862, he became a soldier of the Union army, enlisting in Company C, One Hundred and Seventeenth Illinois Infantry. He served for two years, and was never wounded or taken prisoner. He entered the service as a private, but was mustered out as Sergeant.

At the close of the war, Mr. Willoughby returned to his old home in St. Clair County and afterward purchased eighty-six acres of raw prairie land in Macon County, upon which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made, and here he still resides. Having erected a small house, he began the development of the place, and by his marriage on the 28th of February, 1867, secured as the mistress of his home the lady who in her maidenhood bore the name of Mary M. Oglesby. She is a native of St. Clair County, and her father was a cousin of Gov. Oglesby. Ten children were born of the union of our subject and his wife, but three died in infancy. Edwin Oliver is a farmer of Macon County; William A. also follows farming in this county; Sallie Ann is an accomplished musician; Henry Wilson, Emily Edith, Ida Olive and Chester Earl complete the family.

Socially, Mr. Willoughby is connected with the Grand Army post of Macon, and in his political views he is a staunch Republican, but would never accept any office save that of School Director of

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*Yours Truly*  
*C. W. Devore*



his district. His wife is a member of the Methodist Church, and to its support he contributes liberally. His aid is never withheld from any enterprise calculated to prove of public benefit, and during his long residence in Macon County he has been prominently identified with its growth and enterprise.



**C**HARLES W. DEVORE, who is Chief of the Fire Department of Decatur and a well-known and popular citizen of this community, has the honor of being a native of Macon County, his birth having occurred within its borders on the 11th of January, 1859. His father, Joseph Devore, was also a native of Illinois, and became one of the early settlers of Macon County, where he followed farming. He enlisted as a soldier of the late war and was assigned to Company C, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, in which he served for two years. His term having expired, he returned home on a certain Tuesday in 1864, and the next Tuesday died of paralysis. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Louisa Bright, survived him twenty-five years, or until the 14th of August, 1890, when she met a violent death, being struck by a passenger train on the Wabash Railway at Decatur. She was sixty-seven years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Devore were members of the Methodist Church, but in her later years she joined the United Brethren Church. This worthy couple had a family of twelve children, four sons and eight daughters. Six daughters are now living: Hattie, unmarried; Margaret, widow of Charles McCollum; Lizzie, wife of Logan Rice; Niece, widow of Emmett Richards; Rebecca, unmarried; and Susan, wife of Samuel Kellum.

Charles W. Devore, the only surviving son of the family, was reared in the city which is still his home, and in its public schools acquired his education. To some extent he worked on a farm, and was also employed as a machine hand in the

Decatur Furniture Factory. Having attained to man's estate, November 25, 1880, he chose as a companion and helpmate Miss Aliee Payne, daughter of Clinton and Isabel (Lowe) Payne, natives of Ohio. Three children have been born of their union, two sons and a daughter, Linnie, aged seven; Freddie, who died in infancy; and Earl, aged thirteen months. The family has a pleasant home at No. 1019 North Clinton Street. Mrs. Devore is a member of the United Brethren Church. Our subject holds membership with Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M., and in politics is a supporter of Republican principles.

After his marriage Mr. Devore continued with the furniture factory until 1884, when he went on the City Fire Department as a pipeman with the chemical engine. He has since remained with the department and is now its Chief, having been appointed to that position in 1890 by Mayor Kanan. The department has one steam engine, one chemical engine, two hose wagons, a hook and ladder truck, one chief's buggy and twelve head of horses. Fifteen men comprise the force. Mr. Devore served on the Volunteer Fire Department force from 1878 until 1884, and was the leader of Running Crew No. 1, known as the "Rescue." When the fire department was placed on a paid basis he continued his connection with it, and for three years has now ably and acceptably filled the position of Chief. Under his management the department is in excellent working order and is one of the departments of which the city may justly feel proud.



**W**ILLIAM BARNES, M. D., is one of the younger physicians of Decatur, yet is one of the most prominent, and his reputation as an able and skillful physician and surgeon extends far beyond the confines of Macon County. Of more than average ability, the endowments of nature have been supplemented by all that earnest application and study could bring about, and the

high rank to which he has attained in his profession is but the crown given to faithful endeavor.

The Doctor is a native of Decatur, born on the 3d of September, 1860. His father, Dr. W. A. Barnes, was also a well-known medical practitioner, who settled in Macon County at an early day and became widely known. Our subject graduated from the Decatur High School, after which he took a regular scientific course in Harvard University, graduating from that far-famed institution in the Class of '83. Desiring to follow in the professional footsteps of his father, he then entered upon the study of medicine in the Harvard Medical School of Boston, pursuing the regular three-years course and graduating in 1886 with the first honours of his class. Having completed that course, Dr. Barnes entered the Boston City Hospital as house surgeon, and there remained for two years. He studied under Prof. Alexander Aggasiz, at Newport, and under his direction prepared a thesis from original investigation on the subject of the development of the spinal cord.

Having performed satisfactorily the duties of house surgeon for the time above mentioned, the Doctor returned to Decatur, and in October, 1889, opened his present office. Not content, however, with the research he had already made, he resolved to delve deeper into the profession which he is making his life work, and went to Europe, traveling over that continent for some time. He was in a hospital in Vienna for one year, and in Munich, Germany, pursued a four-months course of study, taking a special diploma in gynæcology. He was also at Heidelberg for about five months as assistant to the celebrated surgeon, Czerny. Since his return to his native land he has engaged in practice in Decatur, but his professional duties often call him from the city. He has a reputation throughout the East, where he studied and practiced, and in Chicago as well. Whatever his ambitious nature and determined labor can accomplish in the line of his work, he has done. He will never cease to be a student of his profession, and a brilliant career seems opening before this young physician, who has already gained a patronage which might well be envied by many an older practitioner.

In 1891 Dr. Barnes was united in marriage with Miss Charlotte Gillette, daughter of John D. Gillette, the well-known cattle dealer, sometimes called "The Cattle King of Illinois." She is also a sister of Mrs. Gov. Oglesby. The Doctor and his wife reside at No. 332 West William Street, where they have a very beautiful and elegant home. Mrs. Barnes presides with a womanly grace and dignity and extends to their numerous friends the warm hospitality which makes the Barnes' home one of the most popular in the city.

The Doctor spends a part of each summer in the Rockies, engaged in hunting and other outdoor sports, of which he is especially fond. In social circles he is as favorably known as in professional life, and wherever he goes he wins a host of friends, who have for him the warmest regard.



GEORGE W. EHRLHART is the senior member of the firm of George W. Ehrhart & Co., wholesale dealers in fruits and fancy groceries, and manufacturers of confectionery. He is recognized as a leading business man in this community, and is a representative citizen, although not yet thirty years of age. He was born in Decatur on the 8th of July, 1866, and comes of an old family of Pennsylvania. His grandfather, William Ehrhart, was a native of the Keystone State, and was a farmer and waggon-maker. His death occurred when he was about eighty years of age. The maternal grandfather was a Virginian farmer, and in an early day emigrated Westward to Illinois, locating on a farm near Mechanicsburg, where he spent the remainder of his days.

The parents of our subject were Joseph B. and Hester Ann (Jacobs) Ehrhart, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Illinois. The father came to this State in 1858, locating in Macon County, and is still living in Decatur, a well-known citizen of the community. His wife died on the 14th of May, 1892, at the age of fifty years. She was a member of the Methodist Church, to



which Mr. Ehrhart also belongs. Their family numbered three sons, John T., George W. and Elmer, but the last-named died at the age of eight years.

George W. Ehrhart whose name heads this record was educated in the public schools of the city and remained at home with his parents until almost grown. During his youth he learned the painter's trade, but subsequently embarked in the coal business and carried on operations in that line for about two years. He then established his present business in company with Charles A. Ewing, under the firm name of George W. Ehrhart & Co. They began on a small scale, but their trade has steadily increased from the beginning, and they are now doing a large and constantly growing business.

On the 7th of July, 1892, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Ehrhart and Miss Mary Maseher, of Effingham, Ill., a daughter of George D. and Lucy Maseher. The lady is a member of the Lutheran Church. They have a pleasant home at No. 901 West Macon Street, and are leading young people of the community, who have many warm friends and who hold an enviable position in the circles of society in which they move. In politics Mr. Ehrhart is a supporter of Democratic principles. His entire life has been passed in this city, and he has grown up to be one of its leading business men. Wide-awake, enterprising and diligent, he will no doubt win success in his undertakings.



**A**DAM DICKSON, who follows farming on section 2, Milan Township, is numbered among the early settlers of the county, having long been identified with its progress and upbuilding. He was born July 19, 1835, in Aberlady, Scotland. His parents, Archibald and Inez (Allison) Dickson, are mentioned elsewhere in this work in connection with their son Archibald. The family numbered eight children, of whom Adam is fourth in order of birth. The days

of his boyhood and youth were quietly passed upon the old home farm, and to his home he gave the benefit of his services until eighteen years of age. He worked in the fields in the summer months, and after ten years of age he attended only two terms of night school, and thus acquired but a limited education. In May, 1853, he carried out a resolution which brought him to America. He determined to try his fortune in the New World, of whose advantages and privileges he had heard much, and bidding good-bye to home and friends he sailed from Glasgow to New York City, where he arrived on the 18th of July, 1853.

Mr. Dickson then went to Canada, and worked on the construction of the Great Western Railroad for about three months, after which he went to Rock County, Wis., where he worked by the month on a farm for three years. On the expiration of that period we find him in Minnesota, but after a short time spent in that State he went to Arkansas, in the fall of 1858. Passing the winter in the South, he came to Illinois in the spring of 1859, locating in Macon County, where he again earned his livelihood by working at farm labor by the month for two years. He then rented land for four years, after which he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of raw land from the railroad, then in Mt. Zion Township, but now in Milan Township, for the latter had not then been set off from the former. The land was in its primitive condition, but he at once began its development, and soon waving fields of grain had taken the place of the once barren prairie. As his financial resources were increased, he extended the boundaries of his farm until it now comprises three hundred and twenty acres of rich land, all under cultivation. Upon the place is a substantial residence and good outbuildings, which, combined with the well-tilled fields, speak of the thrift and enterprise of the owner in no uncertain terms.

On the 31st of December, 1868, Mr. Dickson married Miss Hattie Gleason, of this county. By their union have been born nine children: Nina R., Allie N., Lulu (who died at the age of five years), Archie, Louis, George, Bertie, Eddie and Nellie. The children are still with their parents, and this family is numbered among the best in



the county. The mother and two eldest daughters are members of the Presbyterian Church, and although not a member Mr. Dickson contributes liberally to its support with the same generosity that prompts him to give his aid to all worthy enterprises. In his political views he is a Republican, and in his earlier years held some offices. For three terms he was Assessor of the township, and then served one term as Commissioner, after which he resigned and has since steadily refused to accept other political preferment. He has the high regard of the entire community in which he has so long resided, for his life has been well and worthily passed.



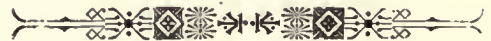
**E**DWIN PARK, a member of the law firm of Bunn & Park, of Decatur, was born in Columbia County, N. Y., on the 4th of December, 1835, and is a son of Asahel T. and Julia Ann (Snyder) Park. The father was a native of Connecticut, and the mother of the Empire State. They had two children, Edwin, and Marilla E., who died at the age of twelve years. Mr. Park followed farming in New York, and died in 1852, at the age of fifty-two years. His wife, who survived him some years, died in 1863, in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Both were descended from old families of New England and were highly respected people in the community in which they made their home.

Our subject was reared in the Empire State and remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority. His education was acquired in the common schools of Columbia and Albany Counties, and he afterward attended a seminary in Charlotteville, Schoharie County, and an academy in Hamilton, N. Y. When he had attained to man's estate he determined to seek his home and fortune in the West, and in 1856, bidding good-bye to friends and family, he came to Illinois. He began teaching in St. Clair County, making his home in Belleville, and there also commenced the

study of law. In 1859 he was admitted to the Bar, and in 1860 he came to Macon County, where he engaged in teaching until 1863. He was then made County Superintendent of Schools, and filled that office acceptably until 1869, after which he took up legal practice and to that work has since devoted his energies.

In the month of August, 1862, Mr. Park was married to Miss Mary E., daughter of James and Hester A. (Coleman) Affleck. Three children were born of their union, but Albert E., the second child, is the only one now living. Ida died in infancy, and James died at the age of nine years.

On taking up the practice of law, Mr. Park practiced alone a few years and then formed a partnership with Thomas Lee, which connection was continued only a short time, and in the spring of 1876 he formed a business connection with David L. Bunn, which partnership still continues under the firm name of Bunn & Park. Our subject is a successful practitioner, well versed in all law points, an able reasoner and a logical thinker. He brings to his profession an industry and enterprise which in return have brought him success. He now owns forty acres of land a mile west of Decatur, and there makes his home. He also has a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Wayne County, Mo., and owns an interest in St. Louis property. In religious belief he is a Baptist, and serves as one of the Trustees of the Decatur Church. His wife is a member of the Methodist Church. In politics he supports the Republican party.



**E**NOCH SALISBURY, a leading and enterprising farmer of Pleasant View Township, resides on section 8, where he owns and operates one hundred and twenty acres of good land. His home is pleasantly situated within one mile of Blue Mound. The owner of this desirable place claims Ohio as the State of his birth, which occurred in Jefferson County on the 18th of May, 1840. His parents, Michael and Mary Ann (War-

ner) Salisbury, had a family of eight children, of whom he is the second in order of birth. On the paternal side he is of English descent, and on the maternal side is of German extraction. The father of our subject was born in Washington County, Ohio, and was reared upon a farm. Throughout his life he followed agricultural pursuits as a means of supporting himself and family. He died in Parke County, Ind., at the age of sixty-three years. His wife, who was a native of Pennsylvania, passed away in Christian County, Ill., when fifty-seven years of age. They were both highly respected people. Of their eight children three are now deceased. Those still living are, Enoch, of this sketch; Isaac, who makes his home in Wichita, Kan.; Cyrus, who is also a resident of Kansas; Warner, who is engaged in farming near Lincoln, Neb.; and Mary E., wife of James Defonbaugh, a resident agriculturist of Missouri.

The history of the boyhood days of any farmer lad is similar to that of our subject, who, during his youth attended the public schools of the neighborhood in which he lived through the winter season, while in the summer months he worked in the fields. He remained with his parents on the old home farm in Jefferson County, Ohio, until twenty-one years of age, when he began working at the carpenter's trade. This he followed for about two years in connection with work upon the home farm. On the expiration of that period he came to Illinois, locating in Christian County, where for a year he rented a farm. He then purchased an eighty-acre tract of land and began its further development, making a number of improvements upon the place.

On the 11th of September, 1870, Mr. Salisbury was united in marriage with Miss Lydia Logan, a native of Parke County, Ind. By their union have been born six children, three sons and three daughters, namely: Russell H., Maggie May, Elmer W., Cora E., Chester L. and Dellie B. The family circle yet remains unbroken and the children are still in the parental home.

In 1876, Mr. Salisbury sold his farm in Christian County, and, coming to Macon County, made a purchase of eighty acres of land on section 8

Pleasant View Township. To this he has since added until now one hundred and twenty acres of good land pay tribute to his care and cultivation. His farm is one of the best in the county. Upon it are two good residences, substantial barns and outbuildings and other improvements, which, together with its desirable location, make it one of the valuable farms of the community. The owner is a Republican in politics and is an active member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Blue Mound Lodge No. 682, A. F. & A. M., with which he has been connected for twenty-two years. The cause of education finds in him a trustworthy friend, and in its interest he has done effective service while filling the position of School Director, which office he has held for a number of years.



**B**ARNET K. HAMSHER, who is one of the publishers and proprietors of the *Decatur Republican*, doing business in the journalistic field as a member of the firm of Hamsher & Calhoun, is a native of the Keystone State, his birth having occurred in Franklin County, on the 15th of September, 1838. His father, Peter Hamsher, died when our subject was only a year old; and his mother, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Kline, passed away leaving her boy an orphan at the age of six and a-half years. His school privileges were those afforded by the town in which he lived, but in the school of experience he has gained a wide and varied knowledge, probably more practical, if not as classical, as he could have acquired in college.

Mr. Hamsher took up his life work at the age of fourteen, being employed in the printing-office of the *Newburg Public Servant*. He came to Illinois in 1856, at the age of eighteen, locating in Decatur. He engaged as a printer on several of the early papers of Decatur, and worked several years on the *Decatur Chronicle*, edited by W. J. Usrey, one of the pioneers of journalism in this city. In 1862, in company with J. R. Mosser, he leased the



*Chronicle*, its proprietor being then in the army. These gentlemen continued its publication for a year, and after that time until 1867 Mr. Hamsher was engaged in other business. In the latter year he became associated with J. R. Mosser in the publication of the *Republican*, which was founded in August, 1867, by Mr. Mosser and W. M. Stanley. Mr. Hamsher purchased Mr. Stanley's interest about a month after the establishment of the paper, and continued with Mr. Mosser until October, 1890, when, on account of ill health, the latter sold his interest to W. F. Calhoun, the present partner.

In 1869, Mr. Hamsher was married to Miss Cecelia A. Elwood, daughter of Daniel H. Elwood, an early settler of this city. Five children have been born unto our subject and his wife, as follows: Harry E., who is assistant city editor of the *Republican*, and who married Miss Birdie Waggoner, of Decatur, daughter of W. H. Waggoner, who for several years was County Clerk of Macon County; Frank K., who graduated at the age of seventeen from the Decatur High School, then worked in the newspaper office for about a year, and is now pursuing a literary course in the University of Ann Arbor, Mich., from which he will graduate in the Class of '95; Grace, Dessie and Lucile, who are at home. The parents hold membership with the First Methodist Episcopal Church. The family have a pleasant and beautiful home, situated at No. 738 West William Street, which was built by Mr. Hamsher, and is presided over with womanly dignity and grace by his excellent wife. This worthy couple and their children rank high in the social circles in which they move, and their home is the abode of hospitality. It is supplied with all the comforts of life and tokens of education and culture. It is perhaps in his home that the true life of Mr. Hamsher is shown. His own youth was a homeless one, and, appreciating the value and blessing of a comfortable home, he does all in his power to provide one for his family, and spares no labor or expense that will enhance the happiness and promote the welfare of his wife and children.

As his connection with the paper indicates, Mr. Hamsher is a supporter of the Republican party,

and manifests a warm interest in political affairs. The journal with which he is connected was established in 1867, and the daily, which is the oldest in the county, in 1872. The *Republican* is a bright, newsy sheet and ably advocates the principles of the party for which it was named. Our subject is its business manager. The general editor is Mr. Calhoun, and the city editor John J. H. Young. A noticeable fact about this paper, and one that reflects great credit on the management, is that no less than ten of the employes have been with the paper from fifteen to twenty years. The paper is now prospering, and it well deserves the liberal patronage received.



JOHN B. MATTHEW, M. D., who is engaged in the practice of medicine in Blue Mound, Ill., was born on the 2d of March, 1850, near Palmer, Christian County, Ill. His parents, Oscar F. and Margaret (Britton) Matthew, are numbered among the early settlers of this State. The father was a native of Virginia, and came to Sangamon County, Ill., with his parents when a child of twelve years, in 1834. His youth was spent upon a farm in that county, and after attaining to man's estate he there married Miss Britton, the wedding being celebrated on the 26th of October, 1846. After his marriage, he removed with his wife to Christian County, where he purchased his first farm. It was an unimproved tract of land, but he at once began placing it under cultivation, and there made his home until 1857, when he sold out and returned to Sangamon County, locating near Springfield, upon a farm which he purchased and which he made his home until his death. In connection with the cultivation of his land, he was engaged extensively in breeding fine cattle and horses. He was one of the honored pioneers of Sangamon County, and had a very large acquaintance through central Illinois. In his political views he was a Republi-



ean and took an active interest in the growth and success of that party. He was called to his final rest in 1881. His widow, who still survives him, was born in Washington County, Ohio, in 1821, and when a child of three years was taken by her parents to Sangamon County, Ill., where she is still living on the old homestead. Although she has reached the age of seventy-three, her years rest lightly upon her and she is still well preserved.

The Matthew family numbered nine children, five sons and four daughters, of whom three are now deceased. Winfield S. Matthew, D. D., the eldest, is Vice-President and Dean of the University of Los Angeles, Cal.; Rebecca J. is the widow of Daniel Poffenbarger, of Edinburg, Ill.; Thomas L. is a farmer and stock-raiser of Rochester, Ill.; La Fayette L. is engaged in farming and stock-raising near Cotton Hill, Ill.; and Matilda M. is the wife of Stephen T. Vigal, an agriculturist of Cotton Hill, Ill.

The subject of this sketch, who is the third in the family, was reared to manhood on his father's farm in Sangamon County, attending school through the winter season and working on the farm during the summer months until twenty years of age. At that time he left home and went to Taylorville, where he began the study of medicine under Drs. J. H. & L. H. Clark. For three years he continued his reading under their direction, and then took a two-years course in the American Medical College, of St. Louis, Mo., from which he was graduated, receiving his diploma on the 22d of May, 1875. Five days later he opened an office in Mt. Auburn, Christian County, Ill., and began the practice of his profession. It was on the 9th of November, 1892, that he came to Blue Mound, where he now makes his home. While in Mt. Auburn, he also carried on a drug store and was Postmaster a portion of the time.

On the 16th of March, 1868, the Doctor married Miss Amanda E. Lawley, of Cotton Hill, Ill., who was born in that place July 9, 1849. Her father, William B. Lawley, was a native of Tennessee, and of German extraction. When a young man he came to Illinois and purchased a farm, upon which he spent the remainder of his life. He

married Sarah M. Duncan, a native of Sangamon County, and from that community she never removed. Unto the Doctor and his wife were born three sons and two daughters, but three of the number died in infancy: Charles E. is a well-educated young man and now resides in Lincoln, Ill.; William Oscar, a lad of twelve years, is attending the home school.

The Doctor follows in the political footsteps of his father, and therefore is a staunch supporter of the Republican party. He served as Postmaster of Mt. Auburn for a time, but resigned in order to give the office to an old soldier, who held it for twelve years. Socially, he is a member of the Blue Lodge and Chapter of the Masonic fraternity in Blue Mound, and belongs to the Sir Knights of the Maccabees, Capitol Tent No. 1, in Springfield, Ill. His wife holds membership with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and to its support the Doctor contributes liberally, although he holds no church relationship. His residence in Blue Mound has been of short duration, but he already has a good practice, which is constantly increasing. He has been a close student in his profession and has therefore gained in skill and ability, and he is now among the foremost physicians of the county. His circle of friends is large, and he has the respect and esteem of all who know him.



**B**URTON BENJAMIN TUTTLE, a retired lumber dealer, and one of the prominent and influential citizens of Decatur, is a native of the Nutmeg State. He was born in Naugatuck, New Haven County, Conn., on the 16th of August, 1838, and is a son of Zopher and Naney (Sherman) Tuttle, who were also natives of Connecticut, and came of old New England families.

The subject of this sketch was reared to manhood upon the home farm, remaining under the parental roof until eighteen years of age, and in

the common schools acquiring a good English education. At the age of eighteen, he determined to seek his home and fortune in the West, and, bidding good-bye to friends and family, in September, 1856, he came to Deatur. In this city his brother, Charles A. Tuttle, was engaged in business as a civil engineer, serving as assistant engineer on the Illinois Central Railroad. He was one of the leading citizens of Macon County, and a record of his life is given elsewhere in this volume.

After his arrival in Deatur, Burton Tuttle worked for his brother, who owned a sawmill in Ramsey, Ill. He continued as its manager for eight years, and at the same time carried on a store at that place. On the expiration of that period, he returned to Deatur, in 1864, and entered the employ of Tuttle & Carter, who owned a mill at this place. He was employed by them for a year, after which, in company with Joseph Harris, he bought out Mr. Carter's interest in the mill. A year later they bought out Charles Tuttle's interest and ran the mill in partnership for a period of ten years. At that time our subject became sole owner of the sawmill, which he carried on until retiring from active business life. He did a big business, his trade constantly increasing from the beginning. He bought timber and sawed his own lumber, and also handled a large number of railroad ties and timbers for bridges. In September, 1892, he sold out, and his mind has since been free from business cares.

On the 5th of March, 1862, Mr. Tuttle was united in marriage with Miss Mary L. Abbott, their union being celebrated in Painesville, Ohio. The lady was a native of Massachusetts, and her death occurred at her home in Deatur on the 22d of August, 1872. The children born of their union are: Anna Elizabeth, who graduated from the High School, and is now the wife of Howard D. Phelps, a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College, of South Hadley, Mass., and a manufacturer of clocks in Ansonia, Conn.; Alice J., wife of Frank Curtis, a member of the well-known firm of Curtis Brothers, jewelers of Deatur; Carrie, who died in infancy; and Mary L., who graduated from the High School of this city. The family is one of intelligence

and culture, and in social circles its members hold an enviable position.

Mr. Tuttle is a supporter of the Republican party, and is a man of good business ability, correct judgment and enterprise. With these qualities to aid him in the struggle of life, although he had no capital he worked his way upward from an humble position to one of honor and high standing among his many friends, and his prosperity has been the crown of his own efforts.



**D**R. CLYDE P. KENNEDY, of Deatur, who is engaged in the practice of medicine, claims Ohio as the State of his nativity, his birth having occurred in Greenville, Darke County, on the 5th of June, 1856. He comes of an old family of Maryland, but his parents Rev. Oliver and Elizabeth (Cherry) Kennedy, were both natives of Ohio. The father was a Methodist minister and served as Presiding Elder for some years. He was licensed to preach in 1852, and through his ministerial labors became widely known. His many acquaintances had for him the highest regard, and his death was deeply mourned. He died in Bellefontaine, Ohio, in March, 1889, at the age of fifty-six years, three months and seven days. His wife still survives him and is now living in Bellefontaine. In their family were four children, three sons and a daughter, namely: Frances M., now the wife of George W. Riehey, of Van Wirt, Ohio; John, who died at the age of five years; Clyde, of this sketch; and Oliver C.

We now give the personal history of the Doctor, who spent the days of his boyhood and youth in the State of his nativity and there remained until 1888. His childhood was passed uneventfully, and he acquired his education in various schools, owing to the removal of his parents from place to place, but he was graduated from the High School in Van Wirt. Having decided to enter the medi-

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





JAMES GEDDES.



MARY J. GEDDES

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



cal profession, he began fitting himself for that work in the Ohio Medical College, in Cincinnati, from which institution he was graduated in the Class of '80. He at once began practice in Bellefontaine, where he remained for five years, after which he went to Arcanum, Ohio. Having remained there until 1888, he came to Decatur, where he has since engaged in practice. He is a young man of enterprise and energy, well versed in the work he has undertaken, and he has already won a liberal patronage.

An important event in the life of Dr. Kennedy occurred on the 2d of October, 1878, when was celebrated his marriage with Miss Laura A. Wykoff, daughter of Peter and Mary J. (Pittinger) Wykoff, of Sidney, Ohio. One child was born unto them, a daughter, Fay Irene. Our subject and his wife hold membership with Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, and are well known in this community, holding a high position in the circles of society in which they move. They have a pleasant home at No. 852 North Union Street, which is the abode of hospitality and which is always open for the reception of their friends. In his social relations, the Doctor is connected with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. In his political views, he is a Republican.



**J**AMES GEDDES, who is numbered among the pioneers of Macon County, resides on section 12, Decatur Township. He is one of the worthy citizens that Pennsylvania has furnished to this county, his birth having occurred in Lebanon County of the Keystone State, on the 12th of December, 1810. The Geddes family to which James belongs was founded in America by Paul Geddes, a native of Scotland, who was born about 1660 and died about 1720.

Robert Geddes, the father of our subject, lived and died in Pennsylvania, and throughout his life followed the occupation of farming. His mother

bore the maiden name of Martha Bell and spent her entire life in Pennsylvania. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and had been twice married. After the death of her first husband, Mr. McClure, she became the wife of Robert Geddes, who had also been twice married. His first union was with Miss Jane Sawyer, and unto them were born six children. By the second marriage were born three sons and a daughter, the subject of this sketch being the eldest of the second family. The others were Thomas, Agrippa and Ann, who are all now deceased.

Our subject is the only survivor of his father's family. In the usual manner of farmer lads the days of his boyhood and youth were passed, and the greater part of his education was acquired in the subscription schools, as there were no free schools in the neighborhood. He remained upon the home farm until twenty five years of age, when, in 1835, he emigrated Westward, making the journey in company with John Sawyer. They traveled on horseback and at length reached their destination, Decatur, Ill. There were not more than twenty houses or cabins in the city at that time, and the entire county seemed yet in the days of its early infancy, progress and civilization having scarcely begun in this locality. Mr. Geddes settled upon the farm where he now resides, entering the land from the Government. He now owns one hundred and seventy acres just outside the city limits of Decatur, and the tract is a valuable one, comprising one of the best farms of the locality. When he became its possessor, not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made, but all was soon placed under the plow and abundant harvest rewarded his arduous labors.

In 1848, Mr. Geddes was united in marriage with Miss Mary J., daughter of Spottswood and Mildred (Pasley) Burnett. The lady is a native of Kentucky, and when three years old was brought to Illinois by her parents, the family locating southwest of Decatur, on the Springfield road. By the union of our subject and his wife were born the following children: Robert, who died in early life; George, who married Elizabeth Phillips, and is a carpenter of Decatur; James W., who wedded Lizzie Snyder, and is engaged in

farming near Maeon; John M., who wedded Ellie Laughlin, and is a farmer of Macon; Jane, wife of Jacob Cox, who carries on agricultural pursuits near Deatur; Frederick Edwin, of Kankakee; Mattie, wife of William Bills, of Deatur; Leerier, who carries on the home farm; and Horatio Nelson, also at home. The children were all born and reared on the old homestead, and have received good school privileges.

Mr. Geddes has been a voter since 1832. In that year he supported the Whig candidate, and continued to affiliate with that party until its dissolution. In 1861, he voted for Lincoln, whom he knew personally, and he has since been a stalwart Republican. Himself and wife both hold membership with Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, and are highly respected citizens of the community. Mr. Geddes has been a resident of this locality since 1835, and has ever borne his part in public work and improvement. The greater part of his busy life has been passed in this neighborhood, and he has won high esteem by an honorable career.



JOSEPH MILLS, President of the Mills Lumber Company, of Deatur, claims New Jersey as the State of his nativity, his birth having occurred in Essex, now Union County, on the 2d of March, 1826. The Mills family is of English origin and was founded in America during Colonial days. The grandfather, Samuel Mills, who was also a native of New Jersey, served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and during that struggle was wounded by a bayonet, while in camp during a surprise attack. By occupation he was a farmer and followed that business through much of his life. He died at the age of three-score years and ten.

Stewart Mills, one of the five children of Samuel Mills, was born in New Jersey and became a farmer of that State. He married Nancy Sutton, daughter of Benjamin Sutton, who was also an agricul-

turist of New Jersey, and whose father served in the War for Independence. Mr. and Mrs. Mills became the parents of five children, namely: Mary, deceased; Hannah, widow of William Williams; Joseph; Phoebe, wife of Jesse Fowler; and Electa, wife of Charles Lyons. The father of this family died in 1868, at the age of seventy-eight years. His widow is still living on the old homestead, at the advanced age of one hundred and three. Her eyesight seems to have been renewed, and she can now read without glasses. She has always been a hard worker and has a strong constitution. She is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

Until seventeen years of age Joseph Mills remained upon his father's farm and then began learning the carpenter's trade, serving a four-years apprenticeship and following the trade for many years. On the 22d of May, 1848, he wedded Miss Eliza Lansing, whose parents were Benjamin and Anna (Hill) Lansing, the former a native of New York, and the latter of New Jersey. They became the parents of five children, but only Anna is now living. She is the eldest, and is the wife of John B. Shellabarger, of Salina, Kan., by whom she has three children, Edgar, Irene and Edith. Emma became the wife of Sigmand Schulof and died leaving a daughter, Pearl. The other members of the family were Josephine, Stella and Corinda.

The mother of this family, who was a member of the Baptist Church, died March 2, 1886, at the age of fifty-nine years. On the 1st of January, 1888, Mr. Mills was united in marriage with Mrs. Sini Taylor, widow of Frank Taylor, and a daughter of Lars Larson, a native of Denmark.

In 1853, Mr. Mills emigrated Westward from New Jersey, and took up his residence in Deatur, where he has since made his home. He bought property on the corner where the Syndicate Block now stands and embarked in contracting and building. He soon secured a liberal trade and did a good business in that line until 1878, when he abandoned that work and engaged in the lumber business in partnership with W. B. Harry. This connection continued until 1886, when, Mr. Harry having died, Mr. Mills bought his interest from the estate. On the 1st of January, 1891, a stock company was organized, known as the Mills Lumber



ber Company, with Joseph Mills as President, Jacob Willis Secretary and Treasurer, and Albert Goodman Manager. The business has steadily increased from the beginning, and in 1892 the sales amounted to \$100,000.

Socially, Mr. Mills is a member of Decatur Lodge No. 65, I. O. O. F. In politics he was a Republican from 1856 until 1872, when he supported Horace Greeley, and since that time has been a Democrat. He served as Alderman of the First Ward for six years, and was Assistant Supervisor. In addition to his residence he owns other city property, having been very successful in his business career. He is a man of keen judgment, sagacious and far-sighted, and his good business ability, combined with well-directed efforts, has achieved for him a handsome competence.



**C**ONRAD AMMANN, who is engaged in the manufacture of brick in Decatur, embarked in this line of business in 1863, and has since carried on operations in this line, building up an extensive trade and thus establishing one of the leading industries of the city. He began on a small scale, but has steadily increased his facilities and has enlarged his works to meet the constantly growing demand. The capacity of the yard is now about twenty-five thousand brick per day, and employment is furnished to some thirty men.

Mr. Ammann is of German birth. A native of Wittenberg, he was born October 10, 1831, and is a son of Michael and Anna Maria (Couzelmann) Ammann, who were also natives of the same country. On both sides he came from old German families, his grandfathers, Michael Ammann and Johannes Couzelmann, being farmers of that country. The father of our subject also carried on agricultural pursuits in the land of his birth. His wife died in 1842, at the age of forty-four years, and he afterward wedded Mrs. Anna Couzelmann. His death occurred in June, 1887, at the age of

ninety years. The parents of our subject were both members of the Lutheran Church. They had a family of three sons and six daughters. Anna Maria is the wife of John Hauck, of Tubingen, Germany; Elizabeth is the widow of Frederick Prince, of Ebingen, Germany; Johann Jacob resides in the same place; Conrad lives in Decatur; John lives in Deland, Ill.; Margaret is the wife of Ed Goegeel, of Monticello; and Anna is the wife of August Glatz, of Decatur.

In 1854 the subject of this sketch came to America. The days of his boyhood and youth had been passed in his native land, but when a young man of twenty-three he determined to seek a home in the New World, believing that better privileges and opportunities were here afforded. Crossing the briny deep, he landed in New York, whence he went to Canada, where he spent about six weeks. He then spent one summer on Lake Superior, after which he went to Missouri and worked in the copper mines near St. Louis. He next followed steamboating on the Mississippi River for a while, and on the 9th of June, 1856, he came to Decatur with about \$50 cash in his pocket. Here he was employed in a brickyard by the month until 1863, and in 1864 he embarked in the business which he has continued up to the present time.

On the 27th of January, 1859, Mr. Ammann wedded Miss Elizabeth, daughter of John and Regula (Vogler) Peyer, natives of Switzerland. By their union were born four sons and two daughters: John C.; Amelia, who died in infancy; Henry, Wilhelm G., Albert and Anna. The eldest son married Barbara Prince, and with his wife and three children, Irene, Pearl and Roy, resides in Decatur. Henry, of this city, married Lou Prescott, and they have three daughters, Lillie, Hattie and Anna. Albert married Katie Kossek, by whom he has two children, Arthur and Albert.

In 1892, Mr. Ammann associated with him in the brick business his sons, John C., Henry, Willie and Albert, and his daughter Anna, all of whom are now stockholders in the company. The mother of this family died February 22, 1893, at the age of sixty-six years, and her loss was deeply mourned throughout the community. She was a



faithful member of the German Methodist Church, and took an active part in all church work. Mr. Ammann belongs to the same church and is one of its Trustees. In politics he is a Republican. He has served as Township Supervisor for many years and still holds that office.

Our subject need never regret his emigration to America, as he has made in this country a pleasant home and gained a handsome competence. Besides his business he owns a good farm five miles north of Decatur, containing one hundred acres of land, together with forty acres in the river bottom. He also has some good city property, including the family residence at No. 851 East Cantrell Street, and is also interested in two additions to the city.



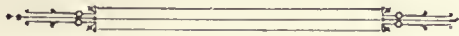
**G**EORGE W. SCHROLL, a retired farmer now residing in Forsyth, followed agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career, and as the result of his well-directed efforts and enterprise he acquired a competency that in his declining days enables him to live retired and surrounds him with all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life. He was born August 30, 1827, in Cumberland County, Pa., and is one of five children, whose parents, Jacob and Ellen (Young) Schroll, were also natives of the Keystone State. His father was a cooper by trade and was of German descent. In 1842 he left his old home and emigrated to Illinois with a three-horse team. Locating in Hickory Point Township, he purchased two hundred acres of land on section 27, whereon had been built a small log cabin. Of this tract only about twenty acres had been broken and about eighty acres were covered with timber. Throughout the remainder of his life, Mr. Schroll engaged in farming. He died on the old homestead in 1873, and his remains were interred in the Boiling Springs Cemetery. He was a member of the Church of God, and in politics was a supporter of Republican principles. He served as School Treasurer, was also School Trustee,

and helped to organize the schools in this community. He also aided in laying out the roads, and was prominently connected with the development of the county at an early day. His wife, who held the same religious belief as her husband, died in 1835. All of their children grew to manhood and womanhood, namely: Mary A., of Decatur, widow of George Goodman; George W.; Jacob, a ranchman of Oregon; Elizabeth, wife of E. Hayes, of Iowa; and Henry, a farmer of Hickory Point Township.

Our subject has passed almost his entire life amid agricultural scenes. He came with his father to this county when in his fifteenth year, and here attended the subscription school, which was held in a log schoolhouse, to which he had to walk a distance of two miles. He was reared amid the wild scenes of frontier life and experienced all the hardships and privations which fall to the lot of pioneer families. To his father he gave the benefit of his services until twenty-one years of age, and then began working as a farm hand at \$9 per month. After being employed in that capacity for five years, he purchased eighty acres of wild land on sections 15 and 16, Hickory Point Township, and ten acres in Decatur Township, and in a log cabin made his home for a number of years. His labors transformed the raw prairie into rich and fertile fields, and he erected a substantial residence and other good buildings, which add greatly to the value and attractive appearance of his place. His farm comprises two hundred and eighty acres of land and now yields to him a good income.

Mr. Schroll has been twice married. In 1851 he married Miss Emily Lorash, and unto them were born two children, but both died in infancy. The mother passed away in March, 1854, and on the 15th of December, 1856 our subject was married to Miss Letha A. Hornbaek. Eight children graced this union. Amanda E., the eldest, is now deceased; Bernard G. operates the old home farm; Ida G. has been called to the home beyond; William is a farmer of this township; Samuel is now deceased; James H. is an agriculturist of this community; Isabel is the wife of William Fornwalt, a resident farmer of Macon County; and Emma A. completes the family.

In politics, Mr. Sehroll is a warm advocate of Republican principles and does all in his power to insure the success of his party. He has served his township as School Trustee and is the present Road Overseer. He and his family are all members of the Church of God. In 1892 he laid aside business cares and has since resided in Forsyth. More than half a century has passed since he came to the county, which on his arrival was in the days of its infancy, and he well deserves to be numbered among its honored pioneers.



**V**IRGIL H. PARKE is the senior member of the firm of V. H. Parke & Son, dealers in feed, coal, lime, hair, cement and everything found in a first-class establishment of that kind, and he is located at No. 621 North Main Street, Decatur. He established business in 1886 and is now enjoying a good trade, his patronage having constantly increased from the beginning.

Mr. Parke is a Canadian by birth. He was born in Cobourg, Upper Canada, August 19, 1832, and is a son of Elisha and Abiah (Hickox) Parke. The parents were both natives of New York and were of Scotch descent. The grandfather, Daniel Parke, was born in Scotland, and having crossed the ocean located in Connecticut. Soon afterward, with a Mr. Tuttle, he located in what is now Camden, Oneida County, N. Y., of which place they were the first settlers. Mr. Parke was a farmer by occupation, and died at the age of ninety years, near Camden, N. Y. The maternal grandfather of our subject, David Heicox (for such was the original spelling of the name) was also born in Scotland, and on coming to America located in the Nutmeg State. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and also in the War of 1812. Removing to Jefferson County, N. Y., he there made his home until his death, which occurred in Springfield, Ill., while he was on a visit to his sons.

Elisha Parke, father of our subject, was engaged in harbor building on Lake Ontario for many

years, in the employ of the British Government. On Christmas Day of 1832, he came to Illinois, locating on a farm twenty-seven miles north of Springfield, in what is now Logan County. He built the first frame house and the first frame barn ever erected in Logan County, and was one of the honored pioneers of that locality. He was a soldier in the War of 1812, having enlisted in the service three times and being twice drafted. His death occurred in 1853, at the age of sixty-two years, and his wife died in 1888, at the age of eighty-eight years. They were members of the Universalist Church.

Our subject is one of a family of twelve children, nine of whom grew to mature years. It was during his infancy that his parents came to Illinois, and upon his father's farm in Logan County he was reared to manhood. His education was acquired in a log schoolhouse, with greased-paper windows and slab seats. As soon as old enough, he began work on the farm and did considerable duty in that direction in 1850, when his father went on a prospecting tour to California, and also while his father was engaged in the supervision of the construction of the locks of the Illinois & Michigan Canal. For that service, Mr. Parke, Sr., received \$5 per day, then considered an enormous sum. He was also a great bridge-builder, and built a bridge across the River Trent in Canada, which created as much wonder as the Brooklyn Bridge of to-day. During his father's absence from home, Virgil Parke did much of the farm work. After attaining to man's estate, he entered the Illinois Liberal Institute, of Galesburg, now known as the Lombard University, and pursued a three-years course of study. On its completion he entered the employ of Haggard & Neeley, collection agents of Chicago, taking charge of their business for central Illinois, and was located at Decatur about 1853. After a short time, however, he gave up this work and embarked in the livery business, which he followed for seven years. Afterward he formed a partnership with A. A. Murray, under the firm name of Parke & Murray. They dealt in agricultural implements for a number of years, when his partner left the city, and he continued alone in business until 1886. He then sold out,



and, purchasing the property where he is now located, began business as a dealer in feed, coal, lime, cement, etc., handling twelve hundred to fourteen hundred carloads annually.

On the 25th of January, 1858, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Parke and Ellen E. James, daughter of Dr. Lorenzo and Catherine (Blythe) James, of Atlanta, Ill. Their union was blessed with five children: Cora, Clare V., Jessie, Guy J. and Grace, but only Guy is living. He is now associated in business with his father, having been admitted to partnership in 1887.

During the late war, in company with Theodore Smith, then a dealer in jewelry, Mr. Parke raised a company in Decatur, but as the quota was already filled his troops were not accepted. However, he was later with the Army of the Tennessee for nine months, acting in the capacity of nurse. Socially, he is a member of the Odd Fellows' fraternity, and of Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M. His wife is a member of the Episcopal Church. Mr. Parke was one of the original promoters of the Decatur electric street railway, and is still a stockholder in the present company. He has twice served as Alderman of Decatur from the Second Ward, the prompt and efficient manner in which he discharged his duties leading to his re-election. In politics, he was formerly a Republican, but is now a Prohibitionist. He is a man of firm convictions and unwavering in support of what he believes to be right. He resides at No. 307 West William Street, where he has lived for twenty-seven years.



**H**ENRY F. MAY is one of the leading and influential citizens of Decatur, is one of its most prominent business men, and is the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Macon County. He is the senior partner in the firm of H. F. May & Brother, well-known grocers of this city, doing business at No. 134 South Main Street, and is also one of the owners of the May Brothers & Travers Addition to Decatur. Although

one of the youngest business men in this city, he is one of its moving factors, and is also prominent in political circles. Since 1851 he has lived in the county, and since 1872 has been connected with the commercial interests of the county seat.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Samuel May, was a shoemaker by trade, and was one of the early settlers of York County, Pa., where Henry and Mary (Fisher) May, parents of our subject, were born, reared and married. The former, who was a carpenter and builder, came with his family to Illinois in 1851, locating on a farm three miles south of Decatur, where he followed carpentering, while his sons operated the land. He died December 15, 1892, at the age of seventy-four years; and the death of his wife occurred August 4, 1890, at the age of seventy-nine. They had nine children: Rebeeca, wife of George McCoy, of Longmont, Bowlder County, Colo.; Matilda, wife of Henry Kayler, a farmer of this county; Marion, who enlisted for the war as a member of Company I, Seventh Illinois Cavalry, and was disabled by his prison experience in Andersonville; Sarah, who became the wife of John Cornthwait, of Decatur, and died leaving two children: Frank, a farmer of Macon County, and Isaac, a real-estate dealer of Spokane Falls, Wash.; Henry F., of this sketch; Mary Ellen, wife of Isaac Cornthwait, a well-to-do farmer of Macon County; Elizabeth, who died at the age of six years; Abigail, wife of John A. Bohrer, a ranchman of Sherman, Tex.; and Samuel D., who is engaged in the grocery business with our subject.

Henry F. May was born in York County, Pa., May 5, 1845, and was in his seventh year when he came with his parents to Illinois. He walked nearly all the way, for the two wagons were very heavily loaded. He attended the public schools and began working on a farm, driving cattle and breaking prairie, when twelve years old. He enlisted for the late war in Decatur, August 13, 1862, at the age of seventeen, and was assigned to Company C, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, under Capt. White. After three years' service he was mustered out at St. Louis, from the hospital at that place. He served in the siege of Vicksburg and the battle of Arkansas Post, and,



being seriously injured and disabled for field duty, was placed in the hospital and became steward on the river steamers.

After the war, Mr. May returned to the farm, which he operated until 1872, when he went into partnership with his father in the grocery business on East Main Street. They sold out in 1874, and the following year he formed his present partnership. The firm of H. F. May & Brother is one of the oldest and best known in the city. In 1876, Mr. May and C. A. Conklin, with a number of other young men, formed a company to go to the Black Hills. They journeyed by rail to Cheyenne, and thence overland. After about six months our subject returned and resumed the grocery business. In 1879, he went to Ford County, Kan., and in partnership with J. M. Raney, of Decatur, built the first flouring-mill at Dodge City. After operating it successfully for four years, he sold out and once more came to Decatur.

Mr. May was married in Ft. Dodge, Kan., to Miss Elizabeth Clemons, of Batavia, N. Y., daughter of George Clemons, and they have two children, Charles I. and Walter H. They have a pleasant residence at No. 465 West Macon Street, which was erected by our subject. Socially, he is connected with Ionic Lodge No. 112, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter No. 11, R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T. He is a charter member of the first Grand Army post organized in America, now known as Dunham Post No. 141, G. A. R. In politics, he is a Republican and twice served as Alderman of the Third Ward. He was three times elected as Assistant Supervisor, in 1887, 1888 and 1889, and was elected Supervisor for one year in 1890, then for a two-years term in 1891, and again for a two-years term in 1893, so that he is now filling the office. He was made Chairman of the Board in April, 1892, serving as such one year, and made an able presiding officer. He has been very prominent in securing the new court house for Macon County, and was made chairman of the building committee. Through his efforts and those of the other members of the committee who have so faithfully and efficiently served Macon County, it has now one of the finest court houses in the country.

In his business career Mr. May has been successful, and in the grocery trade the firm of which he is the senior member is enjoying a liberal patronage. Though yet a young man, Mr. May has had a varied history. He has served as a soldier, has shared the experiences of frontier life in the West, has aided in the arduous labors of developing a new farm, has carried on successful business ventures, and is now at the head of one of the leading firms of Decatur, and is also honored with one of the foremost offices within the gift of the people of Macon County.



EDWARD HARPSTRITE is now living a retired life in Decatur, enjoying a rest well earned by his labors in former years. He makes his home at No. 545 West Main Street, where he has a beautiful and comfortable residence. He was born in Ettenheim, in the Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, February 18, 1827, and in 1833 came to the United States with his parents, John B. and Siphia M. (Ramer) Harpstrite. They landed in New York and later made a location in Trenton, N. J. The father was a plain man, but was well educated. He removed to Reading, Pa., where he secured a position as teacher in a German school. Two years later he went to Dayton, Ohio, and from there to Delphi, Ind., where he engaged in farming for one year. During the succeeding six years of his life he engaged in farming near Terre Haute, Ind., and in 1844 removed to Clinton County, Ill., where he developed a new farm. He and his wife both died in that county. They had a family of eight children, of whom four brothers are now living, and three of that number, Augustus, Charles and Edward, reside in Decatur. Antony is still living in Clinton County.

The subject of this sketch was a lad of only six summers when with his parents he crossed the briny deep. He was reared under the parental roof, and in the spring of 1853 came with his two

brothers to Macon County. For five years he engaged in farming at Wheatland, six miles east of Decatur. In 1860, he purchased the Decatur Brewery, which then had a capacity of about six barrels daily, and for which he paid about \$3,600. Two years later he formed a partnership with Henry Shlaudeman, under the firm name of Harpstrite & Shlaudeman, and for twenty-five years that connection was continued. As the business increased the facilities were enlarged, until it became one of the important industries of the city. In 1884, our subject retired from the business, which is now carried on under the name of the Decatur Brewing Company.

In an early day Mr. Harpstrite purchased two hundred and thirty acres of land, the greater part of which is comprised within the corporate limits of Decatur, in the southeastern part of the city. He has erected three business houses and has otherwise aided in the upbuilding and growth of Macon County. A public-spirited and progressive man, he has ever manifested an active interest in those enterprises calculated to prove of benefit to the community. In politics, he is a Democrat, and formerly took quite an active part in political affairs. He served for one term as a member of the City Council.

On the 9th of December, 1852, Mr. Harpstrite married Miss Dorothy Rubsamen, of Clinton County. She was born in Gimmeldingen, Bavaria, August 15, 1835, and died October 19, 1876. The children born of that union were as follows: Catherine, now the wife of Peter Ullrich, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mary and Sophia, both at home; Charles, a farmer of Sedgwick County, Kan.; Edward, a jeweler of Decatur; John, who follows farming in Sedgwick County, Kan.; Bertha, a graduate of the Decatur Business College; and Emma, who was educated in the Normal School, and is now a teacher in the Marietta School of this city.

In 1851, Mr. Harpstrite returned to his native land to see again the friends and companions of his youth and his old home, and while abroad he visited the Crystal Palace of London, the first World's Fair ever held. In 1876, he visited the Centennial in Philadelphia, and has recently at-

tended the World's Fair in Chicago, in company with his elder brother. Since selling out his business in 1884, he has lived a retired life, having acquired a comfortable competency, which in his declining years surrounds him with all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.



GEORGE S. LYON is the senior member of the firm of Lyon & Armstrong, owners of the planing-mill and lumber-yard at the corner of Cerro Gordo and Broadway Streets, Decatur. He claims New Jersey as the State of his nativity, the place of his birth being in Orange, and the date the 7th of May, 1832. He is one of a family of eleven children, five sons and six daughters, born unto Hinman and Ann (Campbell) Lyon. His parents were also natives of New Jersey, as were his grandparents. The paternal grandfather was a soldier in the War of 1812, and followed farming at Rockaway Neck, where his old home is still standing. Hinman Lyon followed the trade of a stone mason. He died in the State of his nativity in 1877, at the age of seventy-two years. His wife had passed away only a few hours before and it is thought his grief and despondency caused his death. Both were members of the Presbyterian Church. Of their children the following are living: George S.; Catherine, who became the wife of Nathaniel Syron, and after his death married a Mr. Ball, who is now deceased; Miranda, who has been twice married, being now Mrs. Steinbach; Harriet, wife of Stephen A. Davis; Emma, wife of A. F. Horst, and Lewis.

In the common schools of his native town, George Lyon acquired his education, and under the parental roof he remained until sixteen years of age, when he left home to make his own livelihood. At the age of eighteen he began learning the carpenter's trade, which he followed for four years. At the age of twenty-two he came to the West, and traveled quite extensively during the

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





*D. C. Moffitt*

two succeeding years. In 1856 he came to Decatur, and the site upon which he located at that day has since been his place of residence.

On the 4th of July, 1857, Mr. Lyon was united in marriage with Miss Susan Scott, daughter of William and Elizabeth Scott, of the Empire State. Their union was blessed with a family of eight children, five sons and three daughters, but one child died in infancy; Libbie and Harry are both now deceased; Fred C. married Miss Jenks, by whom he has three children, and resides in Topeka, Kan.; Clyde is married and resides in Chicago; Myrtle, Florence and Bert complete the family and are still under the parental roof.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyon have a pleasant home at No. 748 West Edwards Street. They are both members of the Universalist Church and he is one of the church Trustees. In politics he is a supporter of Republican principles, and socially is a member of Celestial Lodge No. 186, I. O. O. F. After coming to Decatur, Mr. Lyon worked at the carpenter's trade for about four years and then did contract work. From that he drifted into the planing-mill business, which he still continues. In the mill are now employed thirty hands, and the firm is doing a good business. They have a high standing in business circles and are ranked among the prominent and influential men of the city. Since a youth of sixteen summers our subject has made his own way in the world, and therefore for his success in life deserves great credit.



**H**ON. DAVID C. MOFFITT, the present Mayor of Decatur, occupies the highest position within the gift of his fellow-townsmen, and the efficient manner in which he discharges his duties has won for him the commendation of all the best citizens. The prominent part which he has taken in political, business, public and social interests of the city has inseparably connected him with its history and made him well worthy a place in this volume. He was

born in Brownsville, Pa., on the 20th of April, 1831, and is a son of James W. and Mary Jane (Patterson) Moffitt. The latter's father, Col. Robert Patterson, was also a native of the Keystone State, and was of Scotch-Irish descent. He participated in the War of 1812, and took part in the battle of Tippecanoe under Gen. William Henry Harrison. The father of our subject was a shoemaker by trade, and in 1842 emigrated with his family to Ohio, locating in Coshocton. His death occurred in Circleville in 1850, at the age of fifty years. His widow still survives him and has now attained the age of eighty-seven years.

The subject of this sketch was a lad of eleven summers when he accompanied his parents to the Buckeye State. In his youth he learned the bricklayer's trade, and began to do contract work before he had attained his majority, a fact which indicates his excellent workmanship and his prompt execution of duty. It was in the year 1855 that he first located in Illinois, taking up his residence in Piatt County, where he made his home until the 4th of March, 1856, when he located in Decatur. Here he has since been engaged in the manufacture of brick, and in brick-building contract work. He has erected several of the public school-houses of this city, and also built many business houses and private residences. He began in a small way, but his patronage has constantly increased and he now enjoys a liberal trade. His contracts are so numerous that he furnishes employment to from forty to sixty men.

On the 26th of June, 1862, in Circleville, Ohio Mr. Moffitt wedded Miss Catherine Wilson, a native of the Buckeye State. Four children were born of this union: Charles, who is now engaged in business with his father; Annie, at home; Clara, wife of Andrew Dempsey; and Ida, a successful teacher, who became the wife of H. F. May, and died a short time after her marriage.

For thirty-five years Mr. Moffitt has been a member of the Odd Fellows' society, and has served as Past Noble Grand and Deputy in the Grand Lodge. About 1881 he was elected to the office of Alderman from the Third Ward, and served as a member of the Council for three years under Mayor King and Mayor Wagner. At the recent election



he was the popular candidate of the Democratic party and won the race over Capt. Kanan with eighty-seven majority, although the city is considered to have a Republican majority of three hundred. This fact indicates his personal popularity and the trust reposed in him by his fellow-townsmen. He is proving an excellent presiding officer and one well fitted for his position. He has been prominent in business circles and in the work of public advancement he has ever borne his part. The citizens of Macon County all know D. C. Moffitt, and know him to respect him.



**M**ICHAEL EICHENGER, a highly respected citizen of Decatur, who is now living a retired life at his beautiful home on West Marietta Street, well deserves representation in the history of his adopted county. His birth occurred in York County, Pa., on the 30th of October, 1823, and he is descended from an old German family which was founded in America by two brothers of German birth in early Colonial days. The father of our subject, John Eichenger, was born in York County in 1779, and there spent his entire life. He was a cooper by trade, which business he followed through the winter season, while in the summer he carried on a farm. In 1831 he also operated a distillery. He was married April 12, 1807, to Susanna Weleh, who was born in York County February 7, 1788. The father of our subject died May 5, 1845, in the Keystone State, and the mother died while living in Decatur, in August 1861, having made her home here since 1854. Their family numbered four sons and six daughters.

The subject of this sketch is the eighth in order of birth. His educational privileges were quite limited, for as soon as old enough to work he had to aid in supporting the family. After his father's death, he operated the old farm for one year, and then was employed as a farm hand in Pennsylvania, after which he conducted a farm of his own from

1847 till 1854. In 1854, accompanied by his mother, he came to the West, reaching Decatur on the 8th of April. The succeeding four years of his life were spent as a carpenter, and for three months he carried on a butcher shop, but that venture proved unsuccessful. On his arrival he had purchased city property, which in June, 1858, he traded for eighty acres of land on section 20, Long Creek Township, which was partially improved. In connection with farming he extensively engaged in stock-raising, and had upon his farm some of the finest horses and cattle to be found in the county. The boundaries of his farm he extended from time to time, until his landed possessions now aggregate six hundred and eighty-five acres, divided into three farms of three hundred and twenty, two hundred, and one hundred and sixty-five acres, respectively.

On the 29th of July, 1866, Mr. Eichenger was united in marriage with Miss Lucy Ellen Huff, who was born May 28, 1842, in Coshocton County, Ohio, and came to Oakley Township, Macon County, in 1864 with her parents, Eleven and Eliza Huff. Her father was born in Virginia, November 10, 1807, and her mother's birth occurred in the Old Dominion, December 12, 1812. Both died in the spring of 1875. In 1876, our subject was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who was called to her final rest on the 4th of October. Unto them were born four children: Ira, who died August 10, 1871, in his fourth year; John, born February 14, 1870, who graduated from Harvard College in the Class of '93, after having graduated from Eureka College; Martha Belle, who died January 27, 1874, at the age of two years; and William Robert, born June 25, 1875.

Mr. Eichenger was married a second time, July 12, 1881, this time to Mary Elizabeth Logan, who was born February 5, 1848, in Garrard County, Ky., and is a daughter of David Logan, who settled in Wheatland Township in 1853, and who died in Long Creek, where her mother still resides. One child blesses the union, Olive Pansy, born February 24, 1883.

In politics, Mr. Eichenger has been a staunch Republican since the organization of that party. Previous to that he was an old-line Whig, and his



first vote was cast for William Henry Harrison. He holds membership with the Christian Church, to which his wife also belongs. During the war he was a member of the Union League, and the Soldiers' Aid Society, organized for the enforcement of Union principles and the vigorous prosecution of the war. He was also instrumental in organizing the Decatur Mutual County Fire Insurance Company in June, 1880. He has long been an active worker in the temperance cause and has three times served as a delegate to the State Christian Temperance Union. On starting out in life for himself, he lost nearly everything he had through the treachery of a friend, so that all that he now possesses has been gained through his own efforts, his perseverance, enterprise and good management gaining him a handsome competence. His life has been one of the strictest honor and he has therefore won universal confidence. The home in which he now resides is one of the most beautiful residences in the city. Mr. Eichenger is a pleasant, genial gentleman and his friends are many.



**M**RS. SARAH R. SWARTZ is the owner of a fine farm on section 8, Decatur Township, where her entire life has been passed.

She was born on this place, not more than twenty-five feet from her present home. Her father, Fielding House, came to this county in October, 1835. Her great-grandfather, John House, spent his entire life upon a farm in Massachusetts, but his son William emigrated to Kentucky in an early day, and settled on Lieking River, in Bath County. He became an extensive farmer, miller and storekeeper and was a prominent citizen of that locality.

The father of Mrs. Swartz was born on the farm in Bath County, May 26, 1807, and in his youth acquired a good education. On the 27th of December, 1827, he was united in marriage with Miss Jane Todd, who was born in Kentucky in 1811. He was a millwright by trade and managed his father's mill until 1835, when, accompanied by his

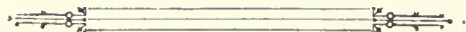
family, he emigrated to Illinois. There were no railroads in those days and he made the journey by team, locating on section 8, Decatur Township, Macon County. Here he entered a squatter's claim of forty acres, and entered and purchased more land until he owned eight hundred acres in this neighborhood. His land was at first raw prairie, not even fenced, but he at once began its development and transformed it into a rich and fertile tract, which yielded to him a fine income. He was extensively engaged in farming and stock-raising, and at intervals worked as a millwright and carpenter, becoming quite wealthy. His wife died December 19, 1836, leaving three children: Mrs. Margaret A. Kincaid, of Decatur; William T., whose home is in Douglas County, Ill.; and Mrs. Nancy J. Bills, of Decatur. In 1838, in Moultrie County, Mr. House was again married, his second union being with Miss Jane Scott, a native of Bourbon County, Ky. Her father, Arthur Scott, was born in 1777, and was a pioneer and extensive farmer of Bourbon County. Mrs. House died January 16, 1849, on the old home, and was buried in the family cemetery. She became the mother of the following children: Arthur, who died in childhood; Mrs. Mary E. Smelsley, who resides upon a part of the estate; Mrs. Sarah Swartz; and Susan C., deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. House were members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and were among its faithful workers and liberal supporters. He was a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows' Societies and also of the Sons of Temperance. For several years he served as County Surveyor and also held other local offices. In politics, he was a Whig and a leader in political circles in this locality. He began life for himself in limited circumstances, but his good management and industrious career won him signal success. He passed away August 30, 1864, mourned by many friends. He had been three times married, his third union being with Miss Nancy Todd. She died November 21, 1866, leaving two children: James M., a farmer of Decatur Township; and Mrs. Lydia J. Riding, wife of Dr. Riding, of Buford, Ohio.

Mrs. Swartz has spent her entire life upon the farm which is still her home, her girlhood days being quietly passed under the parental roof. She

attended subscription schools and in her later girlhood was a student in the Grammar and High Schools of Decatur. Having become well informed, she began teaching, and was thus employed for seven years in Macon and Piatt Counties.

On the 16th of January, 1873, our subject became the wife of John Swartz, who was born in Luxemburg, Germany, March 7, 1841, and when sixteen years of age came with his family to America, locating in this county. He worked on a farm until his marriage, and since that time Mr. and Mrs. Swartz have resided upon a part of the old House estate. They have a nice home, well furnished and tastefully kept, which shows the care and supervision of Mrs. Swartz by its neat appearance. The farm comprises one hundred and eighty-seven and a-half acres of rich land, which is now under a high state of cultivation and well improved, being supplied with all modern improvements and equipments. This property came to Mrs. Swartz from her father's estate, and in its management she shows both business and executive ability. In politics, Mr. Swartz is a supporter of the Republican party.



**E**DWARD WADE, who resides on a farm on section 3, Decatur Township, claims England as the land of his birth, which occurred on a farm in Somersetshire on the 16th of August, 1831, his ancestors having for generations lived upon the same farm. His father, Abraham Wade, was an agriculturist in comfortable circumstances, and was also a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He heard John Wesley preach, and in the early history of the church became one of its members. He was active in establishing churches and did all in his power to promote the cause of Christianity in his neighborhood. He also held a number of local offices in his native land. In 1867, he came to America with his son and thenceforth lived a retired life. He died in De Witt County, at the age of eighty-three, and his

wife passed away in the same county January 1, 1869. She bore the maiden name of Martha Harding, and was born and reared in the parish adjoining that in which her husband lived.

In the Wade family were twelve children, nine of whom grew to mature years, while three sons and two daughters came to America. Abram died in England; Samuel is living near Clinton, DeWitt County; Josiah was accidentally killed in the Old Country; Mrs. Martha Haverfield is living in De Witt; Edward is the next younger; Francis is a farmer of De Witt County; and Thomas H., now deceased, followed farming in Austin Township, and was the youngest son of the family.

The subject of this sketch remained upon the home farm until twenty-three years of age, and in the public schools acquired a good education. At an early age he learned to use the plow and spade, and in his youth was trained as a nurseryman, being employed by one of the largest nursery companies in the country. Reading the pamphlet sent out by the Illinois Central Railroad Company concerning the almost fabulous productions of Illinois, and hearing of other opportunities afforded young men in the New World, he determined to test the truth of these reports by trying his fortune in the United States, and in 1854 sailed from Liverpool to New Orleans. After a voyage of six weeks they reached the mouth of the Mississippi. Mr. Wade went up the river to St. Louis, and then made a short visit in Greenville, Bond County, Ill., where he lived for two years. The succeeding two years were passed in Michigan, and in 1857 he reached Decatur, since which time he has made his home in Macon County. In 1862 he made his first purchase of land, comprising sixty-five acres, and during the greater part of the time since has been engaged in the nursery business.

In 1859 Mr. Wade was married to Miss Susanna Dement, who was born in De Witt County, and died February 3, 1869, leaving three children: Martha F., now deceased; Eva Laura, wife of Frank Hamlin, of De Witt County; and Francis Ellsworth, manager of the telephone exchange of Danville, Ill. For his second wife, Mr. Wade chose Miss Anna M. Granger, who had formerly been a teacher in the public schools of Decatur.



She died at the birth of her twin boys. In 1875, in Union County, Ohio, our subject married Miss Louisa Gill, a native of Union County, and a daughter of Mason and Harriet (Granger) Gill. Her father died in 1864, but her mother is still living, the only other member of her family now living being Hon. John S. Gill, Judge of the Common Pleas Court at Delaware, Ohio. Four children have been born unto our subject and his wife: Jesse M., Albert Edward, Harry Gill and John Ralph.

Mr. and Mrs. Wade hold membership with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and have been prominent in church work in this community. All that he possesses, Mr. Wade has made since coming to America, and his success is the result of his own enterprise, good management and industry.



**E**DMISTON McCLELLAN, of Decatur, one of Macon County's most efficient officers, having served as Circuit Clerk since 1868, came to the county in 1835, and has here resided continuously since. As one of the honored pioneers and a citizen widely and favorably known, we present him to our readers. His parents were Andrew and Jane (Thompson) McClellan, both natives of Scotland, who, having crossed the Atlantic, were married in Franklin County, Pa. The father was a cooper by trade, but followed farming through part of his life. His death occurred at the advanced age of eighty-three years. Mrs. McClellan had been married previous to her union with the father of our subject. By her first husband, Arthur Shields, she had four children: Alexander, John, Mary and Eliza. By her second marriage she became the mother of five children: Andrew, Euphemia, Malvina, Edmiston and Jane.

Edmiston McClellan, whose name heads this record, was born in the Keystone State in October, 1818. He accompanied his parents in their various removals, and at length came with them to Illinois, in 1835, locating in the town of Decatur,

Macon County, which at that time also comprised portions of Piatt, De Witt and Moultrie Counties.

Our subject was then a young man of twenty-two years, and was strong and robust, being six feet in height and weighing two hundred pounds. He engaged in breaking prairie and bore all the experiences of pioneer life. He especially enjoyed hunting, and had ample opportunity to indulge, his taste for that sport, for squirrels, quail, turkeys and prairie chickens were plentiful. His pleasure in that sport has never left him, and each fall he goes with a company of friends to Missouri or elsewhere to hunt and enjoy the pleasures of camp life.

In 1839, Mr. McClellan purchased town lots in Decatur, which he still owns, and also bought sixty-two and two-thirds acres in the outskirts of the city. Of this he has sold eighteen acres as an addition, called Oaklawn Addition, but still owns forty-two and two-thirds acres, where he now lives. He has a fine suburban residence, which is surrounded by elegant lawns, and has good barns and all modern conveniences and improvements. He was married in 1842 to Miss Judith, daughter of Henry Snyder, who came with his family to Macon County in 1833, locating near where Lovington now stands, in Moultrie County. After the death of his wife he removed to Decatur.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. McClellan were born ten children: Richard, who died in infancy; Henry, who is Deputy Circuit Clerk, is married, and has a son, Harry; Jane, at home; Ella, wife of Orville B. Gorin, who is connected with the firm of Milliken & Co., bankers; Charles, who died in infancy; William, who is in a wholesale carpet house and resides in Kansas City, Mo., with his wife and four children: Mabel, Edmiston, Joseph and Florence; Edmiston, Jr., the next younger, who is at home; Joseph, who is serving as Deputy United States Revenue Collector; Isabella, the wife of Albert Merriweather, of Decatur, by whom she has one daughter, Jessie; and Annie, wife of Lee B. Elkin, of Springfield, Ill.

For more than a quarter of a century, Mr. McClellan has been officially connected with Macon County. In 1868 he was made Circuit Clerk and Recorder on the Republican ticket, and has filled



that position continuously since, being re-elected six times. He has served as Constable and County Surveyor, was for two years Sheriff, and served as Deputy United States Marshal from the time of the war until his election as Circuit Clerk. He was also City Marshal during the war. He was personally acquainted with Abraham Lincoln, a warm friendship existing between them, and he heard the martyred President while debating with Stephen A. Douglas.

Mr. McClellan lived in Macon County at a time when the population was so limited that he knew every man within its borders. Decatur then contained seventy-five inhabitants. On reaching this city he had only fifty cents, and that he paid for his lodging and breakfast, so empty handed he started out. His enterprise, however, has always provided him with the necessities and many of the luxuries of life and he is well-to-do. In the early days he was an old-line Whig, and since the organization of that party has been a staunch Republican, believing in protection for home industries and that America is for Americans. No man in Macon County has more friends than this honored pioneer, of whom every one speaks in the highest terms.



**A**BRAM KRAMER is recognized as one of the leading men of Decatur, being the proprietor of an extensive manufactory located at Nos. 258 and 260 East Main Street, where are manufactured carriages, buggies, phaetons, road carts, spring and lumber wagons, platform trucks, etc. Mr. Kramer now has a large trade, extending over a wide range of territory. He has one of the largest factories in Decatur, and a fine business, which is the result of his own untiring efforts and good management.

A native of Ohio, our subject was born near Canal Winchester, in Franklin County, January 3, 1833. His parents were George and Catherine (Harmon) Kramer, the former a native of Pennsylv-

vania, and the latter of Ohio. The grandfather, Lewis Kramer, was born in the Keystone State, and was a German preacher of the United Brethren Church. He followed the ministry in connection with farming, and he also operated a saw and grist mill. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812, and died in Franklin County, Ohio, at the age of sixty-two. Frederick Harmon, the maternal grandfather, was a native of Pennsylvania, a hero of the Revolutionary War, and a farmer and distiller. He held membership with the United Brethren Church, and died at the advanced age of ninety-two.

When only three years old, George Kramer was taken by his parents to Ohio, where he was reared on a farm. He belonged to the muster-roll in the regular militia, and held several local offices of honor and trust. He was a member of the United Brethren Church, and was a leader in all church work, and for many years was Sunday-school Superintendent. He possessed a fine voice, and his services as a musician were constantly in demand throughout the neighborhood. He died in 1867, at the age of sixty-three years. His widow is still living, and makes her home with her son Abram, at the age of eighty-five years. She is also a member of the United Brethren Church. In the family were ten children, but Susan, Mary, Jacob, Elias, Amanda, Elizabeth and Sarah are all now deceased. Isaac is living in Decatur, and George makes his home in Champaign, Ill.

In the usual manner of farmer lads our subject spent his boyhood, but, determining to follow some other pursuit than that of agriculture, at the age of eighteen he began to learn the carriage and wagon making and blacksmith's trade, serving a three-years apprenticeship. During that time, he received no wages, and had to board and clothe himself, and often had to work from five o'clock in the morning until nine o'clock at night, but he thoroughly learned the business. For about ten years Mr. Kramer then worked as a journeyman, after which he bought an interest in the shop of S. B. McClelland, of Decatur, the firm becoming McClelland & Kramer. In the early days they would manufacture one hundred and twenty lumber wagons per year by hand, besides spring wag-

ons and buggies, in addition to doing an extensive repairing business. Mr. Kramer used only the best material, and his workmanship was of the finest. Since the retirement of his partner some twelve years ago, he has been alone in business and has turned his attention to the finer work of carriage-building. He shipped one job lot to Japan to the old Tycoon. A proof of his excellent workmanship is given in the fact that some of his wagons have been used for over twenty-five years, and one for over thirty-two years. He has shipped many wagons and buggies to Massachusetts, California, Texas, Florida, and nearly every State in the Union. From the beginning, his trade has constantly increased, and his fine workmanship has brought him an enviable reputation.

On the 16th of November, 1855, Mr. Kramer wedded Miss Louisa, daughter of Ludwig and Louisa Borehars, of Loekville, Fairfield County, Ohio. They had four children: George H., who died at the age of two years; Anna A., wife of George W. Handy, of West Bay City, Mich., by whom she has four children: George F., Fred W., Florence G. and Gilbert; Benjamin F., of Decatur, who married Miss Sarah Briser, by whom he has one daughter, Edna May; and William. The mother died January 13, 1880. She was a member of the United Brethren Church, and a great worker in the Sunday-school. At one time the roll of scholars whom she had instructed numbered nine hundred. Her life redounded with deeds of kindness and generosity, and the poor and needy found in her a special friend. At one time, she took a destitute little girl from a drunken father, clothed her, and saw her adopted into a good family, where she was well reared, and has since become the wife of a wealthy man.

On the 9th of May, 1881, Mr. Kramer was again married, his second union being with Miss Martha J. Lockett, daughter of James W. and Nancy (Walston) Lockett. Our subject and his wife hold membership with the United Brethren Church, in which he has held office for twenty-five years. He has long been Trustee, and he served as a lay delegate in the annual conference for ten years. In politics, he was formerly a Democrat, but for many years he has been a Republican. Mr. and Mrs.

Kramer have a pleasant home at No. 612 North Main Street, which is the abode of hospitality, its doors always being open for the reception of their many friends.



**W**ILLIAM BRADLEY, who owns and operates two hundred acres of land on section 22, South Macon Township, is one of the honored pioneers of the county, and has witnessed its growth from the days of its early infancy. He is of English birth, his parents, John and Ellen (Ogen) Bradley, being also natives of England. The father followed farming in that country, and there spent his life up to the age of fifty-one. His wife passed away when forty-three years of age. In their family were nine children, but six of the number are now deceased. John, twin brother of our subject, is now a retired farmer living in Auburn, Neb.; and Mary is the wife of Joseph Sandoz, a carpenter residing in Macon.

William Bradley was born in Lancashire, December 8, 1822, and in order of birth was the third of the family. The first fourteen years of his life he spent upon a farm. His father died when he was eight years of age, and he then went to live with a farmer in the neighborhood, with whom he remained for some time. When a youth of fourteen, he began serving a seven-years apprenticeship at the wheelwright's trade, which he followed for four years after his term had expired, at the docks in Liverpool. Determining to seek a home and fortune in the New World, Mr. Bradley made preparations to leave England, and in 1848 bade adieu to the land of his birth.

In 1843, our subject had been united in marriage with Miss Mary Sachary, of Cheshire, England, who with her child accompanied her husband across the Atlantic. Making their way Westward, they located in Monroe County, Ill., where our subject worked at his trade and engaged in farming until 1859. That year witnessed his arrival



in Macon County. Here he purchased forty acres of wild land from the railroad, a wet and unimproved tract, seemingly hardly fit for cultivation, but by draining and improving he has made this one of the fine farms of the township, and now two hundred acres of rich land yield to him a golden tribute. The family circle has here been increased by the birth of two children. John, the eldest, is a prosperous farmer of this county; William operates the home farm; and Ellen is the wife of Thomas W. Tomlinson, a farmer of Sherman County, Kan.

Mr. Bradley and his family are faithful members of the Catholic Church. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the Democratic party and is a staunch advocate of its principles, but has never been an aspirant for office. He has probably resided in South Macon Township longer than any of its citizens, and has been prominently identified with its advancement and upbuilding. His love of progress has made him deeply interested in its welfare, and in all possible ways he has aided in the promotion of its best interests.



**N**ATHAN A. CARR, one of the representative farmers and stock-dealers of Pleasant View Township, residing on section 36, was born in St. Clair County, Ill., on the 29th of March, 1838, and is a son of George W. and Terssie C. (Garner) Carr. The father, who was of German extraction, was also a native of St. Clair County, born in 1814, and was a representative of one of its pioneer families, his father having come from Virginia to Illinois with an ox-team in 1793. George Carr was reared upon a farm in the county of his nativity and there resided until 1865, when he came to Macon County and purchased the farm on which our subject now resides. His death occurred three years later, in 1868, and he lies buried in Macon Cemetery. His wife, who was of Irish descent, was born in Arkansas, and died in St. Clair County, Ill., in 1884. The subject of this

sketch was the second in order of birth in a family of nine children, numbering five sons and four daughters, but only four sons are now living. Matthew is a practicing physician residing in East St. Louis, Ill.; James G. is engaged in merchandising in East St. Louis; Henry A. is a surveyor and real-estate dealer in Washington, and has served as Government Surveyor for a number of years.

Until the age of twenty years Nathan Carr remained upon the home farm with his parents, giving his father the benefit of his services. He then left the parental roof to make his own way in the world, and, starting out in life for himself, he began work as a farm hand by the month. He came to Macon County when twenty-seven years of age, and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of railroad land, and as he had little capital he made the purchase on time. He then began farming for himself and has since followed that occupation.

On the 15th of March, 1860, Mr. Carr wedded Miss Melissa J. Rittinhouse, of St. Clair County, and by their union were born ten children, seven sons and three daughters, as follows: Alfred N., the eldest, a practicing physician in Jimuleo, Mexico, who is assistant surgeon for the Mexican Central Railroad Company; William G., who follows farming in this county; Charles Eugene, also an agriculturist of this county; Clara M., at home; Isaac J., who is engaged in teaching school in Texas; Seth A.; Dollie M.; Walter A.; Luella L., the baby; and Matthew S., the third son of the family, who died in infancy. The children were all provided with good educational privileges, fitting them for the practical duties of life.

In his political views Mr. Carr is a Democrat and a staunch advocate of the principles of that party, but has never been an office-seeker, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his business interests. Socially, he is a member of the Masonic lodge of Macon, to which he has belonged for twenty years. Mr. Carr now owns seven hundred and twenty acres of the finest land in Macon County. Of this four hundred are comprised within the home farm, which is one of the best-improved places in central Illinois. It is well tiled; upon it is a pleasant residence, substan-



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



John R. Daugherty

tial barns and cattle sheds, a good orchard and all the accessories of a model farm. Mr. Carr is now one of the wealthy farmers of Macon County, a position to which he has attained by his own energy and labor, as he started out in life empty-handed.



**J**OHN R. DOUGHERTY, who is now successfully engaged in general merchandising at No. 1160 East Eldorado Street, Decatur, is a self-made man, whose success has been acquired entirely through his own efforts, and whose life record should serve to encourage those who have to start out for themselves empty-handed. He was born in Drykmyer, Ayrshire, Scotland, March 7, 1855. His father was killed in the mines the day before the birth of our subject, and his mother died when John was a lad of five years. Being thus left an orphan and thrown upon his resources, he early began working in a coal mine. Later he worked in iron mines from six hundred to two thousand feet below the surface of the earth, at first receiving only from twenty-four to thirty cents per day. He was thus employed between the ages of eight and twenty-nine years.

At length Mr. Dougherty determined to seek a home in the United States, and, crossing the Atlantic, became a resident of Tioga County, Pa., in 1879. He had previously been married, as on the 25th of January, 1876, at Sorn, in Ayrshire, Scotland, Miss Isabella Callander, a native of that place, and daughter of John and Mary (McKenzie) Callander, had become his wife. They have now two sons and one daughter, viz.: Mary, John and James, all at home with their parents. After two months' stay in Pennsylvania, he went to Brazil, Ind., but after six months returned to the coal regions of Pennsylvania. He lived altogether in about fifteen different counties of the Keystone State, as he wished to become thoroughly familiar with the manners and customs of the American people. In July, 1881, he came to central Illi-

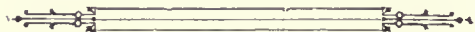
nois, but, in order to further study the people, he removed to St. Louis, and, securing a pack, started out on the road as a peddler, traveling from Missouri to New York. During this trip he made considerable money. On the 3d of July, 1882, he came to Decatur, where he soon engaged in coal-mining. In November, of the same year, he returned to Scotland, expecting to bring his family to this city, but on reaching America he made a location in Pennsylvania, and it was not until November, 1884, that he once more arrived in Decatur. His brother James was here engaged in the grocery business, and John soon invested his capital, \$600, but after six months found that he had lost it all.

The coal mines would not be in operation for some months to come, and Mr. Dougherty had to find some kind of work to support his family. An old friend, whom he had known in his native home, took him to a well-known man of means, A. T. Risley, who listened to our subject's story and asked him to call again. This he did, and when affairs had been more fully explained, Mr. Risley said: "Young man, I feel an interest in you, and believe you have the right stuff in you. If you will agree to pay me \$10 per month, I will buy a lot, erect a suitable building, and you and your wife can see what you can do to build up a trade." The proposition was accepted. Mr. Risley purchased the lot and built a one-story house, 18x30 feet in dimensions, in the east end of Decatur. Mrs. Dougherty had saved \$25, and with this small capital they secured a stock of confectionery and cigars. Mr. Dougherty, his wife and two boys lived in the back part of the building, and many a day they ate nothing but bread and water in order to meet the payment of \$10 per month. When work in the coal mines re-opened, Mr. Dougherty secured a position, and his wife remained in charge of the store. He was thus employed for two winters, during which time they paid off almost their entire indebtedness to Mr. Risley, and also largely increased their stock.

Hardships and difficulties untold were at first encountered, but our subject and his wife pressed on, laboring early and late. As their trade increased, they enlarged their facilities. During



all this time Mr. Risley has stood by them, and in 1892 he erected a fine double-front four-story brick block, containing thirty-four rooms, at a cost of \$20,000. Mr. Dougherty now occupies the fine double storeroom on the ground floor in that building and carries an excellent line of general merchandise in one room, while the other is used as a sample-room. By constant attention to business and a careful oversight of all its details, he has won success, and his trade amounts to more than \$25,000 annually. He found in Mr. Risley a friend in need, and feels that he owes to him a deep debt of gratitude which can never be repaid for his timely assistance in the days of his adversity, but more than all he is indebted to his noble wife, who has indeed proved a faithful companion and helpmate.



**E**MANUEL GOOD, who follows farming on section 19, Decatur Township, is one of the honored veterans of the late war. As a faithful soldier he wore the blue, and aided in the defense and preservation of the Union, and his name deserves to be enrolled among the deliverers of his country. He was born in York County, Pa., and is of German and Scotch-Irish descent. His paternal great-grandfather was a native of Germany and the founder of the family in America.

Christian Good, the father of our subject, was born in York County, Pa., in 1808, and spent his entire life in the Keystone State, where, as the result of his good business ability, he became a well-to-do man. He was a member of the Dunkard Church, and took a very active part in church work. He wedded Miss Mary Zorger, a native of the same locality, who died in 1847, at the age of thirty-seven years, in the faith of the United Brethren Church, with which she held membership. The father passed away in 1858. He was again married, his second union being with Miss Polly Home. By his first marriage he had six children, who grew to manhood and womanhood. George

became a pioneer of California, and was the first Sheriff in Oregon. He was Captain of the first regiment of California volunteers organized for protection against the red men, and was killed by the Blackfeet Indians in the year 1851. Mrs. Eliza Copenhafer is living in Michigan. Emanuel is the next younger. Mrs. Mary Leader makes her home in Pennsylvania. Ephraim is a dealer in lime in Lancaster County, Pa. Christian, who enlisted in the Fifty-fourth Pennsylvania Infantry, was killed at Antietam in the first charge of the first and only battle in which he served. John, who served throughout the war as a member of the Fifty-fourth Pennsylvania Infantry, is now living in Wisconsin.

Emanuel Good was mostly educated in the subscription schools, for during his early boyhood there was much opposition to free schools, and people would take possession of them by the aid of muskets. Mr. Good, however, has read considerably, and by observation and experience has also gained a good deal of information. His training in farm labor was not limited, being early inured to the arduous labor of developing land, and he soon learned to swing the axe and cradle and became an expert in that line. In 1858, at the age of twenty-two years, he came to Decatur, and in Macon County began work as a farm hand. He had only received \$6 per month in Pennsylvania, and his wages of \$12 and \$15 in this county seemed very good indeed. Here he married Miss Anna Mary Good, a daughter of John Good, who has been to him a true companion and helpmate. She was born in Macon County, and their marriage was celebrated February 7, 1860.

On the 6th of August, 1861, Mr. Good bade adieu to his wife, and in Decatur enlisted for the late war as a member of Company B, Forty-first Illinois Infantry, under Capt. A. B. Lee and Col. I. C. Pugh. After being drilled at Camp Macon, the troops were ordered to St. Louis to protect the arsenal. Mr. Good served under Fremont at Marine Hospital, later was at Bird's Point, and participated in the battles of Ft. Henry and Ft. Donelson, in which the regiment lost heavily. Our subject lay on the freezing ground for four nights, and eighty men died from exposure. The regiment

lost heavily in the two days' battle of Pittsburgh Landing and again suffered greatly from exposure. The hardships of army life undermined the health of our subject, and in 1862 he was discharged. He weighed one hundred and sixty-five pounds when he entered the service and ninety-five on leaving it, and for almost a year afterward he was unable to do any work. He then bought one hundred acres of land, which with the aid of his sons he has made into a valuable farm. He also has a town lot in Decatur.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Good have been born the following children: Charlie, who died in childhood; Sarah, wife of Robert Welch, a wealthy citizen of Decatur; Maggie, wife of Thomas Morris, of this county; Laura, wife of Amos Westhafer, an extensive farmer living in Decatur Township; James, who operates the home farm; Rose, of Streator, Ill.; John, of Iowa; Lillie, at home; Ida, who died at the age of seven years; and Earl, who completes the family. The parents are members of the Salem Baptist Church, and Mr. Good is connected with the Macon County Veteran Association. He voted for Douglas in 1860, but since that time has been a stalwart Republican. However, he has never sought or desired public office, preferring to devote his time and attention to his business interests.



**B**HILTON CASSELL is a wide-awake and prominent young farmer of Macon County, residing on section 1, Decatur Township. He comes of one of the worthy pioneer families of the community, and his entire life has been passed in this locality. He is a popular citizen, having many friends, and by his well-spent life he has gained the high regard of all. He was born in the county seat on the 20th of March, 1846, and is a son of Berry H. Cassell, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. The days of his boyhood and youth were passed in the city of his birth, and his early education, acquired in

the public schools, was supplemented by a course of study in the Normal School, of Bloomington, Ill., from which he was graduated at the age of twenty-two.

An important event in the life of Mr. Cassell occurred on the 18th of March, 1872, when was celebrated his marriage with Miss Fannie W. Harrison, the wedding ceremony being performed in Clinton. The lady is a native of Ross County, Ohio, and is a distant relative of President Harrison's family. Her parents were Matthew and Lydia A. Harrison. The father died some thirty years ago, but the mother is still living and makes her home in Decatur. Her maiden name was Lydia A. Plummer, and she too was born in Ross County, Ohio. In the Harrison family the following children grew to manhood and womanhood, namely: Mrs. Lize E. Baugher, of Decatur; Mrs. Sarah Wilt, of Warrensburg, Ill.; Matthew M., who resides in Hickory Point Township; Joseph H., a resident farmer of Missouri; Mary J., wife of William K. Lintner, of Missouri; James and William, both of whom enlisted for the late war as members of an Ohio regiment and died in Libby Prison; and Fannie W., the wife of our subject.

Mr. and Mrs. Cassell began their domestic life upon the farm where they still reside, and their home has been blessed by the presence of three children: Lewis B., born February 24, 1873; Fred R., born September 29, 1876; and Otto D., born July 27, 1881. They also have an adopted daughter, Pearl Ada, who has now been with them for three years, and on March 20, 1893, celebrated her fifth birthday.

Mr. Cassell owns and operates two hundred acres of valuable land, including some of the finest farming land in the county. He has a well-developed and improved place, and the fertile fields yield to him an excellent income. His land is valued at from \$200 to \$250 per acre, and this, together with his valuable stock and houses and lots in Decatur, places him among the leading financial men in this county. Though comparatively a young man, he has made the most of his advantages, and his wealth is rated at about \$50,000. He is giving his children excellent educational advantages, and having himself entered into the



joys of literary lore he desires his children to have those delights in a far greater degree, if possible. In politics, he has been a stalwart Republican since casting his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. Socially, he was a member of the Masonic fraternity. His wife belongs to the Order of the Eastern Star, and is also a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Cassell manifested his loyalty to the Government during the late war by enlisting for the one hundred days' service, but on account of his youth his father would not let him serve. He has ever been a faithful citizen, is true to every public and private trust, and is a man of sterling worth and strict integrity.



**M**ATTHIAS ECKERT, who resides on his farm on section 9, Decatur Township, is numbered among the early settlers of Macon County, having for many years been identified with the growth and development of the community. He has witnessed the upbuilding of Decatur from a hamlet with a few cabins to a thriving city that ranks among the foremost in the State. He has seen the wild lands transformed into beautiful homes and farms, churches and schools built, and the work of progress and development carried forward, until the county of today bears little resemblance to the Macon County in which he first located.

Mr. Eckert was born in Baden, Germany, March 21, 1822. His father, Michael Eckert, spent his entire life in that country and followed the occupation of farming. He married Barbara Kumerer, who also died in Germany. They were members of the Evangelical Protestant Church, and were the parents of five sons and five daughters. John, who served three years in the Twenty-first Illinois Infantry, died in this country, and Jacob died in Mattoon, Ill.

Our subject is the only son now living. He grew up in the village of Haeh, and was educated

in subscription schools, which he attended between the ages of six and fourteen years. He became foreman of the estate of the Governor of Baden, and at the age of twenty he entered the army, becoming one of the body-guard of the Governor, and remaining in the service for nine years. He served as a soldier in the Revolution of 1848. After his discharge he stayed on the King's estate for four years, and in 1854 came to America, sailing from Havre to New York. They were fifty-six days on the water, the passage being a very stormy one, and lightning once striking the ship. During the voyage our subject had an attack of small-pox. He and his wife and his brother secured service in the homes of Mr. Hahn and Mr. Ingersoll, rich business men of New York, who lived near that city. On coming West, our subject spent two years in a foundry at Springfield, and later went to Peoria, Ill., where he spent one year. In the former place he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Barbara Riefen, of New York City, a cultured lady, who was educated in German and Latin and had educated herself in the English tongue. The ceremony took place May 26, 1855.

After leaving Peoria, our subject came to Decatur, at which time he had only \$80 in money. Steadily he increased his possessions until his farm property is now worth \$20,000. His first home was a log cabin, situated on a poorly-improved tract of land, but he at once began its development and placed under cultivation over one hundred and fifty acres. Part of this he has since sold, but he still owns sixty acres. In connection with general farming, he has engaged in raising fruit and vegetables. In all his labors he has found a faithful companion and helpmate in his worthy wife, who has even shared in the labors of the field, doing all she could to promote her husband's prosperity.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Eckert were born five children: William, who was born October 26, 1858; Mary, wife of John Hiser, by whom she has two children, Anna B. and Francis Henry; Francis Henry, a conductor on the Wabash Railroad; Charlie, who died at the age of five years, and one who died in infancy. The parents are both people of sterling worth, and are highly respected



throughout the community in which they have made their home for so many years. The lady is a member of the German Methodist Church. Mr. Eekert cast his first Presidential vote in 1856, supporting the Republican party, with which he affiliated for some time. He is now, however, independent in politics. He has been honored with several local offices, the duties of which he has discharged with promptness and fidelity. Since coming to this country, he has won success in his business undertakings and has so ably managed his affairs that he is now in possession of a comfortable competence, which is richly merited.



**E**DWARD A. JONES, who for many years has been numbered among the leading agriculturists of Macon County, now resides on section 3, Decatur Township. He claims Ohio as the State of his nativity, his birth having occurred in Madison County, February 20, 1818. He comes of an old family of Maryland, his parents, Thomas and Mary Dale (Truitt) Jones, both being natives of that State. In 1816 they emigrated to Ohio, where the father opened up a farm. Mr. Jones served as Judge of the Circuit Court for a number of years and was a prominent and influential citizen. The family numbered eight children, of whom three are now living in Illinois. Dr. Toland Jones has for many years engaged in the practice of the medical profession in London, Ohio. Addison is a farmer of that place. Mrs. Eliza Smith is living in San Jose, Cal. James, who came to Illinois at an early day and was associated with our subject in raising cattle, went to California in 1876, and died at his home in San Jose in July, 1890, leaving two sons, who now reside in that State. John E. came to Illinois in 1855 and, entering land from the Government, developed a farm. He served throughout the war as Quartermaster of the Twenty-first Illinois Infantry, and his death has since occurred in Macon County. Dr. Jones,

of Ohio, was also a soldier and served as Colonel of the One Hundred and Thirteenth Ohio Infantry.

During the boyhood of our subject, he acquired his education in a log schoolhouse, or rather received some instruction in the common branches, for his real education has been mainly acquired through experience and observation. Possessing an observing eye and retentive memory, he has become well informed. At the age of thirteen he entered a store as a clerk, and has since made his own way in the world. He spent about seven years as a salesman, and then began driving cattle to market in the East. He first visited Illinois in 1837, and usually came each year from that time on until 1854, when he made a permanent settlement in Macon County. He secured land from the Government and by his arduous labors placed it under the plow, and it has since been made to yield him abundant harvests. He made many improvements upon his farm, but has disposed of much of his land and is now living retired. His home, a commodious and pleasant residence, is one of the many excellent improvements he has made upon his place.

In July, 1852, in Springfield, Ill., Mr. Jones was united in marriage with Miss Margery F. Elkin, a native of the capital city and a daughter of Col. William F. Elkin, who won his title in the Black Hawk War. Her father removed from Kentucky to Illinois in 1825, and became one of the earliest settlers of Sangamon County. He was born in Clark County, Ky., in 1792, and died in 1881, at the age of eighty-nine years. He had served as Sheriff of the county, and as a member of the Illinois Legislature, during which time he was one of the famous "Long Nine." In the Black Hawk War he was in the same regiment with Abraham Lincoln. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Constant, was also a native of Kentucky. Two of their sons, Thomas and Garrett, are retired business men of Springfield. Mrs. Jones was born on the homestead farm on Fanev Creek, eight miles north of Springfield.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Jones have been born three daughters: Luella, wife of Charles Reynolds, of Denver, Colo.; Ida T., at home; and Hathaway, wife of Theron A. Powers, of Decatur. They were

educated in the High School of that city, and in Lake Forest and Highland Park, Ill. The family is one of culture and refinement and in social circles its members hold high rank. Mr. Jones cast his first Presidential vote for Gen. Harrison, or rather attempted to while driving cattle through Indiana. In early life he was a Whig and since the organization of the Republican party has been one of its staunch supporters. He may truly be called a self-made man, for since his thirteenth year he has fought the battle of life unaided, and whatever success he has achieved is due entirely to his own efforts. His career has been a busy and useful one, and step by step he has worked his way upward, overcoming the difficulties and obstacles in his path, until he has reached a position of wealth and affluence and is now living a retired life.



**H**ENRY SHLAUDEMANN is numbered among the early settlers of Decatur, having long made his home in this community, and is recognized as one of its leading business men, having been a promoter of many of the most important industries of Macon County. He is now President of the Decatur Brewing Company and a stockholder in many enterprises. He was born in Oldenburg, Germany, January 13, 1834, and when a youth of twelve summers came to the United States, in 1846. He was brought by his parents, John and Elizabeth Shlaudeman, who on reaching the New World took up their residence in Cincinnati. There Henry learned the trade of a tinner and coppersmith, serving an apprenticeship of three years, after which he worked at the business for five years in Cincinnati, Hamilton and Logansport, Ind. He then engaged in the tobacco business in the last-named place, after which he worked at his trade for one year in Terre Haute. It was in 1858 that he came to Decatur and became a member of the firm of Joseph Michel & Co. He here engaged in the cigar and

tobacco trade from 1858 until 1862. On coming to Decatur he had but a very limited capital, but had done well in the tobacco business, and in 1862 was enabled to purchase a half-interest in the brewery business owned by Edward Harpstrite. The firm of Harpstrite & Shlaudeman was formed and the connection was continued until the retirement of Mr. Harpstrite on the 1st of October, 1884. Our subject then continued alone in the business until 1888, when the company was incorporated as the Decatur Brewing Company, and he became its President. The business has been greatly increased, and, owing to the good management of our subject, has yielded an excellent income.

Other business enterprises have engrossed the attention of Mr. Shlaudeman, who, as before stated, has been prominent in business circles. In 1888, he established an ice factory. He is a large stockholder in the Decatur Coal Company and one of its Directors, is a Director of the Niantic Coal Company, also of the Hatfield Milling Company, and of the Decatur Gas Light and Coal Company. In the National Bank he holds some stock and is also one of its Directors. He has extensive real-estate interests in the city, and in 1892 erected a business block, a three-story brick on North Water Street.

The lady who bears the title of Mrs. Shlaudeman was in her maidenhood Miss Caroline Weisman. She was born in Germany but was reared to womanhood in the United States. Their marriage was celebrated in Logansport, Ind., January 25, 1855, and her death occurred March 31, 1883. Unto them were born four children: Frank, who is Vice-President and manager of the Decatur Brewing Company; Harry, who is Secretary and Treasurer; Lillie, wife of Alex McGorry, Superintendent of the ice works; and Maud, at home. Mr. Shlaudeman was married a second time, November 11, 1890, this union being with Mrs. Catherine Snyder, widow of Frederick Snyder, a well-known man of Decatur. Her maiden name was Goby and she was born in Lothringen, Germany.

Socially, Mr. Shlaudeman is connected with the Masonic fraternity and he has held all the offices in the Blue Lodge. He has been an active member



of the Turnverein. In politics, he was formerly a Republican and voted for John C. Fremont, the first Presidential candidate of that party, but since 1872 he has affiliated with no political organization. He has never been an office-seeker, preferring to devote his entire attention to his business interests, in which he has met with excellent success.



**A** F. HOPKINS, a well-known business man of Macon County, is now engaged in general merchandising in Elwin, and is a dealer in groceries, glass and queensware, notions, stationery, school supplies, candy, cigars, tobacco, patent medicines, hardware, grain and coal. He always keeps on hand a good stock, and is now doing a thriving business, enjoying a liberal patronage, which he well deserves. He has been engaged in this line since 1866, and has met success as the result of his well-directed efforts, his industry and enterprise.

The life record of Mr. Hopkins is as follows: He was born near Circleville, Ohio, January 8, 1841, and comes of an old family of New Jersey, where his grandfather was born. The latter, David Hopkins, was reared on a farm in Ohio, and married Catherine Raub, a native of Pennsylvania. In 1851, they came to Illinois, locating four miles south of Decatur, on the Martin Farm. They spent the remainder of their lives in this community, where the father was a successful agriculturist and stock-raiser. He died in 1870, at the age of sixty-four, and his wife died at the same age in 1874. Mr. Hopkins held some local offices and was a prominent and influential citizen. In politics he was a Whig and afterwards a Republican. The cause of temperance found in him a warm friend, and he was an untiring worker in the interests of the Sunday-school. He was a charter member and faithful worker in the Presbyterian Church of Decatur, and was President of the Bible Society of his township. One of na-

ture's noblemen, his death was widely mourned. Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins were the parents of the following children: Lydia, wife of H. H. McKee, of Joplin, Mo.; A. F.; of this sketch; Mrs. Kate Beadles, of Lake City, Ill., President of the Third District Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and a prominent worker in that organization; and Samuel, who resides on the old homestead, and is a prominent worker in the Methodist Episcopal Church and Sunday-school. They also adopted a daughter, Nancy Eager, who became the wife of C. E. Conrad, and is now deceased.

The subject of this sketch was a lad of eleven years when he came to Illinois, traveling by boat, rail and team. He attended the primitive schools of the neighborhood, but completed his education in Mt. Zion Academy, when twenty years of age. At the age of eighteen he began teaching, which profession he followed for some time. On the 9th of August, 1862, he enlisted at Mt. Zion in Company C, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry. The regiment was assembled at Camp Macon, and on the 25th of October went to Cairo and from there to Memphis, Tenn. He participated in the first attack on Vicksburg, and then went to Helena, Ark., and participated in the battle of Arkansas Post, where seven thousand prisoners were captured. Returning to Vicksburg, he helped to build the Grant Canal across Young's Point. For forty days he aided in besieging Vicksburg, and saw the surrender of twenty-seven thousand prisoners. He participated in the battle of Jackson, where he was serving as Quartermaster-Sergeant. He was under fire at Chattanooga, Mission Ridge and in the battles of the Atlanta campaign and Resaca, and took part in the engagements at Atlanta, Big Shanty and Kenesaw Mountain. After the fall of Atlanta he came home on a furlough, but later rejoined Sherman at Goldsboro, N. C. When the war was over he participated in the Grand Review at Washington, and was discharged in the Capitol City in June, 1865, after three years of faithful and honorable service.

Mr. Hopkins at once returned to his home, and on the 1st of November, 1865, wedded Miss Mollie E. Price, who came to Illinois from Butler



County, Ohio, in 1858. Their wedding tour consisted in visiting their old homes in the Buckeye State, and after their return they located in Elwin, where, in 1866, Mr. Hopkins built a store and opened a stock of general merchandise. Their home was blessed with four children, two of whom are living: Lula J., who was educated in Westfield College, and is the wife of B. L. Rosebraugh, of Decatur; and Orion D., who assists his father in his business. He was also a student in Westfield College for a year.

Mr. Hopkins' business career has been one of prosperity and he is truly a self-made man. Himself and family are members of the United Brethren Church, and are highly respected people, widely and favorably known. He is now serving as Vice-President of the Macon County Sunday-school Association, was its President two years, and has been Trustee of Westfield College for about twelve years. After serving as Justice of the Peace for eight years, he resigned the office. In 1864, he cast his first Presidential vote for Lincoln, and for a number of years was a Republican, but is now a staunch Prohibitionist and a most ardent supporter of the cause of temperance. His wife and daughter are both workers in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Mr. Hopkins is a pleasant, genial gentleman and a man of sterling worth and strict integrity. He is alike true to every public and private trust, and discharges his duties of citizenship with the same fidelity that led him to serve for three years with the boys of blue, aiding in the defense of his country and faithfully following the Old Flag which now floats so proudly over the united nation.



**F**RANK H. COLEMAN, who now owns and operates two hundred and eight acres of valuable land on section 35, Blue Mound Township, was born on the 9th of January, 1830, in Cumberland County, Ky., and is descended from one of the Revolutionary heroes, his Grand-

father Cliff having served as a soldier in the War for Independence. His wife's grandfather, Mr. Park, was also a valiant defender of his country, having served as a Captain in the War of 1812. The parents of our subject were James M. and Mary (Cliff) Coleman. The family is of English extraction and was founded in America by James Coleman, the paternal grandfather, who was a native of England. The father of our subject was born in Culpeper County, Va., in March, 1782, and throughout his life followed the occupation of farming. When a young man he went to Kentucky, and there spent his remaining days, dying in September, 1858. His wife, who was born in Maryland, January 16, 1790, long survived him and was called to her final rest in 1880. Their family numbered fifteen children, but only three are now living: L. B., a farmer of Kenton County, Ky.; Rebecca, wife of Samuel Banister, an agriculturist of Kentucky; and Frank, of this sketch.

Our subject was the youngest of the family. He remained upon the home farm until thirty-three years of age, but in the mean time acquired a good education and engaged in teaching school for two terms. On leaving the State of his nativity, he came to Illinois, locating in Randolph County, where he taught school for six months. He then sought a home in Macon County, where he has since been engaged in farming. As a companion and helpmate on life's journey he chose Miss Catherine Park, their union being celebrated October 11, 1863. The lady was born in Virginia, on the 8th of December, 1836, and is a daughter of John and Mary Park, both of whom were natives of Virginia, the former being of English descent and the latter of German extraction. The year 1846 witnessed their arrival in Macon County, where Mr. Park purchased three hundred and sixty acres of land, which he transformed into a good farm. His death occurred in 1872, at the age of seventy-six years, and his wife passed away in 1852, when sixty years of age.

Five children have been born of the union of our subject and his wife, three sons and two daughters, but two died in infancy. The eldest, Robert H., is an electrician living in Chicago. Edgar Park is a highly educated young man, a graduate of

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



George Peck  
J. D. Wheeler & Co. P.



Stanford University. Mabel is still attending the public schools. Mr. Coleman received but limited educational advantages, as he lived in a new community, where the schools were not well organized, and he determined that his children should receive good privileges in that direction, and thus become fitted for the practical duties of life.

In his political views, Mr. Coleman is a staunch Democrat, and has been called upon to fill a number of public offices. He served as Clerk of his township for a number of years, was Supervisor for three terms, and has been School Director for twenty-six years. Fidelity and promptness in the discharge of duty have characterized his official life and he has therefore won the commendation of all concerned. Socially, he is connected with Ionic Lodge No. 364, A. F. & A. M., of Decatur. Mr. Coleman is regarded as a man of strict integrity, upright and honorable in all things, and is classed among the enterprising and progressive agriculturists of this community.



**J**AMES DONNELL WHEELER, M. D., who has been engaged in the practice of the medical profession in Decatur for the past thirteen years, during which time he has built up a good business, was born in Bellefontaine, Ohio, June 1, 1836. His parents were John and Margaret (Donnell) Wheeler. The paternal grandfather died in England, his native land, at a very old age. The maternal grandfather, William Donnell, reached the advanced age of ninety-nine years and became quite well-to-do. He was a popular and prominent citizen and for many years served as Postmaster of a town in Hardin County, Ohio.

The father of our subject was born in England, and when a young man crossed the briny deep. At the time of his emigration there was an embargo in his native land against coming to this country, but he made his way to Havre, France, whence with a party of sixty he set sail. In mid-

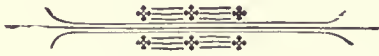
ocean they met a vessel to which all of their effects were transferred and carried to the United States. Thus they evaded the officers. For a time Mr. Wheeler engaged in merchandising in the East, and then removed to Ohio, where he continued the same business. In the Buckeye State he married Margaret Donnell, who was there born and reared. They became the parents of seven children, four sons and three daughters. The three eldest sons, William D., James D. and Matthew S., all became physicians; Margaret J. is the wife of M. D. Jones; Emma is the wife of Samuel Lewis; Anna is the wife of Benjamin Drennan; and Samuel died at the age of twenty years. The parents of this family were both faithful members of the Methodist Church, and the father was intimately acquainted with John Wesley, who often held services at his father's, whose home was the scene of the famous story, "The Dairyman's Daughter." His death occurred at Greenville, Ill., about 1848, and his wife, having survived him twenty-five years, died in Ohio in 1872.

Dr. Wheeler whose name heads this record remained in the State of his nativity until eighteen years of age, and then accompanied his parents to Illinois, locating in Greenville, Bond County. His literary education was acquired in Ohio, and he began studying medicine in Greenville, entering upon the practice of his chosen profession in December, 1858, and choosing as the scene of his labors Raymond, Ill., where he continued in practice until 1880. In the mean time he took a course of study and was graduated from the Eclectic Medical Institute, of Cincinnati, in 1870. He built up an extensive practice in Raymond and won a high reputation as a successful physician. In 1880, he came to Decatur, where he has since made his home.

In 1860, the Doctor was united in marriage with Miss Martha J. Harris, and unto them were born two children, a son and daughter: Ida and John. The latter died in infancy. The former is the wife of Darius Vigus, manager of the Columbia Manufacturing Company, of Decatur. Mrs. Wheeler died in 1872, and in September, 1874, Dr. Wheeler was again married, his second union being with Miss Georgia Vigus, of Litchfield, Ill.,

daughter of James and Eliza (Barrett) Vigus, and sister of Dr. Wheeler's son-in-law.

Our subject is connected with the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M. He is also a member of the Illinois Eclectic State Medical Association, and was honored by twice being elected President of that body. In politics, he is a supporter of Democratic principles. His liberal patronage is well merited and he holds an enviable position among his professional brethren. In the community where he now makes his home he is widely known and is held in high regard.



**J**OSEPH LESLIE, M. D., who for twenty-five years has made his home in Elwin, where he has successfully engaged in the practice of his profession, is a native of the Hoosier State, born in Tippecanoe County in September, 1838. His father, John Leslie, emigrated to Cerro Gordo, Piatt County, and died there about five years ago, at the age of eighty-nine years. He was a native of the Keystone State, and removed to Ohio in an early day. The journey between the two places was made on foot, and all of his worldly possessions he carried in a handkerchief. In 1864, he came to Illinois, where he lived a retired life until called to the home beyond. In Indiana he had married Catherine Mikesell, a lady of German descent, who died in the winter of 1866. Both were members of the Dunkard Church, and took an active part in its work. In politics, Mr. Leslie was a lifelong Democrat. He always loved and kept good horses on hand, and was a successful business man, who acquired a considerable fortune. The members of the family, including seven sons and six daughters, were Mrs. Swenk, of Cerro Gordo, Ill.; Andrew, a retired farmer living in Cerro Gordo; William, who died in Indiana; John and Levi, who died in childhood; Mrs. Susanna Peck, of Cerro Gordo; Isaac, a farmer of that place;

Philip, who follows farming near Frankfort, Carroll County, Ind.; the Doctor; Barbara, deceased; Catherine, of Hot Springs, Ark.; and Lavina and Sarah, both deceased.

The home in which our subject was reared was a primitive log cabin, with a huge fireplace, and a chimney built on the outside. His educational privileges were quite limited and were acquired in a log schoolhouse, with slab seats and plank writing-desks arranged around the walls on pegs. His training at farm labor, however, was not limited, for at a very early day he began to swing the axe and cradle, and during his youth he made thousands of rails. At the age of twenty he began life for himself, his only capital being a horse, saddle and bridle, which were given him by his father. He never wore a pair of boots until he began earning his own money, and then bought a pair for himself. Not wishing to follow the life of an agriculturist, he determined to enter the medical profession, and in 1862 began reading in the office of Dr. M. Broom, of Transitville, Ind., with whom he remained for three years. He also took a course of lectures in the Cincinnati Medical College, and since that time has engaged in practice, with the exception of the time he spent in the army.

The Doctor enlisted in 1864 in the Twelfth Indiana Artillery, and was on detached service at Nashville. He participated in the battle at that place, and during part of his service he engaged in medical practice. He was honorably discharged at Indianapolis in July, 1865, and then went to Cerro Gordo, where he engaged in practice for a year. On the 12th of September, 1866, he located in Elwin, where he has since remained. During all this time he has enjoyed a good practice, which has steadily increased from the beginning. His skill and ability have won him a prominent place in the medical profession of Macon County.

The Doctor has a handsome residence and eighty acres of land. He was married in Indiana to Miss Lydia Edmonds, a native of Butler County, Ohio, their union being celebrated in 1858. She died in December, 1882, leaving six children: Ida Ann, wife of C. A. Sine, of Wheatland Township; Edward, at home; Jessie, wife of L. M. Sear, of Wheatland Township; Vade Mecum, wife of Charles



Lord, of Decatur; Phidella May, wife of F. Brumley, of Macon Township; and Flossie, at home. The Doctor was again married, this union being with Miss Mary C. Howland, and they have three children, Merna Flo, Alma Fay and Trena.

The Doctor is a member of Decatur Post No. 141, G. A. R., and his wife belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Church. He cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, and has since been a stalwart Republican. He is a great lover of fine horses, and has owned and trained some very fine animals. Upon his farm he has a track, and he hires a professional trainer. The Doctor is widely known in this community, and in both professional and social circles ranks high.



**W**ILLIAM F. BROOKSHIER, one of the representative farmers and an honored pioneer of Macon County, resides on section 12, Pleasant View Township. He has here made his home for more than thirty-five years, and has therefore been an eye-witness of much of the growth and development of the county. He has also aided in its upbuilding, and has ever borne his part in the work of progress. As a prominent citizen of the community he well deserves representation in this volume.

Mr. Brookshier was born on the 23d of January, 1833, near Winchester, Clark County, Ky., and was the second child born unto Martin and Amanda (Cummings) Brookshier. Of their children those now living are: William, of this sketch; Martin, a prosperous farmer of Kentucky; Elias H., a Baptist minister, now living in Glasgow, Ky.; Overton H., owner of a feed stable in Springfield, Ill.; Wyley, a resident farmer of Kentucky; John N., who is engaged in farming and stock-raising in Kentucky; Achilles, an agriculturist of the same State; James and Washington S., both of whom follow the same pursuit in Kentucky; Lucy E.; and Amanda, wife of William Everman, a farmer

and blacksmith of Kentucky. Martin Brookshier, Sr., the father, was born in Kentucky and there spent his entire life. By occupation he was a farmer, and for many years followed that pursuit. His death occurred at the age of sixty-two. His wife, who was born and lived in the same State and was of English extraction, was called to her final rest when seventy-four years of age.

We now take up the personal history of our subject, who at the age of fifteen years left home to earn his own livelihood. Hiring out as a farm hand for two years, he received \$70 per year as a compensation for his services. He then worked for three years in a blacksmith shop, and only received \$100 for his first two years' work. Leaving Ohio, he removed to Indiana, where he worked by the month on a farm until 1857. That year witnessed his arrival in Decatur, Macon County. After paying his board he had only fifty-seven cents remaining, so in order to provide for his support he worked as a farm hand by the month.

On the 10th of August, 1857, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Hurst, of Christian County, Ill., and upon a rented farm they began their domestic life. Mr. Brookshier continued to operate rented land until 1861, when he purchased forty acres of prairie land in Pleasant View Township. This tract was located on a high strip of land called Pleasant View, and when the township was set off our subject gave to it the name that it now bears. He has since engaged in farming here, and his well-directed efforts have brought him success. In 1868, he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died, leaving four children. The eldest, Lola May, is now the wife of James Chapman, a farmer of Macon County; Benedict M. is engaged in the real-estate business in Decatur; Barbara is the wife of William Gordon, of Christian County; and Ellen died in infancy. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Brookshier was again married, his second union, celebrated in 1869, being with Mrs. Mary J. (Logan) Boyd, of Parke County, Ind. They also have four children: John W., who is now attending the business college of Decatur; Joseph E., Edwin S. and Mabel, who are still under the parental roof.



In politics, Mr. Brookshier is a supporter of the People's party. The cause of education finds in him a warm friend, and for twelve years he has ably served as School Director. He was also School Trustee for several years, and in his official capacity he has done much in advancing educational interests in this community. For thirty-one years he has been a member of the Christian Church, and his life has been an honorable, upright one, well worthy of emulation. From a financial point of view he is a self-made man. He had only fifty-seven cents on his arrival in Decatur, but by his industry and enterprise he has become the owner of a valuable farm of two hundred and fifty acres, well improved and highly cultivated, which is the just reward of his efforts.



**J**ACOB WILLIS, Secretary and Treasurer of the Mills Lumber Company, of Decatur, has been connected with this business since October, 1884. He first served as book-keeper for the firm of Mills & Harry, and on the organization of the company he was elected to serve as Secretary and Treasurer. His life record is as follows: He was born in Hebron, Oxford County, Me., March 12, 1831, and can trace his ancestry back to the earliest days of the history of Massachusetts. Deacon John Willis and his wife are recorded as having been in Duxbury in 1637. The former was one of the original proprietors, first settlers, and the first Deacon of Bridgewater, Mass. He held many town offices in both places and represented Bridgewater in the Old Colony Court for twenty-five years. He married Elizabeth, widow of William Palmer. His will was made in 1692. His son Comfort was a town trooper. Joshua, son of Comfort, married Experience Barber in 1707, and was a town officer in 1739. Joab, the next in direct descent, was born in 1715, and married Martha Bolton in 1745. Their son Jacob, born in 1768, was the grandfather

of our subject. He married Parnel Morse, and they became the parents of the following children: Sallie M., Fearing and Lucia F. The father was a farmer, and in 1810 removed to Maine, where he died at the age of fifty-two.

Fearing Willis, father of our subject, married Joanna, daughter of James Horlow, a native of Massachusetts. Her father served as Major in the War of 1812, and was a man of prominence. He became a farmer of Maine, and died at the age of eighty-six years. Mr. Willis was a farmer and stock-raiser of Maine, and served as Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for many years. From the Pine Tree State he came to Macon County in 1859, and farmed near Decatur for two years. He then bought one hundred and sixty acres of land near Arcola, Douglas County, but after a few years sold out and removed to the city. He died in 1889, at about the age of eighty-five, and his wife died in 1876. They were members of the Universalist Church. Their family numbered ten children: Henry, who is living in Auburn, Me.; Jacob, of this sketch; Susan H., wife of Dr. S. A. Bennett, of New Portland, Me.; Merritt, of Altoona, Fla.; Harriet H., wife of C. C. Jacobs, of Arcola, Ill.; Asa F., deceased; Ellery, of San Francisco, Cal.; Byron, who lives in Chicago; Ellen, deceased; and Frank D., of St. Paul, Minn.

We now take up the personal history of our subject, who was educated in the public schools of Maine and in the Hebron Academy. When his education was completed he worked at various employments and then learned the machinist's trade, which he followed for some years. In 1851 he was united in marriage with Carelin P. Jacobs, daughter of James Jacobs, and unto them were born six children: Fred, of Decatur, who married Eugenie Risley, by whom he has two children, Nellie and Charles W.; Elmer P., who died at the age of two years and seven months; Harriet M., wife of Robert W. Stevens, of Chicago; Herbert S., of Decatur, who married Miss Ann Schoeule, by whom he has two sons, Edgar and Arthur; Jacob E.; and Maud, wife of James Langdale, of Decatur, by whom she has one son, Willis.

In 1857 Mr. Willis determined to try his fortune in the West, and emigrated from Maine to

Illinois, landing in Chicago on the 6th of March. He lived in Belvidère and Cherry Valley for two years, farming for a year and keeping books for the remainder of the time. He then returned to the East, and after disposing of his property came to Decatur. This was in 1860. Two years later he removed to Douglas County, Ill., where he carried on agricultural pursuits until 1864, when we again find him in this city. He secured a position as freight agent on the Wabash Railroad and served thus for three years. He then again went to Douglas County, where he engaged in the grocery business for six years. During that period he also aided in building the Paris & Decatur Railroad. After his return to Decatur, in June, 1873, he was for a number of years with Dr. Walston in his surgical institute. Later he was assistant book-keeper for two years in the wholesale grocery house of John Urieh & Co., and in October, 1884, began keeping books for the lumber firm of Mills & Harry.

In his political faith Mr. Willis is a Democrat. Besides his business he owns a neat and substantial residence at the corner of Green and Pine Streets. He is a public-spirited and progressive citizen and a man of good business ability, who by his own unaided efforts has worked his way upward until he is now ranked among the substantial citizens of Decatur.



**W**ILLIAM AND DAVID McKINNEY are numbered among the most prominent farmers of Pleasant View Township. They own a valuable and highly improved tract of land on section 31, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of land, and just across the line in Christian County they have three hundred and twenty-five acres of land. William McKinney was born on the 6th of June, 1832, and David on the 25th of April, 1834. Their parents are John and Eliza (Knox) McKinney. The father, a native of Ireland, was born February 17, 1808. His youth was

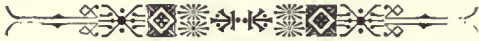
spent on the Emerald Isle, and in 1827, at the age of nineteen years, he crossed the Atlantic to America. He did not remain long in this country, however, but returned to his native land and there followed farming until 1847. In the mean time he had married, and with his family he again crossed the briny deep, taking up his residence in Philadelphia, Pa., where he remained for two years. He then went to Pittsburgh, Pa., where the succeeding eight years of his life were passed, and on the expiration of that period, accompanied by his family, he made the journey westward to Illinois, location being made in Madison County in 1855. There he purchased a farm and devoted his energies to its cultivation for a period of twelve years, when, in 1867, he removed to Christian County, where he again purchased land. He is now making his home with his sons, having reached the advanced age of eighty-five years. His wife, who was born on the Emerald Isle in 1810, is also still living with her sons, and is now in the eighty-third year of her age. John McKinney, a brother of William and David, enlisted in the Union service during the late war, and laid down his life on the altar of his country, being killed at the battle of Ft. Donelson.

The early years of the gentlemen whose names head this record were spent in the land of their birth, and when fifteen and thirteen years old respectively they accompanied their parents on the voyage to the New World. They then lived for some time in the Keystone State, and at length came to Illinois, in 1855. The public schools afforded them their educational privileges, and both are well-informed men on the general subjects of the day.

The McKinney brothers devote their entire time and attention to their extensive farming operations. They together own four hundred and eighty-five acres of land, which, as before stated, is divided into two farms, the Christian County farm of three hundred and twenty-five acres, and the home farm in Macon County of one hundred and sixty acres. Their land is under a high state of cultivation and is well improved with good buildings and all the accessories of a model farm. Everything about the place is kept in good repair,



and the neat appearance of the farm indicates that the owners are men of enterprise and progress. Both are supporters of the Republican party and neither of them has ever been an office-seeker, preferring to devote their attention to business interests, in which they have met with excellent success. They hold membership with the Presbyterian Church.



**F**RANK L. HAYS, who has been connected with the mercantile interests of Decatur, but is now living a retired life, came to this city from Ohio, his native State. He was born in Delaware on the 23d of February, 1836, and is a son of Thomas and Abbie (Johns) Hays, who were also natives of the Buckeye State. He is now the only one living, his sisters, Nannie and Mildred, having passed away. The parents make their home near their son in Decatur. The father followed farming and stock-dealing in Ohio, but after coming to the West, in 1857, carried on a dry-goods store in this city for some time.

Frank L. Hays was reared and educated in his native city in the public schools and in the Ohio Wesleyan University. Receiving thorough instruction in practical studies, he was well fitted for life and its duties. At the age of seventeen he began clerking in a hardware store and afterwards was employed in the same capacity in a dry-goods store. He was a young man of nineteen years when he came to Decatur, where he has since made his home. For two years he was employed as a salesman in a dry-goods house, and in 1857, in connection with his father, he embarked in business for himself. The firm of Hays & Son carried on operations successfully for many years. Their store was always well filled with the goods demanded by the public, and they received a liberal share of the public patronage. After thirty-four years, during which the firm had established a reputation for carrying on one of the leading houses of the city, they sold out, retiring from business,

In 1862, Mr. Hays raised a company and went to the South as Captain of Company F, One Hundred and Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, and served as such until 1864, when he was made Paymaster, resigning in February, 1865. He participated at the head of his company in some of the important engagements of the war, including the battles of Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Resaca and Franklin. He has always been faithful to every duty devolving upon him, and the country found in him a valued defender of the Old Flag.

On the 18th of September, 1861, Mr. Hays was joined in marriage with Miss Harriet L. White, a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Platter) White, the former a native of Virginia, and the latter of Ohio. Four sons and two daughters were born of their union, but two died in infancy. Those still living are Harry T., Robert R., Frank L. and Madge. Their home is a beautiful residence at No. 532 East Eldorado Street, and is the abode of hospitality.

Mr. Hays also owns other city property and about eighteen hundred acres of excellent farming land in Kansas. He was a member of the first Grand Army post ever organized and now holds membership with Dunham Post No. 141, G. A. R. In politics, he is a supporter of the Republican party, but has never sought the honors of emoluments of public office. He is quiet and assuming in manner, but his worth and ability are recognized and he is numbered among Decatur's prominent and highly respected citizens.



**D**AVID MARTIN, deceased, lately one of Decatur's pioneer business men, came to Macon County more than half a century ago, and in the long years of his residence in this locality bore a prominent and active part in the upbuilding of the community. This work would be incomplete without a record of his life; for his name was inseparably connected with both the business and social interests of the county seat. A native



of Kentucky, he was born in Bourbon County April 1, 1820, and was descended from one of the Revolutionary heroes, his grandfather, Aaron Martin, having served in the War for Independence. His father, James Martin, was born in Virginia, near the James River, and was a descendant of the Martin family which came originally from England and figured so conspicuously in the early history of the Old Dominion. In Bourbon County, Ky., he married Catherine Layton, a native of Delaware, who was also of English lineage. Her death occurred at the age of forty-five years, after which her husband was again married. His death occurred at the age of seventy-five. Of the seven children born of the first union, only one is now living, Dr. Martin, of Atchison, Kan., who has now reached the age of three-score years and ten. There was one child born of the second union.

The boyhood days of our subject were spent in Kentucky. His eyesight was poor from an early age, so he could not secure a collegiate or even a common-school education, but through many years of business experience, in which he met with some of the master minds of the country, including Lincoln, Trumbull and Douglas, he became a very well-informed man. When he was a lad of nine years his parents left Kentucky because they were opposed to slavery, and settled in Clark County, Ind. In 1835, they came to Illinois, locating in Sangamon County. Our subject drove five yoke of oxen to a breaking-plow and performed the arduous task of developing a new farm.

One day, while a young man in his twentieth year, a little incident occurred to our subject which affected his whole life. He had walked across the country and had come to a place where there was a fine orchard with ripe apples. Knocking at the door of the house, he asked the lady if he might have some of the fruit. She only laughed, so after helping himself he offered to pay for the apples, but she would not take his money. This was Mrs. J. Peddecord, whose husband was a lime-burner. Some time afterwards, Mr. Peddecord told his wife that he needed a boy to assist him in his business, whereupon the lady said "Get Dave Martin. You'll want an honest boy, and I know Dave to be honest." She then related the story of

the apples in proof of her statement, and as the result of his simple act of honesty when a young man Mr. Martin secured the position and learned the business which furnished him a life work. He was in the employ of others for about a year and a-half, and in 1842 went into business for himself on the line of Christian and Sangamon Counties. He made his own kiln and began operations in the old-fashioned way, with a very limited capital. It was in that year that he first came to Decatur, then a village of only four hundred population. He did business successfully as a lime-burner for a time in Sangamon County, and when the railroads were built to Alton went there and put up the first patent kiln constructed in the State. He there began extensive operations, and became the leading lime manufacturer in central Illinois. In 1865, he sold his kilns, and from that time until his death dealt in lime in Decatur.

On the 1st of April, 1858, Mr. Martin was joined in marriage with Miss Sophronia, daughter of Samuel Granger, of Massachusetts. She was born in the Bay State, and was educated in the female college in Granville, Ohio. She became the mother of four children: Louisa, widow of Ernest Strader, who has a little daughter, Edna, and makes her home in Decatur; Edward, who is engaged in business in this city; Lucy, who died at the age of four years; and Anna, who is at home. The mother of this family died May 17, 1891, mourned by many friends, and June 12, 1893, the family again suffered a heavy loss in the death of Mr. Martin, who passed away respected by all who knew him, his death proving a loss which will long be felt throughout the entire community.

Mr. Martin was a member of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. In early life he was an old-line Whig, and from the days of Fremont was a Republican. In his business career, although he met with difficulties and disadvantages, he gained success and became a well-to-do citizen. He was highly respected for his straightforwardness, integrity and business sagacity, no less than for his thorough information in regard to American politics, particularly in regard to slavery and secession. His memory was very retentive, and the history of Illinois, which was familiar to him for

more than half a century, was almost as fresh in his mind at the day of his death as when the different events occurred. It is with pleasure that we present to our readers this record of a man who was so prominently connected with Macon County's interests.



**M**ARTIN MILLER, who owns and operates the Blue Mound Nursery, of Blue Mound, Ill., claims Ohio as the State of his nativity, his birth having occurred in Logan County on the 30th of March, 1849. His parents were Henry C. and Elizabeth (Botkin) Miller. The father is also a native of the Buckeye State, and is of Scotch-Irish descent. He married Miss Botkin, who was born in Ohio, and was of Scotch extraction. Mr. Miller was a machinist by trade, and followed that business during his residence in his native State. In 1851, he came with his family to Illinois, locating in Mt. Auburn, where he remained for several years. After the breaking out of the late war, he responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting in the Union service as a member of Company I, Forty-first Illinois Infantry, faithfully defending the Old Flag for three years. At the close of the war he was honorably discharged, having been very fortunate, in that he was never wounded. He is still living and now makes his home in Leavenworth, Kan. His wife died at the home of our subject in 1884.

In the Miller family were nine children, five sons and four daughters, the eldest of whom is Martin of this sketch. He came with his parents to Illinois when only two years of age, and remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority. His education was acquired in the common schools, and when a young man he learned the carpenter's trade, which business he followed with good success until 1874. In that year, having acquired some capital as the result of his industry and perseverance, he purchased the farm which he still owns and upon

which he is engaged in the nursery business. To that enterprise he has devoted his energies for almost twenty years, during which time he has enjoyed a good trade.

On the 21st of October, 1875, Mr. Miller was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Holtz, a native of Guernsey County, Ohio, born January 1, 1854. Her parents, David and Elizabeth (Hoover) Holtz, were both natives of Pennsylvania, who, having removed to Ohio, came from there to Illinois in 1865, locating upon a farm in Vermilion County, Ill., where both Mr. and Mrs. Holtz spent their remaining days. They were of German extraction, and died some years ago. In the family of our subject and his wife are three sons, Carl D., Earl M. and Arthur G., all of whom are still at home.

In his political views, Mr. Miller is a Republican, but has never been an office-seeker, steadily refusing political positions. He and his wife hold membership with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are people of sterling worth, widely and favorably known in this community. In his business career, Mr. Miller has met with good success and now owns a beautiful home and a nursery of thirty acres adjoining the corporation limits of Blue Mound.



**R**OBERT TOBEY, the senior member of the medical firm of Tobey & Harvey, of Decatur, is County Physician of Macon County, and a prominent citizen, who for a quarter of a century has lived within its borders. The firm with which he is connected is doing a good business and occupies an office at No. 136 South Water Street. The Doctor was born in Maryland February 20, 1828, and when a lad of eleven years accompanied his parents on their removal to Ohio, the family locating near Dayton, Montgomery County. He attended the common schools, and pursued some of the higher branches of learning under the instruction of a private

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





Truly Yours  
Wm Bowers



*Emily A. Bowers*

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



tutor. He was reared to manhood in the Buckeye State, and aided in the arduous task of clearing and developing a farm, but his tastes lay in another direction, and he abandoned agricultural pursuits to take up the study of medicine under Dr. Krause. He attended lectures in the Western Reserve College, was later graduated from the Medical College of Cincinnati, and about ten years later took a further degree in Rush Medical College. He began practice in West Baltimore, and for eleven years there followed his profession. On the expiration of that period he removed to La Gro, Ind., where he engaged in practice for five years. It was in March, 1869, that he came to Macon County, where he has made his home continuously since. He first opened an office and engaged in the prosecution of his profession in Blue Mound, and while there formed the present partnership with Dr. J. G. Harvey. After the connection was established he came to Decatur on the 1st of October, 1892.

In 1850, Dr. Tobey was united in marriage with B. A. Potter, and unto them were born five children, as follows: C. F., a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Barry, Ill.; W. W. and R. E., who, under the name of Tobey Brothers, are engaged in dentistry in Danville, Ill.; Belle F. and Jane M., both of whom are married. The mother of this family was called to her final rest, and the Doctor was again married, his second union being with Miss Kate Curnutt, of Indiana. They have one child, a daughter, Letta.

The Doctor owns a good farm of one hundred and seventy-four acres in Shelby County, Ill., and has just completed a comfortable residence in this city. He and his wife are members of the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. Socially, he is a Master Mason, and in politics is a Republican. He was Chairman of the Central Republican Committee of Pleasant View Township, and was appointed County Physician of Macon County in 1892, by the Board of Supervisors, receiving fifteen of the twenty votes cast. While living in West Baltimore, Ohio, he was appointed Postmaster of that place by Abraham Lincoln. The Doctor is a charter member and was the first president of the Decatur Medical Society. Throughout his profes-

sional career he has enjoyed a good practice and is recognized as a competent and successful physician. He is widely known throughout Macon County, and in his new home is making many friends.



**W**ILLIAM BOWERS, who for many years was actively connected with extensive milling interests in Decatur and elsewhere, but is now practically living retired, comes from Cumberland County, Pa., where his birth occurred on the 20th of October, 1827. The family is of German origin. Sebastian Bowers, his grandfather, was born in Germany, and during his infancy his parents started for the New World, but during the ocean voyage they died and were buried in the Atlantic. He and his brother, also an infant, were sold on reaching this country, and no news has ever been received concerning the latter. Sebastian Bowers was married and had two sons, David and Samuel. The former, who was born in the same house as our subject, wedded Mary Shellabarger, sister of Isaac Shellabarger, of Decatur, and leaving Pennsylvania removed to Richland County, Ohio, where they spent their remaining days.

At the age of seventeen the subject of this sketch began learning the milling trade near Newville, Cumberland County, Pa., with his uncle, Isaac Shellabarger, but after a year went with his parents to Ohio, where he finished his apprenticeship. The first year he received only \$3 a month and his board. After learning his trade he was asked to take charge of a mill which the miller had left. He knew nothing of its arrangement, but studied it out, and in a few days the owner proposed that he run the mill on shares, which he did for six months. His father then purchased the mill, which Mr. Bowers operated for fourteen years on shares, but as the water power was exhausted that venture did not prove financially successful.

At the age of twenty-two Mr. Bowers had married, the lady of his choice being Miss Emily A.

Van Dorn, a native of Richland County, Ohio. Unto them were born three children: Mary Ann Amelia, who was married and died at the age of twenty-eight, leaving a son, Willie McBride, who is now seventeen years of age, and has lived with his grandparents since a baby of two years; Janet, wife of Harry Crea, an attorney-at-law of Monticello, Ill.; and Hadessa, wife of George Bowers, a shoe-dealer of Decatur.

In August, 1862, Mr. Bowers enlisted for the late war as a member of the One Hundred and Second Ohio Infantry, under Capt. Lobach, but as his milling business had kept him closely confined within doors he could not stand the outdoor life, and being taken sick was honorably discharged. In January, 1863, he came to Decatur, and purchasing a lot has since made his home on the same site. He entered the employ of Isaac and D. S. Shellabarger, and for two years was Superintendent of their mill, which he managed very successfully. The mill had been run down, but it was soon placed on a firm financial basis, and after two years he became a partner. The capacity of the old mill was about one hundred and fifty barrels daily, which was increased to eight hundred barrels. Taking out all of the old machinery, he put in the roller process, his being one of the first mills to use this system in the United States, and mill men from all parts of the country visited Decatur to see the system in operation. Mr. Bowers continued to superintend the mechanical part of the mill until selling out his interest in 1889, after twenty-six years' connection with it. He had invested about \$8,000, and sold for \$40,000. The firm of Shellabarger & Bowers also built a mill in Danville for his brother, but it was burned, causing a great loss. They rebuilt at a cost of \$28,000, but its management was bad, and altogether through that venture they lost \$51,000. In company with D. S. Shellabarger, Mr. Bowers built a mill in Wichita, Kan., which they afterward sold to Isaac Shellabarger. Together they built four mills, and in addition our subject built one alone. He is now a stockholder in the fine large mill at Salina, Kan. After selling his interest in the Shellabarger Mill, he was sought by the Directors of the Hatfield Milling Company, who gave him \$3,000 to take

charge of their mill, in which he spent eleven months, during which time he increased its capacity fifty barrels per day. Under his supervision it was supplied with new machinery and so arranged that there has since been no waste in bran or shorts. Before this, great quantities of flour had been returned to the mill not accepted, but all this has been remedied and not a barrel of flour is now returned. He still retains his stock in this mill, and is a Director in the Decatur National Bank, with which he has been connected since its organization.

Mr. Bowers, after severing his active connections with the mill on account of rheumatism, went to Hot Springs, Ark., for his health. Himself and wife are both members of the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he has been a Trustee for twenty-six years. Socially, he is a member of the Knights of Honor and of the Order of Mutual Aid. His name is inseparably connected with the history of Decatur and with its upbuilding and advancement. He started out for himself empty-handed and therefore deserves great credit for his success, which has come to him through his own well-directed efforts. He has met with reverses, but the obstacles in his path he overcame by determined industry, and thus gaining strength for future difficulties he worked his way upward to a position of wealth and affluence. His honorable, upright career has made his life well worthy of emulation.



**C**HARLES P. THATCHER, who is now living a retired life in Decatur, is a native of the Keystone State, the place of his birth being in Chester County, and the date January 16, 1841. His father, William P. Thatcher, was also born in Pennsylvania, and became a merchant in St. Clair. In 1840 he married Sarah Mattson, who was born in Delaware County, in the same State. In the spring of 1861 the parents emigrated Westward with their family and took up their residence in Decatur. The father purchased



a large tract of land, comprising six hundred acres, six miles north of the city, and though he made his home in Decatur he devoted his time and attention to stock-raising. He purchased twenty-five hundred sheep, which was the beginning of wool-growing in this county, and continued that business for eight years with good success. He also engaged in breeding Merino sheep for a period of five years. Later he abandoned stock-raising and devoted his energies exclusively to the improvement and development of his land until his death, which occurred in May, 1867, at the age of fifty years. His wife survived him for about fourteen years. Mr. Thatcher was a self-made man, who began life in a moderate way and steadily worked upward to a position of affluence. In the family were three children, only two of whom lived to grow up. The daughter, Mary, is now the wife of Dr. J. N. Randall, a practicing physician of Decatur.

The subject of this sketch remained in the county of his nativity until twelve years of age, when he removed with the family to Schuylkill County, Pa., where he grew to manhood. His education was acquired in the public schools and in Aaron's Academy, at Norristown, Pa., where he spent two years. He then served as salesman in his father's store for three years in St. Clair, Pa., and with the family came to this county at the age of twenty years. He worked with his father and continued to engage in farming for some time, residing upon the home farm from 1867 until 1871, when he abandoned agricultural pursuits and came to Decatur. In 1872 he embarked in the lumber trade, which business he carried on for fifteen years. He began with only a small capital but soon built up a good trade, and in the course of time had a liberal patronage. He was alone in business for a while and then formed a partnership with F. M. Gaddis, their connection continuing for six years. In 1886, Mr. Thatcher disposed of his interest in the lumber trade and has since practically lived a retired life.

On the 18th of January, 1865, our subject married Miss J. N. Robinson, a lady whom he had known in his youth and who was a native of Pennsylvania. Four children have been born

unto them, of whom two are now living: Irene R., wife of William L. Shellabarger; and Alice Neta, a girl of fourteen summers. Mrs. Thatcher is a member of the Episcopal Church, and is a member of the Woman's Club, being connected with the erection of the fine Woman's Club building at Decatur.

Other business interests besides those previously mentioned have engrossed the attention of Mr. Thatcher, who is one of the stockholders and also one of the directors of the Decatur National Bank. He owns considerable city property and has erected a number of business houses and residences in this place. His own home in Decatur is a beautiful and comfortable residence. In politics, Mr. Thatcher is a supporter of the Republican party and its principles. He has lived a quiet, unassuming life, yet through the legitimate channels of business a fine property has come to him, which now enables him to live retired.



**D**AVID L. BUNN, one of Decatur's most prominent attorneys, is the senior member of the well-known law firm of Bunn & Park. He is a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in McLean County on the 27th of September, 1837. His father, the Rev. David P. Bunn, was a native of Ohio and a minister of the Universalist Church. He wedded Mary K. Moser, who was born in Pennsylvania, and they became the parents of five children. The eldest, Sallie Ann, married Joel S. Post, an attorney of Decatur. Both are now deceased. They left two children: Helen M., now the wife of Don Carlos Shaw, of Decatur; and Bunn J. Amelia D. became the wife of William B. Harry, who was a member of the firm of Mills & Harry, contractors and lumber dealers, but both are now deceased. At her death she left four children: Nellie, wife of James A. Phillips, a commercial traveler living in Decatur; George B., of Quincy; William and



Jessie S., both of this city. Margaret E., deceased, the third member of the Bunn family, was the wife of Alfred Maxwell, proprietor of the Maxwell House, of Decatur. David L. is the only son. Mary E. is the widow of Alonzo S. Rockwell, who was a jeweler of Taylorville, Ill., where she is still living with her two children, Nora and Dean W. The latter was married in April, 1883, to Miss Fannie, daughter of ex-Senator Shumway, of Taylorville, Ill.

The father of our subject was reared in Ross County, Ohio, upon a farm, and received a good common-school education. About 1835, he came to Illinois, locating near Bloomington, McLean County, where he followed farming for several years. There his two youngest children were born. About 1842 he took up his residence upon a farm in Macon County, where for a number of years he carried on agricultural pursuits. While there residing he happened to secure a book setting forth the faith of the Universalist Church. He became a believer in its doctrines, and about 1842 commenced preaching its faith. He continued to labor in the ministry until his death. His first pastorate, extending over several years, was in Mt. Pulaski, Logan County, and in 1848 he went to Iowa City, Iowa, then the capital of the State, becoming the pastor of the Universalist Church. He afterward returned to Mt. Pulaski, where he remained until 1854, when he accepted a call from the Decatur church, and was its pastor until the beginning of the war, when he became chaplain in the Fifty-sixth Regiment, Illinois Infantry. About a year later, however, he was forced to resign on account of sickness. He was a pioneer of both McLean and Macon Counties, and in this part of Illinois was widely and favorably known. He died in his seventy-sixth year, and his wife, who was also a member of the same church, passed away several years previous. The paternal grandfather of our subject, David Bunn, was of German descent, and lived and died in Ross County, Ohio, where he passed away at an advanced age. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812. His wife came of an old Pennsylvania-Dutch family.

The subject of this sketch came with his parents to Macon County in 1841, when a child of four

years, and after about a year went to Mt. Pulaski. In 1851, on the first day of its existence, he entered Lombard University in Galesburg, Ill., and pursued a three-years course, after which he came at once to Decatur and secured a position as clerk in the postoffice under Col. John P. Post. In 1856 he became an assistant teacher in what is now the Church Street School, and followed that profession for three years, after which he began the study of law with Capt. J. S. Post, his brother-in-law. His admission to the Bar occurred in the fall of 1862, and on his first day in the Macon County Circuit Court he was appointed State's Attorney *pro tem*. During the term, on petition of the Macon County Bar, he was appointed regularly to that office by Gov. Richard Yates to fill the unexpired term of two years of Col. James P. Boyd, who had resigned to enter the army. In the fall of 1864, he was elected to the same office and served for a term of four years. The circuit at that time embraced the counties of Macon, Piatt, Moultrie, Shelby, Fayette and Ford.

On the 17th of July, 1864, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Amanda M., daughter of David Suits. Three children were born unto them: Hattie M., who died in her eighth year; Frank Elwood, who married Miss Elizabeth Knieper, and is living in Chicago, Ill.; and Edna M. Mr. Bunn, his wife and children, are members of the First Universalist Church of Decatur. He takes a prominent part in church work, is now serving as Trustee, has been leader of the choir over thirty years, and is Superintendent of the Sunday-school. In politics, Mr. Bunn was a Republican from the organization of that party until 1876, but for a number of years he has been a prominent advocate of the Prohibition party and is a staunch supporter of its principles. He was elected Alderman on that ticket and has been nominated for various other offices. Socially, he is connected with Decatur Lodge No. 364, I. O. G. T., with which he has been connected since 1859.

Mr. Bunn is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land in Jasper County, and has a good home and other city property in Decatur. His possessions have been acquired as the result of his well-directed efforts. In the practice of law he

was first associated with John H. Pugh, son of Col. Isaac C. Pugh, of the Forty-first Illinois Regiment. He was afterwards for some years associated with A. B. Bunn, and in 1876 the present partnership was formed. Our subject is a man of genial disposition and affable manner, and is held in high esteem in Decatur and throughout Macon County. In fact, wherever he is known he is respected for his integrity and moral worth, and is recognized as one who stands in the front rank of the Macon County Bar. Possessing foresight, a logical mind, keen perceptive powers and good analytical ability, he has won well-merited praise as one of the foremost legal practitioners in this part of the State. Not less noticeable than his excellent business ability are his kindly spirit and generosity and the active part he takes in promoting the best interests of his adopted city.



PETER MONFORT WIKOFF, a retired farmer living in Decatur, was born in Warren County, Ohio, May 26, 1826. His parents, Peter and Gertrude (Monfort) Wikoff, were both natives of New Jersey. They had three children, but our subject is the only one now living. His mother died when he was five years of age, and his father afterwards married Miss Louisa Clemens, by whom he had eight children, four sons and four daughters. Sarah is the wife of Lemuel Wikoff, of Maroa. Mary Ann, deceased, was the wife of John Graham. William, Jacob and James are the three next younger. Rebecca is the wife of Hiram Estbinger, of Elmwood, Ill. Helen is the wife of John Berkett, of Elmwood. Osear completes the family. The father was a carpenter by trade, having learned the business in Cincinnati, whither he had removed with his parents at an early age. He was married in Ohio, and in 1847 removed to Illinois, locating in Trivoli, sixteen miles from Peoria, where his death occurred in 1861, at the age of sixty-eight years. His second

wife died in 1887, at the age of seventy-two years. He was a member of the Universalist Church, and the mother of our subject was a Presbyterian.

The paternal grandfather, Peter Wikoff, was a native of New Jersey, and died in the Buckeye State at the age of seventy-eight years. He was a tailor by trade, and served as a soldier in the War of 1812. The maternal grandfather, Peter Monfort, was also born in New Jersey, and was a hero of the Revolution. Throughout his life he followed the occupation of farming. Removing to Ohio, he there spent the remainder of his days, passing away at the advanced age of eighty-one.

Peter Wikoff in his early youth worked on a farm and at various occupations whereby he could obtain a livelihood. When he was about nineteen years of age he began learning the butcher's trade. He began working for \$8 per month, but his wages were steadily increased until he received \$100 per month. He then, in 1851, at Peoria, followed that business on his own account, carrying on operations in that line for twenty-eight years in Cincinnati, St. Louis and Peoria. In 1853, he came to Decatur and opened a meat-market, which he carried on for twenty years. Abandoning that pursuit, he then embarked in farming, which he followed for seven years, after which he again engaged in the butchering business until 1878. The succeeding eight years of his life were spent upon a farm three and a-half miles southwest of Decatur. He at first had only twenty acres of land, but his possessions were steadily increased until he now owns five hundred and forty acres, which yield to him a golden tribute. In addition to his elegant home in the city, situated at No. 413 West Decatur Street, he owns several other good residences.

Mr. Wikoff has been twice married. On the 28th of December, 1851, he wedded Sarah W. Grant, a second cousin of Gen. U. S. Grant and a daughter of William and Betsy (Withcott) Grant, who were natives of Ohio. The wife died leaving an infant son of about three weeks old, which died soon afterward. On the 6th of September, 1853, Mr. Wikoff wedded Elizabeth Fletcher, daughter of Paris and Priscilla (McWilliams) Fletcher. Her parents were natives of Maryland, and emigrated



to Indiana in an early day. Three children have been born of the second union, but Lewis, the second child, died in infancy. Laura Belle is now engaged in the millinery business at No. 250 North Park Street. She was the originator of the Woman's Club Stock Company, and superintended the erection of the club house, an elegant four-story structure with basement. Ida is the wife of Joseph Baker, one of the Directors and book-keeper of the Citizens' National Bank of Decatur. They had two children, Monfort W., who died in infancy, and Alice Alma now aged ten.

Mr. and Mrs. Wikoff are members of the Methodist Church, in which he served as Trustee for some years. For twenty years he was a supporter of the Republican party, but for the past eight years has voted the Democratic ticket. Our subject has been prominently identified with the growth and development of the city in which he has so long made his home, and has erected, besides the residences above mentioned, the Wayne Sulkyette Factory, the Decatur Box Factory and the Woman's Exchange Building. He is a public-spirited, progressive and valued citizen and one that Decatur could ill afford to lose.



**N**ATHAN L. KRONE, who is a pharmacist of Decatur, is a native of the Keystone State. He was born in Lewisboro Township, York County, Pa., March 14, 1833, and is one of eleven children whose parents, David and Ruth (Worley) Krone, were also natives of Pennsylvania. The paternal grandfather, Michael Krone, was a cabinet-maker of Pennsylvania, and died in that State, at the age of seventy-one. The maternal grandfather, Nathan Worley, served as a soldier in the War of 1812. He was a farmer of the Keystone State, and there died in his eighty-fourth year.

The father of our subject was also a cabinet-maker. Resolving to seek a home in the West,

he came to Macon County, Ill., on the 19th of May, 1839, and here spent the remainder of his days, his death occurring in February, 1867, at the age of sixty-nine years. He was a member of the Village Board of Trustees of Decatur in 1846 and 1847, and was a prominent and influential citizen in an early day. His wife survived him until 1886, and passed away in her eighty-fifth year. Both were members of the Methodist Church. Of their three sons and eight daughters only seven are living. Harriet, deceased, was the wife of E. O. Smith; Lydia is the wife of Henry Shepherd; Charles died in infancy; Charlotte is unmarried; Mary S. is the wife of A. L. Stewart; Nathan L. lives in Decatur; Sophia is the wife of A. McClurg; Margaret F. is the wife of George W. Bright; Francis H. and Rosaline died in infancy; and Anna E. is the wife of D. S. Shellabarger.

Mr. Krone whose name heads this record was only six years old when with his parents he came to Macon County. In the public schools he acquired his literary education, and in 1852 he began studying pharmacy, since which time he has been engaged in the drug business. On the 8th of November, 1854, he was united in marriage with Miss Eliza J., daughter of Samuel and Rachel (Robinson) Frederick, of Decatur. By their union were born two children. Charles O. married Mrs. Ellen (Kern) Dew, and they reside in Zanesville, Ohio, where he owns a photograph gallery. Nellie, the daughter, died in her twenty-second year. The mother is a member of the Methodist Church. Mr. and Mrs. Krone have a pleasant home at No. 341 West Wood Street. Socially, Mr. Krone is a member of Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M.; Council No. 16, R. & M. S.; and Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T. In politics, he is a Republican, and on that ticket was elected City Treasurer in 1862, which position he held until 1870, discharging his duties with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents.

Mr. Krone is numbered among the honored pioneers of the county, where he has made his home for more than half a century. He has witnessed its growth and development, and as a faithful citizen has ever aided in its upbuilding



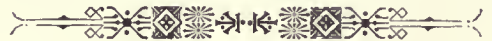
and progress. He has seen Decatur change from a mere village to a city of over twenty thousand inhabitants and has watched the transformation which has placed Macon County in the front rank in Illinois.



**A** G. BOWEN, freight agent at Decatur on the Vandalia Line, has occupied his present position since March, 1890. He is a native of Indiana, born in Muncie October 16, 1854. There he was reared to manhood, and in the public schools began his education, which was supplemented by a business course of study in Indianapolis in 1869. After finishing school Mr. Bowen began to earn his own livelihood by filling the position of a clerk in Indianapolis, in which capacity he served until he took up railroad work. This he did in 1876, being employed in Ft. Wayne, Ind. He had previously learned telegraphy in his native city. For six months he was employed as a relief agent, with headquarters at Ft. Wayne. Later he became Chief Clerk at Hartford City, Ind., in the employ of the Ft. Wayne, Muncie & Cincinnati Railroad. In 1879 he became agent at Albany, Ind., and held that position for three years, when, in 1882, he secured a position with the Indianapolis, Bloomington & Western, being employed as agent in Carey, Ohio, in 1884. While thus employed he was taken ill with typhoid fever and was confined to the house for eighteen months, his wages, however, being paid just the same. The Doctor said his only hope of recovery was through a change of climate, and he went to California in 1884, where he spent two years.

On the 19th of December, 1877, Mr. Bowen was united in marriage with Miss Millie E. Shidler, of Shidler, Ind. Her father, W. S. Shidler, was an extensive business man of that place, and the town was named in his honor. Unto our subject and his wife has been born a son, Herbert C., now a lad of twelve years.

Having recovered his health in the West, Mr. Bowen returned to Illinois in 1886, and was made freight agent at Farmer City, where he remained until 1889. He then resigned his position and engaged in business in Muncie, Ind., as a dealer in hardware for eighteen months. On the expiration of that period he sold out and entered the employ of the Terre Haute & Peoria Railroad Company, now the Vandalia Line, and was stationed in Decatur. The business of the road has steadily increased since that time. Mr. Bowen, with the assistance of E. L. Foulke, did all the work in that year, but he now furnishes employment to five men, the yard work requiring four men where one was sufficient at the time he entered upon his position. In 1890 one or two way cars were all that were needed, and now eight or ten are employed each day. Mr. Bowen has worked up for the railroad company a fine business, and is a trusted and esteemed employe, his faithfulness to duty having won him high regard. Socially, Mr. Bowen is a member of the Knights of Pythias, belonging to Chevalier Bayard Lodge, of Decatur. He also takes quite an active interest in the society of Modern Woodmen. In politics he is a Republican, and is a public-spirited and progressive citizen.



**S**AMUEL POWERS, deceased, one of the pioneer settlers of Macon County, and for years a prominent resident of Decatur, was born in Saratoga County, N. Y., on the 18th of May, 1816, and comes of an old New England family. His grandfather spent the greater part of his life in Connecticut, where the father of our subject, William Powers, was born. The latter was reared in Bridgeport, in the home of Col. St. John, who became the husband of Mrs. Powers after the death of her first husband. Her maiden name was Abigail Hendricks, and she was born in Connecticut, being of Scotch and English descent.

After his marriage, William Powers engaged for

a time in the boot and shoe business in New York City, and then embarked in farming. He made his home in Saratoga County, N. Y., making the journey up the Hudson River in a sloop, for it was before the days of steamboats. He died at the age of forty-two, when our subject was in his ninth year.

Samuel Powers spent the days of his boyhood and youth in the usual manner of farmer lads, attending the district schools during the winter season and aiding in the labors of the fields during the summer months. At the early age of fourteen the management of the old homestead devolved upon his young shoulders and he had charge of the same until he had attained his majority. On reaching his twenty-first year the farm was sold and he concluded to go to Alabama, where an elder brother was successfully engaged in business. He spent one winter in the city of Mobile, where one of his brothers was carrying on a large commission and exchange business, and we next find him in Tuscaloosa, where his brother Orlando was conducting a mercantile business. Our subject, however, did not favor indoor life, and enjoyed farming, so determined to seek a home in Illinois, and with his brother George he made the journey on horseback from Alabama through Tennessee and Kentucky, crossing the Ohio River at Shawneetown. In July, 1839, he reached Decatur, which at that time was a mere village, but gave promise of becoming a thriving commercial and business center.

Mr. Powers had a capital of only a few hundred dollars, but in connection with his brother he bought a tract of land adjoining the town on the East and began farming. He also carried the mail between Decatur and Homer. By his industry and economy he thus accumulated a small capital, and embarked in stock-dealing. He always had a taste for that business, and for seven years he successfully carried on operations in that line. He was an excellent judge of stock, a thorough man of business, prompt and reliable, and he therefore won the confidence and credit of all with whom he had dealings. So honorable was he in all his business transactions that he could obtain credit at any place, and in no case did he fail to

meet his obligations. He lived on the farm first purchased until 1865, when he removed to a home in Decatur.

On the 3d of March, 1846, Mr. Powers was united in marriage near Decatur with Miss Caroline M. Giles, a native of Massachusetts, and daughter of Dr. John and Almira (Avery) Giles. Mrs. Powers is a sister of Mrs. Almira A. Powers, of Decatur, and resided with her until her own marriage. Her mother, Almira (Avery) Giles, passed her last years with her daughter and died here in 1883, in her ninety-first year. Her husband was a physician of Massachusetts and died in Ohio aged fifty-six. Rev. Dr. Chauncey Giles, of the New Jerusalem Church of Philadelphia, is Mrs. Powers' brother and stands high in the councils of his church as one of its most popular ministers and advanced thinkers. Unto our subject and his wife were born eight children: William, who died in his twenty-fifth year, in 1871; Myra, also deceased, aged twenty-nine; George, who is in business in Decatur, Ill.; Carrie, Theron, Frank, Edward and Chauncey, all of this city.

On attaining his majority, Mr. Powers identified himself with the Whig party, supporting the same until its dissolution, after which he was a Republican. He was never an office-seeker, preferring to devote his time and attention to his business interests, yet he was elected a member of the Board of Supervisors from Decatur Township. He was always a public-spirited and progressive citizen, and manifested a commendable interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community in which he lived. He was held in high esteem for his sterling worth and strict integrity, and had the warm regard of all with whom business or social relations brought him in contact.

In his business dealings he was very successful, and became the owner of thirty-three hundred acres of land. He was always closely identified with the fine stock interests of the county, being especially devoted to breeding the higher class of race horses. He was the owner of "Billet," the famous sire of "Miss Woodford." He was also the breeder of "Volturno," winner of the Louisville cup and Breckenridge stakes at Baltimore, and also the breeder of "Aztec," a famous winner.

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





Yours truly  
O. S. Sibley M.D.

In personal appearance he was a man above medium height, inclined to stoutness, and was of a kind and genial nature, with his heart on his sleeve, and his purse always open to assist the poor and needy. He was spoken of by an eminent minister as "the poor man's friend." After only one week's illness from pneumonia his death occurred, February 7, 1885, when past the age of three-score years and ten, and was mourned by many friends. His widow, a most estimable lady, is still living and makes her home in this city.

Theron A. Powers, son of our subject, was married to Miss Hathaway Jones, a daughter of Edward A. Jones, of Decatur Township. She was educated at Lake Forest Seminary, and is a lady of culture and refinement. Their union has been blessed with two children: Edward S. and Myra G. The Powers family is one of prominence in this community, ranking high in social circles. In politics, Theron Powers is a staunch Republican.



**B**ENJAMIN F. SIBLEY, M. D., who for the past thirty years has engaged in the practice of medicine in Decatur, is the senior member of the firm of Sibley & Wood, homeopathic physicians, and is a member of the Board of Health. He is a native of Connecticut, his birth having occurred in the town of Ashford, Windham County, on the 8th of April, 1827. His father, Samuel Sibley, was born in Massachusetts, and his mother, who bore the maiden name of Hannah Harwood, was a native of Connecticut. Both families were of Scotch origin. The father followed farming, and spent the greater part of his manhood years in the Nutmeg State. The mother died in her native State at the age of thirty-eight years, leaving a family of eight children, six of whom grew to maturity.

Upon his father's farm Dr. Sibley spent the days of his boyhood and youth, and in the district schools of the neighborhood began his education. At the age of sixteen years he entered the Wilbri-

ham Academy, where he remained as a student for two years, graduating from that institution at the age of eighteen. Having determined to enter the ranks of the medical profession, he began fitting himself for that work by study in the office of his brother, Dr. Louis Sibley, who was then engaged in practice on Long Island, N. Y. For three years he pursued his studies under his brother's direction, and then entered the Berkshire Medical College, from which he was graduated at the age of twenty-three.

Dr. Sibley began practice in Ithaca, N. Y., where he remained for five years, and then removed to Erie, Pa., where he spent the succeeding three years of his life, and in 1856 he arrived in Decatur. He became converted to the homeopathic school while practicing in New York, and is one of the earliest followers of Hahnemann in this State. In order to further perfect himself in his profession, in the winter of 1858-59 he attended a course of lectures in the Homeopathic Medical College, in St. Louis, Mo. During the war he enlisted in the service as Surgeon of the Twenty-first Illinois Infantry, which was Gen. Grant's first regiment.

In 1850 Dr. Sibley was united in marriage with Miss Fannie Cole, daughter of Asa Cole, of Genesee, N. Y. Unto them were born five children: Mary E., Mrs. Parker, who died at the age of thirty-six years, leaving four children; William G., who is foreman of the Haworth Cheek-Rower Company; Jennie, who died when a babe of a year; Frank, at home; and Fannie, wife of William S. Slater, an engineer on the Wabash Railroad.

Dr. Sibley was a charter member of the first Grand Army post ever organized, now known as Dunham Post No. 141. He also holds membership with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In politics he was first an Abolitionist, and then joined the Republican party during Fremont's candidacy, voting twice for Lincoln, and for Grant in 1868. In 1872 he supported Horace Greeley, and since that time has been an advocate of American Democracy. For the past six years Dr. Sibley has been a member of the Board of Health of Decatur, and was County Physician for two years. In 1889 he associated with him Dr.



Wood, and under the firm name of Sibley & Wood they have since engaged in practice. The Doctor has been very successful in his life work and has acquired a good competency. He stands at the head of all progressive and educational movements, never withholding his aid from any enterprise calculated to prove of public benefit.



**J**OHAN J. GRAVES, who devotes his time and attention to agricultural pursuits, is the owner of two hundred and forty acres of valuable land, his home being situated on section 3, Niantie Township. Illinois claims him as one of her native sons, as he was born in Cass County, of this State, August 27, 1850. He is a son of Nelson Graves, who was born in Woodford County, Ky., June 26, 1823, and came to Illinois with his father, Richard Graves, one of the honored pioneers of Cass County, about 1828. The grandfather served in the War of 1812, and died in Cass County at the advanced age of seventy-four.

Nelson Graves grew to manhood in that county, and, having arrived at years of maturity, wedded Eliza, daughter of Thomas Edgar, one of the pioneer settlers of Ohio, who died in the Buckeye State during the early girlhood of his daughter. When a maiden of thirteen summers Mrs. Graves came with an aunt to Illinois and was reared in Cass County. After his marriage the father of our subject there followed farming until after the death of his wife, which occurred in 1864. He now makes his home with his son John, and is a hale and hearty old gentleman of seventy years.

Mr. Graves whose name heads this record remained at home until after his mother's death, when he began working as a farm hand by the month. He is the only son in a family of three children. His sister, Naney, widow of George Hill, of Morgan County, resides in Niantie; and Frances is the wife of George Kapp, of Niantie. Our subject came to this county when a young man of

nineteen years, and was employed for two years as a farm hand by Mr. Edgar. He then determined that his services should benefit himself, and in consequence rented land, which he operated in his own interest until he could purchase. He first bought a forty-acre tract on section 34, Niantie Township, and afterward bought a one hundred and sixty-four acre farm, upon which he now resides.

On the 24th of January, 1875, in this county, Mr. Graves married Sarah A., daughter of Joab and Lydia Wilkinson, pioneer settlers of this county. The father is now deceased. Mrs. Graves was born in Morgan County, but spent her girlhood in Macon County. Two children have been born of their union: Winfield and Walter, aged fifteen and thirteen years, respectively. They also lost an infant daughter, Edith, their first-born.

The productiveness of the farm which is owned by our subject bears out his reputation for industry and enterprise, and places him in the front rank among the leading agriculturists of the county. His first Presidential vote was cast for Gen. John B. Hancock, and he has since supported the Democracy, although he has never been an office-seeker, preferring to devote his time and attention to his business interests, in which he has met with signal success.



**E**VERETT J. BROWN, M. D., whose office is located in Rooms 1 and 2, of the Hawthorn Block, is one of Deatur's native sons of whom she may well be proud. A man of marked ability, keen intellect and unquestioned skill in his profession, he has gained a reputation extending far beyond the limits of this community. His father, Josiah Brown, was also a physician, well known in this community. He was born in Whitby, in the Province of Ontario, Canada, and when a young man removed to the South. He was graduated from the Medical College of Augusta, Ga., and then came to Macon



County, Ill., accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Sarah E. Brown, and their two children. For two years he engaged in practice in Maroa, and in 1860 came with his family to Decatur, where he was successfully engaged in the practice of his profession until his death, May 7, 1889, at the age of sixty-two years. His widow is still living in this city. She had a family of seven children, four of whom are living: Dr. Warren F., of Tacoma, Wash.; Lillie A., wife of Charles R. Murphy, of Decatur; Everett, of this sketch; and Frederick A., who is engaged in the practice of law in Tacoma, Wash. Dr. Josiah Brown was one of the pioneer physicians of Decatur, one of its most highly respected citizens, and built up a large practice.

The birth of our subject occurred on the 20th of January, 1865, in this city, where he has always made his home. His literary education was completed by his graduation from the High School. He began clerking in a drug store at the age of sixteen, and on attaining his majority he entered the Chicago Medical College, where he pursued the regular three-years course, graduating from that institution in the Class of '88, with the degree of M. D. A few days later he took an examination, winning the second rank in a class of twenty-five, and was admitted to hospital practice in the Cook County Hospital, where he remained for about a year, when he was called home to take care of his father's practice. His plan was to have remained in the hospital for the full term of a year and a-half, and then, returning home, to enter into partnership with his father, but, his father's death occurring at this time, this intention was frustrated.

On October 1, 1891, was celebrated the marriage of the Doctor and Miss Rebecca C. Brown, of Jacksonville, Ill., daughter of Dr. Lloyd W. Brown, President of the Central Illinois Savings Bank, of Jacksonville. The union of the young couple has been blessed with a little daughter, Rebecca Aliee, who is the joy of the parents' home. They reside at No. 332 West North Street, and have a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Faternally, the Doctor is a member of Chevalier Bayard Lodge No. 189, K. P.; is Treasurer

of the Capital District Medical Society, and a member of the Macon County Medical Society. He is Medical Nominator and Examiner for the Equitable Life Assurance Society for the counties of Macon, Sangamon, Logan, Shelby, Menard, Christian, Piatt and Moultrie, and is also Examiner for ten other companies and three fraternal insurance orders, including the Mutual Life of New York; the Ætna, of Connecticut; and the Mutual Benefit, of New Jersey; and is Assistant Secretary of the Illinois State Medical Society. The Doctor has made considerable original medical and scientific research, and has contributed largely to current medical literature.

Dr. Brown is recognized as one of the rising young physicians of Decatur, his thorough preparation, combined with his natural skill and ability, having won him an enviable reputation among his professional brethren, as well as with the public, which accords him a liberal patronage. In his political views the Doctor is a Republican, having supported that party since attaining his majority. He and his wife hold membership with the Presbyterian Church.



**T**A. BONE is the efficient manager of the business of the Hatfield Milling Company, which is one of the leading industries of Decatur. Our subject is a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Christian County on the 19th of June, 1851. No event of special importance occurred during his boyhood, which was quietly passed in Montgomery County. The public schools afforded him his educational privileges. On embarking in business for himself he entered the stock trade, and in 1874 he went to Kansas, locating in Ottawa, where he engaged in the stock business for nine years. That period having elapsed, he returned to Illinois and took up his residence in Macon County. Here he engaged in stock-dealing, and carried on farming some ten miles north of Decatur for about five years. Sub-

sequently he spent two years with the Decatur Coal Company.

On the 4th of February, 1874, before going to the West, Mr. Bone was united in marriage with Miss Catherine A. Hill, a daughter of H. W. Hill, and a native of Cape Girardeau County, Mo. At the time of their marriage, however, she was a resident of Illinois. After about nineteen years of married life she died on the 10th of January, 1893, leaving a family of three children, namely: Hugh, Gussie and Emma. She had many warm friends in the community, and her death was widely mourned.

The mills of which Mr. Bone is manager are among the oldest in Macon County. In 1837 Demming's horse mill was built about two miles from the city, and from time to time since then until 1850 there were a few unimportant ones erected. About 1850 a mill was built by Henkle & Condell. Later George Priest became connected with it and continued his connection with it until 1884. In that year the mill passed into the hands of John Hatfield & Co. In 1882 it was rebuilt by Mr. Hatfield as the plant now stands. The mill is five stories in height and each building is 50x50 feet. The Hatfield Milling Company was incorporated on the 7th of December, 1889, with a paid-up capital of \$100,000, its principal stockholders being H. W. Hill, W. C. Armstrong and James Milligan. The first-named was made President but was subsequently succeeded by Henry Shlaudeman. Its present officers are: James Milligan, President; T. A. Bone, Vice-President and manager; and J. W. Carter, Secretary. The mill is fitted up with the latest improved machinery and has a capacity of four hundred barrels of flour daily. Employment is furnished to twenty men. They use about two hundred thousand bushels of grain annually, over three-fourths of which has to be secured outside of Macon County. The chief brands of flour made are "White Foam" and "White Bread," and a constant demand for the products of this mill is made by the home market.

In his social relations Mr. Bone is a Mason, belonging to Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir

Commandery No. 9, K. T. He also holds membership with the Knights of Pythias. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the Republican party, but has never been a politician in the sense of office-seeking. He prefers rather to devote his time and attention to his business, in which he has met with excellent success. Under the efficient management of Mr. Bone the Hatfield Mills are in a flourishing condition and the company is enjoying a good trade. Our subject is a man of excellent business ability, and his straightforward dealings and honorable career have won him universal confidence and esteem. He is prominent in business circles and well deserves representation in this volume.

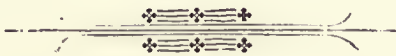


**L**EON H. SULLIVAN, City Electrician of Decatur, residing at No. 812 North Water Street, is a native of Illinois. He was born in Carlinville, February 22, 1861, and comes of an old Virginian family. His grandfather, William Sullivan, was a native of the Old Dominion and spent his entire life in that State, reaching an advanced age. He was twice married, and reared a large family. Joshua H. Sullivan, the father of our subject, was born in Ohio, and in that State learned the shoemaker's trade. In the early '50s he removed to Illinois, locating in Maysville. Subsequently he went to Carlinville, where he carried on shoemaking. On the breaking out of the late war, prompted by patriotic impulses, he entered the service of his country and was killed at the battle of Ft. Donelson. He was then only thirty-eight years of age. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Nancy Emerich, still survives her husband. She is a native of Pennsylvania and a member of the Christian Church. Her father, Peter Emerich, was born on the ocean while his parents were crossing the Atlantic from Germany. The family located in Virginia, and he afterwards removed to Pennsylvania, where he followed farming.



Leon Sullivan, whose name heads this sketch, is the only child of his parents. He was reared in the State of his nativity and acquired the greater part of his education in the schools of Pontiac, Ill. At the age of eighteen he began learning the tinner's trade, and after he had mastered the business he carried on operations in that line for about three years. Abandoning that pursuit, he then learned the trade of an electrician, which he has continued to follow up to the present time. He is an expert in his line and is doing a good business. About 1879, he came to Decatur and has since made this city his home.

On the 18th of February, 1892, Mr. Sullivan was united in marriage with Miss Katie F. Montgomery, daughter of Marion and Elizabeth (Tomlinson) Montgomery, of Decatur. One child has been born unto them, a daughter. The young couple have many friends throughout this community and a wide acquaintance. Mr. Sullivan exercises his right of franchise in support of the Republican party. Socially, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen, and also belongs to the Christian Church. He is a wide-awake and enterprising young business man, who applies himself untiringly to its interests, and is a public-spirited and representative citizen.



**C**HARLES ALONZO TUTTLE was born in Prospect, Conn., November 20, 1829, and died March 2, 1889, at his home in Decatur, respected by all who knew him. He was widely known throughout the State in connection with its railroad interests, and few men in Decatur had more friends than our subject. On account of the part he took in the upbuilding of the city, this work would be incomplete without his life record. His father followed farming, and during his boyhood he worked in the fields and attended the common schools. At the age of eighteen he became a cadet at West Point, where he pursued

his studies for three years. He did not graduate, however, as he wished to begin earning a livelihood. Having studied engineering, he began work on the railroads at the age of twenty-one, in Connecticut. Later he was employed in Ohio, and subsequently secured a position with the Illinois Central Railroad, under Col. Mason, having charge of the division from Bloomington to Vandalia in 1851, and the survey between those two points.

Mr. Tuttle made his headquarters in Decatur, and remained as Division Engineer of the road until its completion, in the fall of 1854. On the 4th of April of that year, he married Miss Henrietta Florey, a daughter of Henry and Maria (Gray) Florey, natives of Virginia. Her parents located near Decatur in 1826, where the father died ten years later. The mother, however, survived him many years, passing away in 1878. She spent the last twenty years of her life in the home of Mr. Tuttle. Mrs. Tuttle was the youngest child and her birth occurred on the old homestead May 24, 1834. Unto our subject and his wife were born eight children, namely: Frank H., engaged in railway construction work at Omaha, Neb.; Louie Alma, wife of Edward Carter, a jeweler of this city; Sheridan A., who is a contractor of Decatur; Charles Warren, a railroad employe of Missouri; Fred, a traveling salesman; George, who is engaged in contracting in partnership with his brother; Alonzo, who is pursuing the first year's course of study in the University of Ann Arbor, Mich.; and Homer, who is a student in the High School of this city.

After 1854, Mr. Tuttle began contracting for railroad work, making grades and building bridges. Later, forming a partnership with Sullivan Burgess, he engaged in the real-estate business, and also erected a sawmill in Ramsey, Ill. He became largely interested in Illinois lands, but continued his railroad construction. He was also engaged as a bridge contractor and in making contracts for street paving, employing a number of men for that work each season. His last railroad contract was on the Logansport road, in 1884, and when his work there was completed he turned his attention to business interests in Decatur. He was largely interested in city property, and platted the



Plant & Tuttle Addition, in the northern part of the city. In the winter of 1856 he platted Greenwood Cemetery. He was also one of the number that platted the Smith & Co. Addition. He was very successful in his business interests and accumulated a handsome property, but having invested in the Effingham Branch Railroad, he lost \$27,000 by taking county bonds, which the Legislature later declared invalid. In politics he was a Republican, but never sought public office. He was generous to a fault, and often assisted others to his own detriment. His liberality and kindness, however, won him the love and esteem of all with whom he came in contact. His upright and honorable career in the various relations of life is well worthy of emulation, and although he did not leave to his family a princely fortune, he left them the priceless heritage of a good name, which the proverb says is rather to be chosen than great riches. Through his death the community has lost one of its best citizens, as well as one of its honored pioneers.



**E**BENEZER McNABB, an architect and contractor of Decatur, now living a retired life, was born in Centre County, Pa., September 17, 1823, and in his eleventh year went to Ashland County, Ohio, with his parents, John and Mary (Young) McNabb, both of whom were natives of the Keystone State, and spent their last days in Ohio. The father was a stonemason and farmer. When a young man of seventeen Ebenezer began to learn the trades of cabinet-making and architecture with O. S. Kinney, of Ashland, Ohio, with whom he went to Cleveland in 1853. Having remained with that gentleman for five years, in 1854 he made his way Westward to Illinois. While traveling through the State in search of a location, he visited Decatur, and concluded that it would be a favorable opening. After spending one year in Sangamon Coun-

ty engaged in building a church, he purchased property in this city, and in the spring of 1855 came to Decatur to make his home. Here he began contracting, being first employed on the old Crissey House, on Prairie Avenue. It was not long before his fellow-townsmen recognized his ability in the line of his trade and gave him a liberal patronage. He has built many of the most important residences in the city, including the homes of H. W. Hill, J. W. Rhee, Dr. Catto, W. H. Busher, R. Montgomery, and many others. He erected a business block on Merchant Street, one storeroom of which he still owns, and put up nearly all the business houses on the south side of Lincoln Square. The Grand Opera House of Decatur and the Trenton Block were both erected by him and his son since the partnership between the two was formed. He was also superintendent during the construction of the Syndicate Block.

In April, 1845, Mr. McNabb in Jeromeville, Ohio, wedded Miss Margaret V. Heller, who died April 10, 1881. In the family were six children. The second child, Willie O., is an architect, contractor and builder. He was born in Decatur July 28, 1856, was educated in the High School, and at the age of seventeen began studying architecture with J. B. Legg, of St. Louis, Mo. He was also in the architecture department of the State University at Champaign for one term, after which he formed a partnership with his father, taking charge of the architectural department. The business connection was continued until 1890, when our subject retired from the firm, leaving his son to carry on the business alone. He is a fine architect, and has made a thorough study of the profession, to which he expects to devote his life. He was united in marriage in Chicago, on the 20th of November, 1879, with Amanda E. Chatham, of that city, and unto them has been born a son, Eben Chatham. The parents are active and faithful members of the Christian Church. Mary I., the eldest member of the McNabb family, is the wife of T. W. Kann, of Decatur; Emma F. is the wife of T. J. Landis, of Decatur, and for the past two years has resided with her father. Mr. and Mrs. Landis have two children; Margaret H., born April 8, 1881; and

Edgar M., November 25, 1884. Arthur L., who completes the children now living, is Cashier for the Tank Line Company. Two children died in infancy.

In 1860 Mr. McNabb was elected a member of the City Council, and for eight years has held that office. He also served as Township Supervisor for one term. In early life he was a Democrat, but owing to the slavery trouble became an Abolitionist, and on the organization of the Republican party joined its ranks. He now votes with the Prohibition party. Socially, he is a member of Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M. For forty-three years he held membership with the Christian Church, and for twenty-eight years has been one of its Elders. In 1855 he organized the first Sunday-school of this church, and has since been an active worker in its interests, having served as Superintendent for many years. He has been an active laborer in the Master's vineyard, and in his declining years he can look back over a well-spent life, and forward to the future in the hope of a home beyond.



JAMES CANNON is a member of the firm of O. H. Cannon & Co., proprietors of the elevator, and dealers in grain in Niantic. We wish to add to the old settlers' record the history of this man, who dates his residence in the county from 1840, and is therefore numbered among her pioneers. He was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, March 25, 1835, and is a son of Loudon and Sarah (Blue) Cannon. The father was born in the same county as his son, but the mother was a native of Virginia. Mr. Cannon followed farming in Ohio until 1840, when he determined to seek a home further West, and so took up his residence in Macon County, where two years later his death occurred. His wife survived him for a number of years, being called to the home beyond in 1861, when she was laid to rest by the

side of her husband in Long Point Cemetery. After the death of their father she had tenderly reared and cared for her children, providing for them as best she could. The family numbered five sons and two daughters, but though all reached mature years, none are now living with the exception of our subject.

James Cannon was the fifth in order of birth. The privileges of his youth, owing to the straitened circumstances of his mother, were quite limited, and his education has been acquired almost entirely through his own efforts. After he had arrived at man's estate he engaged in breaking prairie for about six years. Later, having purchased an eighty-acre tract of raw prairie land in Harristown Township, he located thereon and began its development. Acre after acre he placed under the plow, and in course of time the once barren tract was transformed into fields of waving grain. He afterwards bought more land, and has now opened up and improved a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, making it one of the best places of the neighborhood. His home is a fine large dwelling, and good barns and outbuildings, the latest improved machinery, a well-kept orchard and all the accessories of a model farm are found upon the place. He also owns a half-interest in the Niantic Elevator, and this branch of his business is a paying investment.

In all his efforts Mr. Cannon has been ably assisted and seconded by his estimable wife, who has indeed proved to him a true helpmate. Their union was celebrated in this county December 30, 1863, the lady being in her maidenhood Nancy W. Blankinship. She is a native of Macon County, and a daughter of John Blankinship, one of the honored early settlers. By their union have been born three children: Orin H., who is now engaged in the grain business in Niantic; James T., who is connected with his brother in grain dealing; and Barton K., at home.

In the spring of 1893, Mr. Cannon rented his farm and came to Niantic to assist his sons in the elevator business. He is a man of good executive and business ability, sagacious and far-sighted, and has won by his well-directed efforts a handsome competency, that places him among the substantial



citizens of the county. His example may well serve to encourage others who like himself have to begin life empty-handed. His upright and straightforward dealings have won him universal confidence. In politics he is a Democrat, having supported that party since he cast his first Presidential vote for James Buchanan, in 1856. During the fifty-three years of his residence in this county, he has aided in its development and upbuilding and has always borne his part in the promotion of its best interests, and he deserves mention among the prominent business men and honored pioneers of the county.



**J**OHN WACKER, who is now living a retired life in Niantie, and who holds the position of Township Assessor, is one of the worthy citizens that Germany has furnished to Macon County. He was born in Schleitdorf Tiibeng, Wurtemberg, December 27, 1828, and was there reared to manhood. In his native land he learned the weaver's trade, which he followed in connection with farming until 1853. In that year he crossed the Atlantic, landing in New York in June. He first located in Zoar, Ohio, and during the summer was employed on railroad grading. In the fall he went to Louisville, and the next summer secured employment on a farm near Jeffersonville, Ind., at \$10 per month. After three months he engaged as deck hand on a steamboat plying on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, at \$40 per month, after which he worked as a farm hand in Kentucky for a year.

At length Mr. Wacker determined to come to Decatur, and on the 27th of March, 1857, reached this city with only twenty-five cents in his pocket. He sold an extra pair of pants to pay his board, and after three days secured a position as a farm hand at \$18 per month. He was thus employed for six months and saved nearly all the money he earned, with the exception of \$10 which he sent to Louisville, Ky., in payment of a debt. His

next employment was as a porter in the Barnum Hotel at \$18 per month. From that time forward his financial condition seemed to improve. He was economical and frugal, and little by little he acquired a capital. At length he bought a saloon, but his partner used up nearly all the profits. After a year Mr. Wacker took his billiard tables and went to Monticello, but after three weeks he traded these for a team of horses and wagon, which in turn he traded for forty acres of land on the lake, a mile and a-half south of Niantie. In the fall of 1859 he built a log cabin, and during the next spring started a little brickyard in company with Thomas McGurry. It rained all that summer, and the brick did not burn well, so the investment was not profitable. In 1861, his partner went to the war but Mr. Wacker kept on making improvements, and in 1863 built another kiln. About this time an army officer from New York, who owned large tracts of land in this locality, came to Niantie. Mr. Wacker did a number of favors for him, and the gentleman told him to select a tract of land, for which he might pay as he found it convenient. He secured forty acres and afterwards added to it a tract of similar size. In 1864 he removed to this farm, a half-mile south of Niantie, and began its development. He placed it under a high state of cultivation, made many improvements thereon, and there resided until 1882. Its boundaries he had also extended by an additional purchase of fifty-four acres.

June 13, 1858, our subject married Miss Catharine Schneider, also a native of Germany, and their children were reared upon the farm. Bena is the wife of H. Illenfeldt, a farmer of Stanberry, Mo.; Henry owns a farm of two hundred and eighty acres in the same locality; Emina makes her home with her grandmother, Mrs. Henry Myer, mother of Mrs. Wacker, in Decatur; George owns a half-interest in the elevator in Edinburg, Christian County, Ill.; Augusta is engaged in teaching music; and Nellie and Theresa are at home. They lost three sons in infancy, and a daughter, Louisa, died at the age of seven years.

In 1882, Mr. Wacker purchased a half-interest in the Niantie Mill and the following year became sole proprietor, carrying on the business for ten

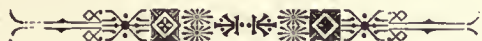


LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*Samuel Diller*

years. In 1891, he tore down the mill and built an elevator, which he sold the following year. He has since retired from business life. In politics he is a staunch Democrat, and has been honored with a number of public offices of trust. He is now serving as Township Assessor and was Commissioner of Highways for fifteen years; he was also Supervisor for two years, and President of the Board of Village Trustees for several years. Himself and wife are members of the Lutheran Church of Decatur. He is one of Niantic's prominent citizens, and with pleasure we present this record of his life to our readers.



**S**AMUEL DILLER is accounted one of Decatur's most prominent and substantial citizens and business men. He is identified with many of the leading enterprises and industries of the city, is connected with the Leader Manufacturing Company, and is President of the Decatur Brick and Tile Company. He also owns \$10,000 worth of stock in the Salina Flouring Mills, of Salina, Kan., and is largely interested in lands and cattle of Texas.

The Diller family was founded in America by Abraham, Francis and Peter Diller, brothers, who were natives of Berne, Switzerland, and emigrated to this country in 1754, locating in Lancaster County, Pa. Peter, a son of Abraham and the grandfather of Samuel of this notice, became a resident of Cumberland County, Pa., in 1788 and purchased land from a man by the name of Me Farland, who had previously bought it from William Penn. Upon this land was an old fort, formerly used by the whites as a place of safety from the hostile Indians, and this was afterward made use of as a dwelling. Here Peter Diller engaged in farming during his life. After his death his son John, the father of our subject, succeeded to the estate and occupied the same farm until his death, in 1871, the homestead remaining in the Diller family until 1882. John Diller married

Elizabeth Conaway, a native of Pennsylvania but of Scotch-Irish descent. They had a family of three children who grew to maturity, viz.: Martha, who is deceased; John, a resident of Cumberland County, Pa.; and Samuel of this sketch.

In the Keystone State, on the 3d of April, 1827, occurred the birth of our subject. He was reared to manhood upon a farm and acquired an education in the public schools of Pennsylvania. After attaining to mature years the subject of this sketch was married, in 1854, to Miss Ann Amelia Shellabarger, a sister of D. S. Shellabarger, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. Her married life was short, as she died in October, 1857, leaving two children, John and Samuel S. The former resides in Decatur and is Superintendent of a tile and brick factory. He married Miss Maggie Oren, and a daughter, Ida, graces their union. Samuel S. is a ranchman and makes his home in Shackelford County, Tex. Our subject was a second time married. In 1860 he wedded Miss Rebecca Jane Shellabarger, and they have a family of three children, the eldest of whom, Anna L., is the wife of Joseph M. Stewart, who is engaged as shipping clerk in the Shellabarger Mill, of Decatur. They have two daughters, Edna and Graee. David is engaged in partnership with his elder brother, Samuel, in cattle dealing in Texas, and is doing a good business. He wedded Miss Mattie Miller, a daughter of Supervisor John H. Miller, of Wheatland Township, Macon County. Howard, the youngest of the family, is at home.

Mr. Diller remained in the State of his nativity and carried on agricultural pursuits until fifty-four years of age, when he determined to seek a home in Illinois. Accordingly, he came to Decatur and purchased a fourth interest in the Shellabarger Mill, with which he was connected for four years, when he sold out to Shellabarger & Bowers. He then invested considerable in a cattle company in Texas and also bought a third interest in the Decatur Brick and Tile Works, which he still owns. About once each year he goes to Texas to visit his sons and look after his large landed and cattle interests. He owns eight hundred head of cattle, and his sons own as many more. In 1885 Mr. Diller also purchased a large interest in a flouring-mill of Salina,



Kan., and has found this a good paying investment. He has been President of the Decatur Brick and Tile Company for the last seven years, and under his careful management the business has prospered well, now amounting to upwards of \$30,000 annually. He is a Director and stockholder in the Leader Manufacturing Company. They make brick and tile machinery, the works of the concern being located in the western part of the city.

Mr. Diller is a man of keen judgment and good foresight; conservative, in that he is not venturesome, and progressive in taking up any new improvement or venture which his judgment approves. In politics he is a staunch Republican, having affiliated with that party since 1856, when its first nominee ran for the Presidency. His wife is a member of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. They have a beautiful home at No. 631 West Prairie Street, which Mr. Diller erected at a cost of \$8,000. There he expects to spend his remaining days, surrounded by all the comforts and luxuries of life that are furnished him by his handsome competence, the fruit of his former toil.



**R**L. WALSTON, M. D. The possessor of the name which heads this record is a genial, pleasant gentleman, popular in all circles and prominent in the profession wherewith he has long been connected, having practiced in this city for twenty-three years. He is a son of Levin Walston, who came to Illinois in 1829, and followed farming in Indianola Township, Vermilion County. He was born in Maryland, and when a boy went to Kentucky, whence he came to this State. He served as a Captain in the Black Hawk War, was one of the pioneers of Vermilion County, and there improved a farm, becoming a well-to-do citizen. He married Susan, daughter of Gideon Howard, a prominent settler of Vermilion County, and her death occurred during the infancy of our subject. She was born in

Scotland, and during her girlhood accompanied her grandparents to Paris, Ky., and afterward emigrated to Indianola Township, Vermilion County. The father of our subject reached the advanced age of eighty-six years.

The Walstons are of English descent, and the Howard family is of Scotch origin. The paternal grandfather of the Doctor, Charles Walston, was a native of England and was a soldier under Gen. Braddock, fighting against the American Colonies. When the British fleet set sail for England after the war was over, he slipped out and went to Maryland, where he spent the remainder of his life. His views changed when he saw the condition of the Colonists, and he became a Whig.

Dr. Walston was born in Vermilion County November 29, 1837, Thanksgiving Day, and is the only one of a family of seven children now living. He was reared upon a farm within two miles of Indianola, and in the public schools of that place and in the district schools he acquired his primary education, which was supplemented by a three-years course in the Georgetown Seminary, a school of the Methodist Church. On the expiration of that period he embarked in teaching, his first school being in Indianola Township, after which he had charge of the Ridge Farm schools, being Principal of the same for two years.

Nearly all his leisure time during this interval Dr. Walston devoted to the study of medicine, and in the fall of 1859 entered the Ohio Medical College, from which he was graduated in the spring of 1861. He began practice in Ridge Farm, Ill., as a partner of Dr. Boswell Ward, now professor of *Materia Medica* in the Medical College of Indianapolis. In the fall of 1862 he enlisted as assistant surgeon for the Twenty-fifth Illinois Infantry, but after ten weeks' service was taken with hemorrhage of the lungs at Covington Heights. He was then sent home, and resumed his partnership with Dr. Ward, remaining with him until the spring of 1864, when he was mustered into service with the One Hundred and Forty-third Illinois Infantry, and served as the regular surgeon of the regiment until the close of the war. The greater part of his time was spent in the Gayoso Hospital, at Memphis, where he did arduous service. He was

under Prof. Daniel Brainard, of Chicago, the founder of Rush Medical College, and one of the early and best professors of surgery. On account of his great admiration for Prof. Brainard, he took a post-graduate course at Rush Medical College soon after the war, doing special work in the line of surgery. After taking his degree in 1866, he went to Paris, Ill., where he engaged in general practice. He was one of the pioneer surgeons of Edgar County, having performed the first operations for hare lip, cleft palate and ovarian tumor in the county.

Dr. Walston has been twice married. In October, 1863, he wedded Sara T. Smith, of Danville, Ill., and unto them was born a daughter, Dora, wife of William Lee Johnson, a business man of Chicago, by whom she has one child, Louise. January 3, 1866, the Doctor married Mrs. Cynthia M. Summers, of Paris, Ill., widow of Charles Summers, and they became the parents of three children. Louise is the wife of Percival Chubb, Professor of Languages and *Belles-Lettres* in the Polytechnic School of Brooklyn, N. Y. Edward Brainard took a special course of study in the Northwestern University, of Evanston, Ill., pursued the regular four-years course in Rush Medical College, graduating in the Class of '93, and is now assistant surgeon in the sanatorium of Decatur. He married Miss Lola Carver, of Paris, Ill. Anna is now a student in Lasell Seminary, in Auburn-dale, Mass. Mrs. Walston also had a son by her former marriage, Albert T. Summers, a lawyer of Decatur.

Dr. Walston continued his residence in Paris until 1871, when he came to Decatur, where he has practiced continuously since. He has met with marked success in surgery, thus gaining a wide reputation. In 1893 he built the sanatorium for the accommodation of patients who need surgical treatment. This institution fills a long-felt want in Decatur. It is a handsome four-story building, fully supplied with all modern conveniences for the care of the sick, and has accommodations for fifty patients, who are afforded every advantage of a first-class establishment. For the past fifteen years the Doctor has engaged in the practice of surgery exclusively, and his skill

and ability have won him a liberal patronage in this line. He exercised his right of franchise in support of the Republican party until the last election, when, on account of his views on the tariff question, he voted for Grover Cleveland. He is a man of commanding presence, and his pleasant manners and cheeriness are of almost as much benefit in the sick room as his professional service.



**S**HERIDAN A. TUTTLE, of the Tuttle Brick Company, of Decatur, has long been connected with railroad constructing in Illinois, as was also his father, whom he joined in the business in 1879, when he was eighteen years of age. He was employed on the construction of the Omaha extension of the Wabash Railroad from Brunswick, Mo., building fifteen miles of road, with Stasburg, Mo., as the central point, and putting in the side tracks at that place when the town contained but one house. The next year he rebuilt the old Northern Missouri Road from Brunswick, Mo., to Pattonsburg, a distance of ninety miles, putting in new bridges and new iron. The next year he built the Jacksonville & Southeastern from Virden to Litchfield, a distance of twenty-four miles. His labors during the succeeding year were given to the construction of the Q. M. & P. R. R. into Trenton, Mo., from the north.

Subsequent to this time, Mr. Tuttle built ten miles of road on the narrow gauge of the "Clover Leaf" at Donnellson, Ill., after which occurred a change in his business, as during the following two years he was employed in contracting on the street work in Decatur. When that period had expired, he spent two years with his uncle, B. B. Tuttle, in the lumber business. His father then engaged with the Wabash Line east of the Mississippi, and Sheridan began business for himself, contracting for grading. He also erected the Staunton Reservoir. His last railroad work was



the construction of seven miles of road east of St. Louis, on the Jacksonville & Southeastern Railroad. Since that time, he has contracted for sewer work in Decatur, and is still engaged in that line of trade. He employs from twenty to one hundred men, and his contracts for 1893 have already amounted to not less than \$20,000. His business is a large one and adds materially to the prosperity of the city, inasmuch as it gives work to so many hands.

Mr. Tuttle has recently established the Tuttle Brick Company, which was incorporated with a capital of \$20,000. The plant is situated a mile and a-half northwest of Decatur, on the main line of the Wabash, and they manufacture building and vitrified brick. This promises to become one of the leading enterprises of the community. Mr. Tuttle is a man of excellent business ability, sagacious and farsighted, and his enterprise and good management have already placed him in the front rank among Macon County's business men.



**E**LIAS FORD, a retired farmer residing in Niantic, is numbered among the settlers of the county who came here in 1853. As he has a wide acquaintance throughout this community, we feel assured that a record of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers, and therefore gladly insert this sketch. Mr. Ford is a native of Kentucky, his birth have occurred in what is now Marshall County, September 22, 1829. His father, Boze Ford, was a native of Kentucky, but the grandfather was born in North Carolina, whence he emigrated to Calloway County, Ky., where Boze was reared to manhood. In that county the latter married Miss Susan Averitte, a native of Kentucky, and a daughter of Aaron Averitte, who was born in South Carolina. For some years, Mr. Ford followed farming in his native State, but in 1851 removed to Sangamon County, Ill., where he opened up a farm. He spent his last years in Illiopolis, and was called to the

home beyond in 1872, in the seventy-eighth year of his age. His wife passed away in August, 1852, and both were laid to rest in Long Point Cemetery, where a monument has been erected to their memory.

Our subject is the second in order of birth in a family of seven sons and two daughters. The first twenty years of his life were spent in the county of his nativity, when, feeling himself ready to enter the world and fight his own battles, he left his old home and came to Illinois in 1849. Locating in Morgan County, he worked by the month as a farm hand for three years, and in 1853 he came to Macon County, where he was similarly employed for a year. With the capital he had acquired by industry and economy, he then purchased forty acres of prairie land, and, locating thereon, began its development. His plow soon turned the sod, and the seed scattered on the ground, nurtured by the sun and dew, soon brought forth abundant harvests. Mr. Ford afterward increased his possessions as his financial resources would permit, until he became the owner of two hundred and forty acres of timber and prairie land. After two years he sold that farm and bought the two hundred and eighty acre farm on section 34, Niantic Township, which he still owns. A nice dwelling, substantial barns and outbuildings, a good orchard and other improvements which may there be seen stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise.

The lady who bears the title of Mrs. Ford was in her maidenhood Sarah McDanneld. Her parents, James and Sarah (West) McDanneld, were natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania, respectively. She was born and reared in Wayne County, Ohio, and when a young lady came to Macon County and taught school one summer. On the 2d of November, 1854, was celebrated the marriage of our subject and his wife, and their union was blessed with five children. Minerva is the widow of Dr. A. C. Bradway, of O'Glenn; Ella, deceased, was the wife of A. C. Edgar, of Rushville, Schuyler County, Ill.; C. C. is engaged in the dairy business in Chicago; Hattie is the wife of George Jacobson, a business man of Niantic; and James operates the old homestead farm.

Mr. Ford is identified with the Prohibition party



and supports its men and measures. He was formerly a Democrat and cast his first vote for Frankhn Pierce in 1852. He served for one year as Supervisor, and has been a member of the School Board for a number of years, but has never been a politician in the sense of office-seeking. Himself and wife are faithful and active members of the Niantic Christian Church, and do all in their power for its upbuilding. In summing up the life of our subject, we see that his career has been a prosperous one, owing to his indefatigable labors and perseverance, also that it has been an upright and honorable one, and thereby he is numbered among Macon County's best citizens.



**W**ILLIAM S. McCONNELL, M. D., one of the honored physicians of Macon County, residing on section 5, Pleasant View Township, is a native of the Buckeye State. He was born on the 21st of November, 1844, in Wayne County, Ohio, and is the eldest in a family of five children, four sons and a daughter, born unto Francis M. and Jane (Armstrong) McConnell. Two of the number are now deceased. Those still living are the Doctor; Edwin A., a prominent railroad contractor residing in Wayne County, Ohio; and Harry A., who is successfully engaged in farming near Cleveland, Ohio. The father of this family was born in Pennsylvania, and when quite small accompanied his parents on their removal to Wayne County, Ohio. When about fifteen years of age he left home and learned the tanner's trade, at which he worked for several years. He next engaged in a mercantile business in Kenton, Ohio, conducting it successfully until 1859. He started with only a limited capital, but on selling out he owned one of the leading wholesale and retail stores in that town. He was a man of excellent business ability, and his well-directed efforts brought him a handsome competency. His death occurred in Medina, Ohio, at the age of seventy-four years. The fam-

ily is of Scotch and Irish extraction. The mother of our subject, who was born in Ohio, and was of Scotch lineage, departed this life in Wayne County in 1881.

Dr. McConnell, whose name heads this record, spent his early life under the parental roof in the town of Kenton, Ohio, and attended school until eighteen years of age, acquiring a good English education. The war having broken out, he determined to aid his country in her struggle to preserve the Union, and enlisted as a member of Company E, Eighty-second Ohio Infantry, in which he served for twenty-nine months, when he was honorably discharged on account of physical disability, caused by a very bad wound in the left thigh that has crippled him for life. The wound was received at the never-to-be-forgotten battle of Gettysburg. Mr. McConnell was taken to the hospital, where he was confined for about three months, and was then taken to the State of his nativity.

Our subject now determined to enter the medical profession, and to this end took a course in the Medical Department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and later was graduated from the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, in 1872. He then went to Sterling, Ohio, and, entering upon the practice of medicine, there remained for about three years. His next place of residence was in Blue Mound, Ill., where he continued to engage in practice until 1889. Owing to his marked skill and ability he gained a liberal patronage and continued in active business until the year above mentioned, when, on account of poor health, he laid aside professional cares and purchased a very valuable farm of one hundred and twenty acres adjoining the corporation limits of Blue Mound. He now superintends the management and care of his farm, and to a limited extent still engages in practice among his old friends and patients.

In January, 1873, Dr. McConnell was united in marriage with Miss Mary J. Goffinett, who was born July 26, 1844, in Wayne County, Ohio. Four children blessed this union, three of whom are yet living, viz.: Ella E., a highly educated young lady; Florence L. and Eunice G. The

daughters are still under the parental roof. The McConnell household is noted for its hospitality, and the members of the family rank high in the circles of society in which they move.

The Doctor is a staunch Republican in politics, having supported that party since he cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln before he was of age, while on a gunboat at Cairo, during his service in the late war. He is a member of Blue Mound Lodge No. 682, A. F. & A. M., and also belongs to Post No. 347, G. A. R., of Blue Mound. He has served as Chairman of his township in the Republican Central Committee for twelve years, and has done all in his power to aid in the growth and insure the success of the Republican party, but would never consent to hold office.

The Doctor is now Examining Surgeon on the Pension Board of Macon County. During his long business career here he not only gained a large and lucrative practice, but won for himself a place among the most prominent of his professional brethren, his skill gaining him an enviable reputation. As a citizen he is public spirited and progressive, and manifests a commendable interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community in which he makes his home. The Doctor is widely known throughout Macon and adjoining counties, and has the respect and esteem of all with whom business or social relations have brought him in contact.



**J**AMES WOODLAIN HAWORTH was born in Clinton County, Ohio, on the 2d of April, 1836, and died on the morning of February 5, 1892, at his home in Decatur, respected by all who knew him. He was widely and favorably known in the community, and it is but just that a record of his life should be given in the history of his adopted county, where he so long resided. His parents were Mahlon and Sarah (Woolman) Haworth, both of whom were natives of Ohio.

Their ancestors came from New Jersey, and were Quakers in religious belief. The family, however, is probably of English origin, and undoubtedly was founded in America in early Colonial days. The father of our subject was born in Clinton County, Ohio, August 20, 1809, and became a farmer, following that occupation for a number of years in the Buckeye State, where he also engaged in operating a sawmill. At length he determined to seek a home in the West, and in 1853 came to Illinois, making his home in Springfield until 1857, when he made a permanent location in Decatur. Here he engaged in the grain business, associating with him his sons, James W., George D., L. L. and John W. In 1870 the Haworth & Sons Check-Rower factory was built, and they began the manufacture of check-rowers, which were the invention of George D. Haworth. The family has been prominent in business circles since coming to the city, and established one of its leading industries. The father died on Monday, April 25, 1893.

Hon. James W. Haworth, whose name heads this record, spent the days of his boyhood and early youth in Ohio, and in its public schools acquired his education. He was a young man of seventeen years when he came to Illinois with his parents, and about the time of attaining his majority he took up his residence in Decatur, hence the entire years of his manhood were spent in this city. His business interests were always associated with those of the firm of Haworth & Sons. He was a man of good business ability, straightforward and honorable in all his dealings, and the community respected him for his sterling worth and strict integrity. As a member of the firm of Haworth & Sons he engaged in the grain business on the present site of the check-rower factory, but in 1870 the firm began the manufacture of check-rowers. Our subject was the business manager of the enterprise, which soon grew to large proportions, and the well-managed business became remarkably prosperous and profitable. In 1883 he organized The Decatur Iron Felloc Wagon Company, and continued business along that line for a few years, but finally disposed of the enterprise. From 1888 he devoted his energies entirely to the

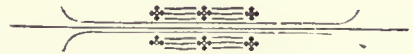


management of the business connected with the check-rowers until a few months prior to his death, when, on account of failing health, he practically retired.

On the 11th of September, 1860, Mr. Haworth was joined in marriage with Miss Mary Louise Henkle, daughter of Benson and Margaret (Ferrell) Henkle, the former a native of Virginia, and the latter of Kentucky. Her father was an architect and fine machinist. One child graced the union of our subject and his wife, a son, William Edwin, who is now living in Detroit, Mich. He is a graduate of the law department of the Bloomington Normal, and, passing the required examination, was regularly admitted to the Bar, but has not thus far devoted himself to the practice of the law. Miss Lean Henkle, now Mrs. J. Walter, of Sioux City, made her home with her sister, Mrs. Haworth, and was educated in the Decatur schools. She is remembered as a young lady of ability and of a warm, congenial nature.

From 1857 until his death Mr. Haworth was prominently identified with Decatur's interests and contributed largely to the development of the city as a business center. The enterprises with which he was connected have given employment to hundreds of men and have caused the erection of many beautiful homes in this community. Mr. Haworth erected the present Haworth Block, at the time of his death was a stockholder in and member of the Board of Directors of the Decatur National Bank, and in various undertakings his means and efforts were used to extend the growth of the city. He was a member of the Decatur Club, a Knight-Templar Mason and a member of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, to the support of which he contributed liberally. Politically, he was identified with the Republican party, and his opinions were frequently sought in its councils, but he was never an aspirant for the honors or emoluments of public office. In 1880 he was a delegate from the old Fourteenth Congressional District to the National Republican Convention in Chicago, and was one of the solid three hundred and six delegates who remained true to Gen. Grant to the end. He was subsequently given a "Three hundred and six" medal,

which he prized very highly. He was a public-spirited and progressive citizen and always manifested a commendable interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community in which he made his home. He gave his support to all worthy enterprises and throughout Macon County was known as a valued citizen. His death therefore was a loss to the entire neighborhood, and many friends, as well as his immediate family, mourned the loss of one whom they held in the highest regard. The beautiful home of Mr. Haworth was built under his personal attention and according to plans drawn by himself, and was erected at the cost of about \$20,000.



**T**HOMAS M. PRICE, who resides on section 1, South Wheatland Township, where he owns and operates one hundred and sixty-eight acres of good land, is numbered among the early settlers of the county, having resided upon his present farm since 1854, or for a period of almost forty consecutive years. He claims Ohio as the State of his nativity, having been born in Butler County February 28, 1831. He is a son of Henry and Mary (Mallow) Price. The grandfather, Adam Price, was a farmer of the Shenandoah Valley, and died in Virginia. Henry Price was also born in that locality, but lived for about twenty years in Ohio, twenty years in Cass County, Ill., and the same length of time in Macon County. In the spring of 1834, he came with his wife and seven children to Illinois, and settled in Morgan County, on a three-mile strip which is now a part of Cass County. Purchasing one hundred and eighty acres of land on a mill site, he built a mill, and in connection with its operation spent about twenty years in improving his farm. In the fall of 1854, he came to Macon County, locating in Mt. Zion Township, where he purchased five hundred acres of prairie land and a hundred and sixty acres of timber-land, and to agricultural pursuits



devoted his energies throughout the remainder of his life. His wife died in October, 1865, and was buried in Mt. Gilead Cemetery. Mr. Price passed away March 20, 1875, at the age of eighty-two. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and took an active part in church work up to the time of the war, after which he discontinued his connection with it. In politics, he was a Jackson Democrat. He was a man who had many friends and few enemies, for his upright and honorable life gained him the respect and esteem of all with whom he came in contact.

The members of the Price family are: Albert, who died in childhood; Catherine, who became the wife of William Pitner, and died in Cass County, leaving one child, Dr. T. J. Pitner, of Jacksonville, Ill.; Elizabeth, widow of William Wilson, of Casner, Ill.; Delilah, who was the wife of Aaron Henderson, and died leaving two children; Sarah, who became the wife of John Naple, who died in Cass County; Moses, now a farmer of Kansas; Thomas, who is the next younger; Adam, who died at the age of five years; George, who is living in Kansas; and Mrs. Mary Skillman, who died in Mt. Zion Township.

The subject of this sketch was only three years of age when he came to Illinois. During his boyhood he attended the subscription schools of Cass County, held in a log building with puncheon floor and slab seats. A row of glass was inserted where a log had been removed, and in that way the building was lighted. Although his school privileges were limited, Mr. Price received ample training in farm labor. He remained upon the home farm until twenty-eight years of age, when he was married to Miss Triphenia Cox, a daughter of William Cox, a native of this county. Their union was celebrated in 1859, and on the 24th of February, 1862, the wife died, leaving a daughter, Ida A., who married S. H. Phillips, of Decatur.

On the death of his wife, Mr. Price returned to his parents' home. He was again married, February 21, 1867, his second union being with Mrs. Mary C. Muir, widow of George G. Muir, and a native of Wisconsin. At the age of fourteen she went with her parents to Lewis County, Mo., and from there came to Illinois. By her first marriage

she had two children: Lutezia, wife of Charles Dunning, a farmer of Mt. Zion Township; and G. G., a farmer of Wheatland Township. The father was a railroad conductor and was killed by accident. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Price have been born three children, Henry Lee, Hattie and John W., at home.

Mr. Price cast his first Presidential vote for Pierce in 1852, and has since been a Democrat in national politics, but at local elections supports the man whom he thinks best qualified for the office. Himself and wife are members of the Shady Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church, in which for many years Mr. Price has served as Deacon. He is a public-spirited and progressive citizen, who does all in his power for the best interests of the community and the promotion of the public welfare. His years have been well and worthily spent and by an upright life he has gained the esteem of all with whom he has been brought in contact.



WYATT F. CHERRY, who is numbered among the early settlers of Pleasant View Township, now resides on section 30, where for many years he has carried on farming. He claims the honor of being a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred near Rochester, in Sangamon County, November 9, 1821. He is the only survivor of a family of five children, with the exception of one sister, Elmira, wife of James Huckleberry, a resident farmer of Sangamon County. His parents were Benjamin and Elizabeth (Strickland) Cherry. The father was a native of Georgia, born in 1790, and upon a farm in that State was reared to manhood. Determining to seek a home and fortune in the West, he emigrated to Illinois in 1819, and cast in his lot with the early settlers of Sangamon County, becoming one of its pioneers. There he developed a farm, on which he made his home until his death, which

occurred at the very advanced age of eighty-seven years. His wife, who was a native of Tennessee, died at the home of our subject in Macon County, when seventy-eight years of age.

In the home of his parents, W. F. Cherry spent the days of his boyhood and youth, and his early years were marked by no event of special importance. After arriving at man's estate he left the farm and purchased a tract of wild land, to the improvement of which he devoted all his energies. After placing some improvements upon it, however, he came to Macon County and bought the farm upon which he is now living, which was also a tract of wild land, upon which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made. His labors have transformed it into rich and fertile fields, that yield a golden tribute in return for the care and cultivation of the owner. The farm comprises one hundred and fifty acres of valuable land, and is considered one of the best in the township.

On the 20th of September, 1848, Mr. Cherry was united in marriage with Miss Susan Hall, a native of Tennessee, born March 13, 1824. Her parents were Garland and Penelope (Strickland) Hall. The mother died in Tennessee, after which the father left the old home and in 1830 took up his residence in Macon County, Ill., where his death occurred sixteen years later. He was called to his final rest in 1846, when sixty-two years of age. By the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Cherry have been born eight children, seven sons and one daughter. Amos, the eldest of the family, follows farming in Sangamon County; Alfred is a well-known agriculturist of this county; John is engaged in mining in Dakota; Thomas A. is a farmer and carpenter of Nebraska; David is a painter and carpenter and resides in this county; Maggie, the only daughter, is still at home; and George and James are both resident farmers of Macon County.

Mr. Cherry has led a busy and useful life, devoting his attention during the greater part of the time to his business interests. In politics he is a stalwart supporter of Republican principles. He cast his first Presidential vote for William Henry Harrison, and affiliated with the Whig party until its dissolution, when he joined the ranks of the Republican party. He has never sought or de-

sired public office, yet has served as School Director in his township for a number of years. He belongs to the Christian Church. Mr. Cherry is one of the oldest settlers of Pleasant View Township, having long made his home in this community, and it is with pleasure that we present to our readers this record of his life.



**J**OHN N. DONAHEY for the past two years has filled the position of County Superintendent of Schools in Macon County, and has proved a capable and efficient officer. His well-directed efforts have raised the standard of schools in the community, a standard which will never be lowered as long as our subject is at the head of the educational department.

Mr. Donahey is a descendant of Revolutionary stock. His great-grandfather, John Donahey, the founder of the family in America, was a native of Ireland, who emigrated to this country in early Colonial days, and settled in one of the Eastern colonies. During the Revolutionary War he served as a soldier, and at the close of that struggle sold his effects and moved with his family further West, settling in Washington County, Pa., where he started almost at the foot of the ladder of fortune, as the continental currency—of which he had a good supply—had depreciated in value to such an extent as to be entirely worthless, and he burned the entire amount, consisting of what he received for his Eastern property and for his services in the army.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, whose Christian name was John, married Mary Hill, who was of Scotch-Irish descent. He emigrated to Ohio in 1809, settling first at Front Royal, later on a property known as the old Welsh Farm, and finally on what is now a part of the family homestead, in Knox County, being one of the pioneers of that county.

The name of the father of the gentleman whose



name heads this notice was also John Donahey. He married Mrs. Martha Craft, who by her first marriage had been the mother of three children, only one of whom was living at the time of her second marriage. Her maiden name was Martha Ross, and she was a daughter of Price and Martha (Davis) Ross. Mr. Ross was of English descent, and served as a soldier in the War of 1812, while his wife came of an old Pennsylvania-Dutch family.

Mr. and Mrs. Donahey were both natives of Pennsylvania. When a youth the former went to Ohio with his father's family, and there he grew to manhood, married, and spent the remainder of his life engaged in farming. He died at the age of seventy-three years. His wife, who was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, passed away at the age of seventy-two. Of their nine children, five sons grew to manhood. James, a commercial traveler, died in 1890, leaving a wife and four children; Aaron is married, and with his six children is living on the old homestead in Knox County, Ohio; P. N., who is married and has two children, carries on a general store in Bladensburg, Ohio; John is the next younger; and Josephus W. is a broker of Decatur, Ill.

The early life of our subject was spent on his father's farm in Ohio, and his early education, acquired in the common schools, was supplemented by a course in the Normal School of Delaware, Ohio. He also attended the Mt. Vernon Normal, and for a short time before coming to Illinois engaged in teaching. The year 1875 witnessed his arrival in Macon County, and during the eight succeeding years he was employed as teacher of the Pleasant Hill School in Wheatland Township. In 1883, he accepted the position of teacher of the Boody school, and while there the citizens of the place built a new schoolhouse of two departments and made him principal. In 1887 he was chosen principal of the Blue Mound schools and continued in charge of the same for two years. On the expiration of that period he finished the spring term at Niantic, filling the vacancy left by Prof. Powner. During the winter of 1889-90, in partnership with E. E. Gibson, he engaged in the abstract and land-title business, but in the fall of the latter year again resumed teaching, and once

more took charge of the schools in Boody, where he was employed as principal until his election to the office of County Superintendent, in the fall of 1890.

Prof. Donahey is now at the head of the Macon County Abstract Company, which occupies an office over the Peddecord & Burrows Bank, at the corner of Walter and South Park Streets. He bought out Albert Webber in 1889, in September following sold out, and then in December repurchased the entire business, becoming sole proprietor. Socially, he is a member of Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M., and of the Royal Arch Chapter. He also belongs to the Calumet Club, a literary organization, and in political faith is a Democrat. Our subject is an entertaining, intelligent and popular citizen, a good business man and a competent and faithful public officer.



**J**OHAN H. CULVER is known to many of Decatur's citizens through his extensive trade connections. He is a man of excellent business and executive ability and is at the head of two of the leading industries of the city, being President of the Culver Monument Company and also of the Municipal Electric Company. Almost his entire life has been passed in Macon County, whither he came when a lad of five years from Christian County, Ill., his birth having there occurred December 26, 1858. His parents were Edward and Elizabeth (Scott) Culver, the former of whom was a farmer and stock-raiser and land-owner in Nebraska. He made his home in Macon County until 1891, when he died in Blue Mound at the age of sixty-two years. His wife passed away in 1884.

The subject of this sketch at the age of sixteen entered the Normal School of Taylorville, and pursued a thorough business course of study, after which he accepted a position in the office of his brother, J. S. Culver, of Taylorville, and soon became superintendent of that branch of his brother's

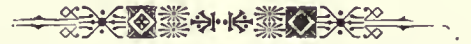


extensive monument establishment. On attaining his majority he returned to Macon County, and for the succeeding five years engaged in teaching. He then rejoined his brother, whose headquarters were at Springfield, Ill., and devoted his entire attention to the mastery of all the details of monumental work, excepting only the strictly mechanical. His brother had establishments at seven different points in Illinois and did an extensive business. J. H. finally became a partner in the business and soon closed out all the branch yards, but increased the capacity of the central house. This partnership continued for four years, when our subject sold out, and in 1889 came to Decatur, opening the present business, which he continued one year before the incorporation of the Culver Monument Company in 1890. It has a capital stock of \$15,000, and its officers are, J. H. Culver, President; J. S. Culver, of Springfield, Vice-President; J. M. Willard, Treasurer; and J. H. Rainey, Secretary. About \$25,000 are invested in the business, and its annual sales, extending over a large area in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa, amount to upwards of \$50,000. The company does monument work exclusively, using only the finest granite from the best quarries of Vermont and Georgia, and turning out only the highest grades of work. Mr. Culver attends personally to the purchase of the granites and gives his personal supervision to the business.

Other interests also claim the attention of our subject, who, as before stated, is President of the Municipal Electrical Company of Decatur, which was incorporated in 1893 with a capital of \$25,000. The plant has just been completed at a cost of \$27,000. The Wood arc lights and Slattery incandescent lights are used. They have sixty of the former and about one thousand of the latter now in use. The incorporators of the company are, J. H. Culver, President; J. M. Willard, Vice-President; and E. E. Gibson, Secretary and Treasurer. This promises to be a paying enterprise and will prove one of the city's leading industries.

On the 11th of March, 1886, in Macon, Ill., Mr. Culver wedded Miss Florence, daughter of R. W. Hight, of Macon Township. Their union has been blessed with a little daughter, Bessie, now two

years old. The parents hold membership with Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics, Mr. Culver is a supporter of Republican principles, and in his social relations holds membership with Ionic Lodge No. 312, A. F. & A. M., Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M., Decatur Council, and Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T. He takes quite an active interest in Masonry and also belongs to Chevalier Bayard Lodge, K. P., and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The Culver Monument Company has met with a marvelous degree of success, a fact which is due to the able management of its president. Through his thorough understanding of the business and personal supervision, he knows just what is going on and can suggest improvements and lay plans for further perfection. He has thus won a liberal and ever-increasing patronage as the reward of his own labor.



**O**RLANDO C. STAFFORD is the well-known and efficient manager of the Decatur Brick and Tile Company, which is located west of the Wabash depot, just outside the city limits, and occupies twenty-three acres of ground adjoining the Wabash tracks. This company was incorporated in 1891, with a capital stock of \$30,000, and its officers are L. B. Casner, President; J. G. Shea, of Danville, Ill., Secretary and Treasurer; and O. C. Stafford, Manager. The plant was erected in 1891, at a cost of \$25,000, and has a capacity of four million brick annually. They make a specialty of the manufacture of street-paving brick, known as vitrified, and take large contracts for paving. The machinery used is that of the Decatur Leader Manufacturing Company. Employment is furnished to twenty-one men, and the work turned out amounts to from \$25,000 to \$27,000 annually. This company also has a kiln in Danville, with a capacity of seven million brick annually.

The manager of this company is one of Macon County's leading business men. He was born in Decatur, on the 8th of January, 1857, and is the

eldest son of Henry Stafford, the engineer. He learned the business of engineering with his father and was engineer in the oil mill for seven years, at the expiration of which time he left that position to accept a similar position with the Decatur Brick and Tile Company. Here he learned the business of brick and tile making in all of its details, and became assistant superintendent of the Steam Tile Company. In 1891, he became one of the incorporators of the Decatur Brick and Tile Company, and has since been its manager.

On the 3d of March, 1881, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Stafford and Miss Fannie Evans, daughter of Henry S. Evans, a contractor and builder, now deceased. The lady is a native of Indiana, her birth having occurred in South Bend. Two children grace this union, a daughter and son, Bessie and Chester. The family have a pleasant and comfortable home at No. 1063 West Main Street, which is the abode of hospitality, and where their many friends are always welcome.

In his political views, Mr. Stafford is a Republican, but has never been a politician in the sense of office-seeking. Socially, he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. He is also interested in the brick and tile company of Danville, and the business of the Decatur Brick and Tile Company under his efficient management has been made a profitable one. He is sagacious and far-sighted, possesses excellent business and executive ability, and by his fair dealing and the excellent products which the factory turns out he has succeeded in building up a good trade.



**N**ATHAN S. BATCHELDER, deceased, was born in Rockingham County, N. H., October 19, 1830, and was a son of Edward and Nancy (Smith) Batchelder. The days of his boyhood and youth were spent upon the old home farm. In his early life he attended the district schools of the neighborhood, and later completed his education in Pembroke Academy, of New

Hampshire. At the age of nine years he left his parents and went to live with a Mrs. Whitehouse, with whom he remained until attaining his majority.

After arriving at years of maturity, Mr. Batchelder started out in life for himself. He remained in the old Granite State until 1855, when he determined to seek his home in the West, and came to Illinois. He first cast in his lot with the settlers of Coles County, where he secured work as a farm hand and remained for a year. The next year he came to Macon County, where he worked in a brickyard in Decatur for a few months, when, having acquired some capital, he purchased the farm upon which his widow now resides. He first bought eighty acres of wild prairie land on section 8, Hickory Point Township, on which not a furrow had been turned. He was an industrious and energetic man, and at once began its development. Plowing and planting the land, he transformed it into rich and fertile fields, which soon yielded to him abundant harvests. His financial resources were increased, as the result of his untiring efforts, and from time to time he invested additional capital, until at his death he owned a valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres, one of the best-improved places in Macon County.

Mr. Batchelder was twice married. In 1864, he was joined in marriage with Miss Mary Richey, who died March 20, 1872. The children born of that union were Nancy J., Addie, Edwin and Charles S. On the 27th of November, 1872, Mr. Batchelder was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Margaretta Richards, widow of Hiram Richards, and a daughter of Philip and Nancy Corman. She was married to Mr. Richards in 1858, and by him had a daughter, Clara E. Her husband died in 1859, and his remains were interred in the Emerson Cemetery. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Batchelder were born five children: Mary L., Oliver, Nellie P., Fannie S. and Martha C.

In politics, Mr. Batchelder was a Republican, and served as School Director and Township Assessor for a number of years. He began life a poor boy, but by well-directed efforts and a determination to win success he secured a handsome property. He died on the 15th of March, 1885, and



was laid to rest in Illini Cemetery. His life had been an upright and honorable one, he had proved himself a worthy citizen of the community, and his death was widely mourned. Mrs. Batchelder is a member of the Congregational Church, and a lady whose many excellencies of character have gained her a wide circle of friends. She is now living on the old home farm with her children.



**B**ENEDICT MCGORRAY is engaged in the real-estate and insurance business in Decatur, and is also a Director and Secretary and Treasurer of the Loan and Homestead Association. The country found in him one of the valiant boys in blue during the late war, and Decatur now numbers him among his worthy citizens. He is a son of the Emerald Isle, his birth having occurred in County Derry March 21, 1832. His parents, Roger and Catherine (McVey) McGorray, came with their family to America in 1844, and located in Rochester, N. Y.

Our subject was then a lad of twelve years. He remained at home until 1852, when, at the age of twenty years, he determined to come to the West and try his fortune on its broad prairies. He had been promised a position on the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad, and brought a squad of twenty men with him from Rochester, N. Y., but on account of labor troubles with the road above mentioned, they began work for the Ohio & Mississippi, near Lebanon, Ill. Mr. McGorray served as overseer on the Ohio & Mississippi for about a year, and afterwards worked for the Illinois Central Railroad Company. He was engaged on the stone work in the construction of bridges, and assisted in building that road into Decatur, where he arrived in 1854.

On the 23d of May, 1853, in Belleville, Ill., Mr. McGorray was joined in marriage with Miss Catherine O'Brien, a native of County Galloway, Ireland. The family born of this union included the following: Mary A., wife of John S. Dempsey, a

marble-cutter of Decatur; Sarah E., wife of Edward Grubel, a painter; Benedict A., superintendent of the Decatur Ice and Cold Storage Company; Daniel E., of Colorado; John Thomas, who died at the age of nineteen; Margaret J., who for four years was a successful teacher in the public schools of Decatur, and is now attending the Chicago University; Catherine E., who graduated from the High School and State Normal and is now a teacher in the High School of Rushville, Ill.; and Cora, who for two years has been employed as a teacher in the public schools of this city.

In 1855, our subject began work in a brickyard, and later started a brickyard of his own with the small capital of \$500. This he carried on until October 1, 1861, when he enlisted for the late war in the First Regiment of Missouri Engineers as artificer. He was first stationed at Rolla and Sedalia, Mo., and was engaged mainly in constructing roads and bridges. This regiment, commanded by Col. Bissell, of St. Louis, was the only one of the kind in the Western army. In the spring of 1862, the troops went to Island No. 10, and from there to Pittsburgh Landing. They assisted in the capture of Corinth, and thence went by steamer from Memphis to Vicksburg. During that siege they were employed in cutting a canal across the point of land opposite this city, and in repairing roads and building bridges and culverts. After the fall of Vicksburg, Mr. McGorray was made Second Lieutenant, in March, 1864. The regiment went with Sherman to the sea, but our subject remained at the garrison at Vicksburg, and was assigned to Company M, Fifth United States Heavy Artillery, under Col. H. Leib, of Decatur. There he remained until the close of the war, when he was mustered out of the service.

While serving in garrison, Mr. McGorray was joined by his family, and when the war was over he began to make brick in Vicksburg, but remained there only a year, for the bitter feeling against the Northern men caused his return to Decatur in 1866. He had not prospered in the South and was now without capital, so he began to work by the day in a brickyard. He continued in the employ of others until 1881, when he was elected Justice of the Peace for a term of four years. In



1885 he was re-elected, but the following year he resigned his position. He then embarked in the real-estate and insurance business, which he has since continued with success. He has made a number of improvements in the city, including the erection of twelve residences, which he sells on monthly payments. He assisted in organizing the Loan and Homestead Association, which has now been in operation for several years. These associations are among the most worthy institutions of the city, for they aid poor men in securing homes through the system of monthly payments, where, if the purchase price had all to be paid at once, they could not hope to secure their residences.

Mr. McGorray is a self-made man, having made his own way in the world unaided. Knowing the difficulties and obstacles that one has to encounter, he is always ready to assist any worthy person. In politics, he is a stalwart Republican, who believes in the protection of home industries. Although reared in the faith of the Roman Catholic Church, he is now no longer connected with that organization, believing in the freedom of religious thought and conviction for each individual. Our subject is one of the most prominent sons of Ireland in this city, and the community recognizes in him a progressive and public-spirited man, who has borne an important part in the upbuilding of Decatur.



**G**EORGE S. SIMPSON is a traveling salesman for the firm of Haworth & Sons, manufacturers of, and dealers in, check-rows and corn-planters. His connection with this firm dates from 1876, and has been continuous with the exception of about three years. His long service indicates that he is a good salesman and is also a high testimonial to his fidelity to the interests of his employers.

Mr. Simpson was born in Indiana County, Pa., May 13, 1843, and of the Keystone State his parents, Nathaniel and Margaret (Sprankle) Simpson,

were also natives. The Simpson family is of Irish origin and was founded in America by the grandfather of our subject, David Simpson, a farmer and miller, who was born in the North of Ireland. When a young man he crossed the Atlantic and located in Indiana County, Pa., where he reared a family of three sons and one daughter. The maternal grandfather of our subject, Frederick Sprankle, was of German birth. He too was a young man when he left the Fatherland and cast in his lot with a people strange to him, in Jefferson County, Pa. Like Mr. Simpson, he followed the occupations of farming and milling.

The father of our subject carried on agricultural pursuits in the Keystone State until 1855, when he emigrated to Keokuk, Iowa, where he made his home for a year. He then removed to Assumption, Ill., but a short time before the war went to Denver, Colo. He formerly had served as a scout with Buffalo Bill. After the breaking out of the Rebellion, he enlisted as a private in the Seventh Colorado Cavalry, but his meritorious conduct won him promotion to the rank of Major, a title he did not long enjoy, however, as he never returned from the struggle. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and served as Deacon of his congregation while in Pennsylvania. His wife belongs to the same church. She is now living with her son George and is seventy-eight years of age. Their four children are Agnes, wife of R. C. Cochrane, of Assumption, Ill.; Elizabeth, wife of Robert C. Laforgee, of Decatur; Emma C., wife of Elmer R. Culver, of this city; and George S.

Our subject was only thirteen years old when with his parents he came to Illinois. His educational privileges were very meagre, but he possesses an observing eye and retentive memory, and by his experience he has gained a practical and useful knowledge. Various pursuits engrossed his time and attention until 1876, when, as before stated, he formed a connection with Haworth & Sons, since which time he has been selling their check-rows and corn-planters, traveling through Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan.

On the 26th of April, 1866, Mr. Simpson was united in marriage with Miss Mary P. Haworth,

daughter of Mahlon and Sarah (Woolman) Hawthorn, of Decatur. She is the youngest child living of her father's family and was born in Point William, Clinton County, Ohio. She came to Decatur in 1854, and was educated in the public schools. Two children have been born unto Mr. and Mrs. Simpson, George H. and Fred, the latter of whom is at home. The former married Miss Grace Blume, daughter of George P. Blume, of Decatur, and they have a son, George B., who is in the real-estate and insurance business. Mrs. Simpson is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Simpson is a Republican in politics, having supported that party since he cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864. He has served six years in the city council and has taken a decided stand in favor of public improvements, having been an untiring worker for the advancement of the city's interests. Our subject and his wife have a comfortable home at No. 367 West Main Street, which is the abode of hospitality, and he also owns other city property. He is widely and favorably known in business circles and is a popular and genial gentleman.



**J**OHAN M. MOFFETT, who is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits on section 34, Blue Mound Township, is numbered among the early settlers of the county, having come here in 1842. He was born December 14, 1836, in Schnyler County, Ill., and is a son of John B. and Polly Ann Moffett. The father was born in Bath County, Ky., in 1800, and on attaining his majority, emigrated to Sangamon County, Ill., locating upon a farm near Springfield. He was a wheelwright by trade and a natural mechanic, and worked along that line in connection with agricultural pursuits. In 1831 he built the first steam-mill west of the Illinois River. After ten years, during which time he engaged in the milling business in Rushville, he came to this county, in 1842, and settled upon a farm in Blue Mound Township,

which he made his home until his death. He was three times married, our subject being a child of the second union. Mr. Moffett was a typical pioneer, and a very prominent and influential citizen of central Illinois.

John Moffett, whose name heads this record, was a lad of only six summers when he came with his father to this county. Amid the wild scenes of frontier life he was reared to manhood, and with his parents he shared in all the hardships and privations of pioneer life. He has never known any other home than Macon County. He remained on the old homestead until after he had attained his majority, when he began life for himself, following the occupation to which he was reared.

On the 26th of June, 1860, Mr. Moffett was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth McDonald. The lady is a native of the Keystone State, and came with her parents to Illinois in an early day. Nine children were born of the union of our subject and his wife, five sons and four daughters. The eldest, Homer, is still on the farm; William P. is the next younger; Ida May died in infancy; Samuel R. aids in the farm work; Carrie is the wife of William Wygand, an agriculturist of this county; Walter, Maggie, Elizabeth and John are still under the parental roof.

Mr. Moffett now owns one of the best improved farms in this county, and in addition to its cultivation he is an extensive stock-dealer. He raises a great many hogs, but devotes the greater part of his time to the breeding of fine horses, and has some of the best roadsters to be found in this section of the State. He also owns other property, including forty acres of land in Niantie Township and a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Kansas. His business career has been one of prosperity, but his success is due entirely to his good management, enterprise, and his determined efforts, which have overcome all the obstacles in his path.

Mr. Moffett cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, since which time he has been a staunch supporter of the Republican party, doing all in his power to promote its growth and insure its success. He has never been an office-seeker, however, having steadily refused to accept



all public positions, save that of School Director, which he has held for a number of years. Himself and family are faithful and consistent members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, in which he has served as Trustee and Elder for some time. The members of the Moffett household form a family that is widely and favorably known, and in social circles they hold an enviable position.



**J**OHAN V. BIRKS, one of the extensive land owners of Macon County, who is now living a retired life at No. 1145 North Edwards Street, Decatur, is numbered among the early settlers of this community, and has been identified with the development of the country since an early day. He is therefore well worthy of a representation in this volume, and it is with pleasure that we present to our readers this record of his life. He has the honor of being a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Grayson County, April 10, 1841. His parents, Roland and Mary A. (Van Deventer) Birks, were both natives of Tennessee and came to Illinois in an early day. When our subject was only six months old they removed to Logan County, where they made their home for some years. The father is now living in Illiopolis, Sangamon County, at the age of seventy-seven years, but in 1876 the mother went to Kansas for her health and there her death occurred. They had a family of five children, viz.: Melinda A., who married Abner Copeland and died several years ago; Rebecea, who is the wife of T. J. Scroggin, and resides in Harristown Township, Macon County; David and James, twins, the former of whom is deceased, and the latter a resident of South Dakota; and John V., who is the youngest of the family.

Mr. Birks whose name heads this record was reared to manhood in Logan County, where he acquired his education in the public schools. He aided in the arduous labors of developing several new farms, for his father moved from place to

place and opened up several. When he was nineteen years of age the father gave to his three sons, David, James and John, the old homestead, and shortly after our subject was married in Bald Knob, Logan County, on the 6th of December, 1860, and began life for himself. He wedded Margaret E. Copeland, a native of that county, and a daughter of Abraham and Lydia (Myers) Copeland. Mrs. Birks' parents were both natives of Ohio, but her father was descended from an old Virginia family, while her mother's people were probably of German descent, as the name would imply. They both came to Illinois when quite young, and were married in Logan County. They were the parents of seven children, who all grew to manhood and womanhood with the exception of one who died in infancy, but at this writing four only are living: Mrs. Mary A. Gilbert, a widow, residing in Harrison County, Iowa; Mrs. Sarah Jane Mooney, of Bald Knob, Logan County, Ill.; Margaret, wife of our subject; and James E., a resident of Hamilton, Mo. After the death of the mother of the family, which occurred about 1849, Mr. Copeland married Miss Sarah A. Dickson, by whom he had eight children, and after her death he married Mrs. Rebecea Fink, by whom he has two children. Mr. Copeland is still living in Logan County, in the seventy-ninth year of his age.

The three Birks brothers remained together until all were married, but at length our subject sold his interest in the old farm, after which he rented land for two years. Subsequently he bought and improved one hundred and sixty acres of land in Sangamon County. In 1864, he took up his residence upon a farm, which he made his home until 1873, when he traded it for land in Macon County, comprising two hundred and forty acres in Harristown Township. Locating thereon, he began its further development and made of it a fine farm, which continued to be his home until January, 1892. Its boundaries he had extended by additional purchases from time to time, until he now owns six hundred and forty-one acres of valuable land, all in Harristown Township. In connection with its cultivation he has engaged extensively in feeding and selling stock. Upon his land he has excellent improvements, including good barns,



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*George W. Fisher*



*Elizabeth L. Liser*

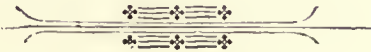


LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

houses and other necessary buildings and all the accessories of a model farm.

In 1892, Mr. Birks came to Decatur and has since made his home in this city. By the union of our subject and his wife have been born the following children: Barbara A., who became the wife of W. F. Lawrence, of Macon County, and died in 1883, leaving a daughter, Elnora Dell, who since her mother's death has made her home with her grandfather, and is now eleven years of age; Abraham C., who married Myrtle Ash, and operates a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in this county; Elmer V., who is working for the H. H. Hill Company, of Decatur; and Carrie A., a maiden of fourteen years, who is attending school.

In politics, Mr. Birks is a Democrat, having always supported that party. He has never been an office-seeker, however, yet has held the position of Township Assessor for two terms. He has been a member of the Christian Church for twenty years. Mr. Birks has been the architect of his own fortune, and in building it has erected a solid and substantial structure, which indicates his thoroughness, perseverance, good management and enterprise. He has a handsome competency, which enables him to live retired, surrounded by all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.



**G**EORGE W. HISER is a retired farmer of Decatur, whose life has been a busy one, but as the result of his industry and enterprise, his perseverance and good management, he is now enabled to lay aside business cares and rest in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. He was born in Cumberland County, Pa., December 15, 1828, and is a son of George and Mary (Wolf) Hiser, who were also born in the Keystone State and were of German descent. Of their family of ten children, six were sons and four were daughters: Sarah, of Decatur; John, of Oakley, Ill.; Catherine and Solomon, deceased; George W.; William, of Oakley Township; Eliza, wife of Sam-

uel Miller, of Decatur; Levi, of Forsyth; Mary, wife of David Garver, of Whitmore Township; and Abraham, of Oakley Township.

The father of the subject of this sketch was a shoemaker by trade and followed that business in early life, but after his emigration Westward he carried on farming. In 1850 he came to Macon County and purchased a small farm, to which he afterward added forty acres. His death occurred in 1867, at the age of seventy-six years, and his wife passed away when about eighty years of age. They were members of the United Brethren Church. The paternal grandfather was a native of Pennsylvania and spent his entire life in Perry County. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812 and lived to an advanced age.

The days of his boyhood and youth our subject quietly passed upon the old farm in Pennsylvania, where he remained until he had attained his majority. At the age of eighteen years he began learning the wagon-maker's trade, which he followed until 1853. In 1850 he came with his parents to Illinois, and three years afterward started across the plains for California. The journey was made by wagon along the northern route. He spent six years in that State, prospecting for gold, and then returned home by the southern route with E. O. Smith. He took with him a lot of horses to Texas, where he left them in charge of two young men, who there engaged in raising horses for him. Quite a number of these were taken by rebel soldiers and used in the Confederate service.

Mr. Hiser reached his old home in 1860, and in Macon County purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land three miles north of Harristown. This was an unbroken tract, but he soon plowed it and sowed it in wheat, and after continuing its cultivation for some time he rented it for several years. He also bought one hundred and twenty acres of land in Decatur Township, three miles northwest of the city, which he still owns. Later he purchased fifty acres adjoining this, together with twenty acres in Decatur Township, of which he still owns fifteen acres. He also has a well-improved section in Piatt County, and his landed possessions yield to him a good income.

On the 1st of March, 1866, Mr. Hiser was married to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Christopher and Margaret (Getford) Garver. Their union was blessed with two daughters: Mary Alice, now the wife of Elias H. Shimer, of Waco, Tex.; and Matilda, who died in 1884, at the age of fifteen years. Mr. and Mrs. Hiser began their domestic life upon a farm on Stevens' Creek, and in connection with the cultivation of his land our subject engaged quite extensively in stock-raising, making a specialty of hogs. He there lived for eleven years, but in 1877 he came with his wife to Decatur and has since made his home at No. 843 College Street. His present residence at No. 855 was erected in 1889. The home is a hospitable one, and Mr. and Mrs. Hiser rank high in social circles. They hold membership with the First Methodist Episcopal Church, and he is serving as one of its Trustees. In politics he is a Republican, but has never been an office-seeker, preferring to devote his energies to his business interests, in which he has met with excellent success.



THOMAS A. PRITCHETT, who is now engaged in the real-estate business in Decatur, has for many years been connected with the business interests of Macon County, in Niantic and in this city. He was born in Bourbon County, Ky., on the 23d of May, 1830, and comes of an old family of that State. His parents, William and Lydia (Wilson) Pritchett, were both natives of Kentucky and made their home in the midst of the celebrated Blue Grass region, about seven miles from Paris. The Wilson family lived originally in Maryland and became pioneer settlers of Kentucky. When our subject was about fourteen years of age his father died. He had been a well-to-do farmer and owned some three hundred acres of valuable land. In the family were nine children, of whom eight grew to manhood and womanhood.

The subject of this sketch was the seventh in order of birth. He acquired his education in the public schools, and remained at home until he had attained his majority. On the 21st of June, 1851, he was joined in marriage with Mary E., daughter of William Ingles, and a native of Bourbon County. Having learned the trade of a harness and saddle maker, Mr. Pritchett followed that business in Paris, Ky., from 1853 until 1856, when he determined to seek a home in Illinois, and in May of the latter year became a resident of Springfield, where he remained for about a year. In the spring of 1857, he purchased a tract of land from the Illinois Central Railroad Company in Niantic Township, this county, and began transforming the wild prairie into rich and fertile fields, but in 1864 he abandoned agricultural pursuits to enter mereantile life. He first engaged in the dry-goods trade, but afterward for a number of years carried on a hardware and agricultural store in Niantic, doing a large business, which brought him in a good income.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Pritchett were born nine children, five of whom are still living, as follows: Clara B., wife of James H. Chamberlain; James H., Mamie C., Nettie C. and Ada S. The other four children died in infancy. The family is one of prominence in this community, having many friends among the best class of people.

Our subject's fellow-townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have several times called upon him to serve in a number of public positions of trust. He was elected Justice of the Peace in 1860, and for twenty years held that office, discharging his duties with a promptness and fidelity that assured his re-election and won him the commendation of all concerned. For eight years he served as Notary Public, and was elected the second member of the Board of Supervisors from Niantic Township. In politics he was first a Whig, and on the dissolution of that party he voted for Douglas, in 1860, since which time he has been a Democrat, although in local elections his vote is not controlled by party ties.

In 1882 Mr. Pritchett came to Decatur, and has since been engaged in the real-estate business. In 1888 the firm of Pritchett, Walmsley & Co. was



organized, W. H. Cave being the silent partner. They do a general agency business and handle for themselves a great deal of city property, being interested in almost all the additions to the city. The company are also agents for several leading fire insurance companies. Mr. Pritchett is one of the owners of the Syndicate Block. He has been connected with the Christian Church for a number of years, and served as Elder for some time in Niantic. He is a charter member of Niantic Lodge, I. O. O. F., and formerly took an active part in its work. He also belongs to the Masonic lodge. For thirty-six years he has resided in Macon County, and has therefore witnessed much of its growth and progress. He has always been a public-spirited and progressive citizen, and both in public and private life his reputation is above reproach.



**F**RANK M. GADDIS is the President of the Decatur Lumber and Manufacturing Company. He was born near Wilmington, Clinton County, Ohio, on the 31st of October, 1851, and there spent the first twelve years of his life, when with his parents he came to Macon County, Ill., the family locating three miles east of Maroa. The public schools afforded him his educational privileges, and at the age of fifteen years he began to earn his own livelihood by entering the employ of Samuel K. Swigley, who was engaged in the lumber business. Our subject has since continued his connection with that business, and has risen step by step until he has become President of the Decatur Lumber and Manufacturing Company.

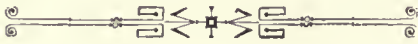
In 1858, this business was established by Mr. Swigley, who was its proprietor until 1870, when his death occurred. The business then passed into the hands of C. P. Thatcher, who was at its head for five years. On the expiration of that time, Mr. Gaddis became a partner. He had succeeded in accumulating some \$500, which he invested in the business. It was then carried on under the name

of the Thatcher Lumber Company for some time. Our subject invested more and more, until he had \$25,000 in the business. After four years, during which time operations had been carried on under the title of the Thatcher Lumber Company, Mr. Thatcher retired, and the firm of Gaddis & Huff was formed. Under this name trade was carried on until the incorporation of the company on the 1st of January, 1887, with a capital stock of \$50,000. This was increased in January, 1892, to \$100,000 and is all paid up. Previous to its incorporation it was only a lumber company, but since then a factory has been established for the manufacture of sash, doors, blinds, moldings, etc. Employment was at first furnished to twenty men. On the 19th of November, 1890, this building was destroyed by fire, with a loss of about \$24,000, as it was only insured for about \$8,000. Within ninety days, however, the factory was re-opened on an increased scale and now employs about sixty men. It is fitted up with all the latest improved machinery, and about three carloads are shipped per week. The officers of the company are F. M. Gaddis, President; Thomas V. Jones, Vice-President; A. S. Knouff, Secretary; and Samuel Alsop, Treasurer. H. M. Prescott is also a Director, and he and the above-named gentlemen comprise the stockholders.

On his twenty-fifth birthday Mr. Gaddis was united in marriage to Miss Nancy J. Snyder, of Centralia, Ill., and their union has been blessed with a family of four children, as follows: Nettie Ruth, Jesse Grant, Irene Edna and Laura May. The family circle yet remains unbroken and all are still at home. The parents are both members of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, and for fifteen years Mr. Gaddis has held a membership with the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T.

In connection with his other interests, Mr. Gaddis is sole manager of the Niagara Anti-Freezing Force Pump, and is interested in the Combination Wire and Picket Fence Company. With the business of which he is now at the head he is perfectly acquainted, for he has worked in all its departments, and he is now superintendent of the mechanical department. The success of this enter-

prise is no doubt largely due to our subject, who adds to his thorough understanding of the business an enterprise and industry which would win him success in almost any undertaking. The prosperity of his career is due entirely to his own efforts and is therefore well deserved. He is a man whose many excellencies of character and sterling worth have gained him universal confidence, and it is with pleasure that we present to our readers this record of his life.

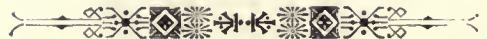


**S**AMUEL M. DILLEHUNT, who is engaged in farming on section 22, Blue Mound Township, has spent his entire life in this county. He was born on the 31st of July, 1849, in the city of Decatur, and comes of an old pioneer family that has long been identified with the history of this community. His parents are Benjamin and Martha E. (Nesbit) Dillehunt, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. They had a family of nine children, of whom our subject is the fifth in order of birth.

Samuel Dillehunt passed the days of his boyhood and youth in his parents' home and acquired his education in the public schools of Decatur. On attaining to man's estate, he left the city and removed to the farm where he now resides. From his father's estate he received fifty acres, and upon this tract he began his farming operations. As a companion and helpmate on life's journey he chose Miss Helen B. Hughes, the marriage ceremony being performed on the 3d of November, 1870. The lady is a native of the Buckeye State. She was born June 17, 1852, and is a daughter of David L. and Zenetta (Carson) Hughes. Her father is now living a retired life in Decatur. He was born in Boston, Mass., and at the early age of seven years was left an orphan and was then adopted by a Mrs. Graves, with whom he remained until he had attained to man's estate. Having arrived at years of maturity, he determined to seek a home in the West, and removed to Ohio, where

he worked at his trade of brick-layer for a time. In 1858 he went to Ohio, where he has since lived. He is of Irish extraction. His wife is a native of Ross County, Ohio, and is of Irish and German descent. They became the parents of nine children, but three are now deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Dillehunt were born eight children, namely: Effie Helen, Martha Zenetta, Benjamin David, Anna Beatrice, Samuel B., Tottie, Bunn and Helen Marguerite. Martha Zenetta, the second child, died in infancy. The other children are still with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Dillehunt began their domestic life upon the farm where they now reside, which has been their home continuously since. He is an enterprising and progressive farmer, and the neat appearance of his place indicates his careful supervision. His fields are well tilled and everything about his place is in a thrifty condition. The farm comprises two hundred and eighty acres of land, which pays a golden tribute to the owner, and his beautiful home is pleasantly situated about four miles northwest of Blue Mound. Our subject began life with only the fifty acres of land left him by his father, and with this as a nucleus he has gathered together his present possessions. In politics he is a Republican and has filled the offices of Commissioner of Highways and School Director.



**J**OHAN T. BARNETT, chief engineer of the water works and City Electrician of Decatur, has occupied his present position since the 5th of June, 1879, and his long service well indicates his efficiency and fidelity to duty. On the 5th of September, 1833, he was born in Greene County, Ill. His father, Rev. William Barnett, was a well-known preacher of the Greenfield circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church in early days.

John T. was reared upon a farm until sixteen years of age, when he began to learn the machinist's trade in the Chicago & Alton Railroad shops



in Bloomington, Ill. He remained with that company for eight years and became familiar with the business in all its details. After the outbreak of the war, he was made a recruiting officer in Sangamon County, Ill., where he recruited many half-companies, and finally recruited a full company, of which he was elected Captain, but Gov. Yates asked him to remain as recruiting officer and gave him a captain's commission.

After a year and a-half, Mr. Barnett resigned and came to Decatur. He worked for the Illinois Central Rolling Mills in Centralia and Amboy, but made his home in this city, and was thus employed for eleven years. His capability and efficient service won him promotion and he became superintendent of the rolling mills, having charge of one hundred and fifty men. He afterward formed a connection with the Haworth Check-Rower Company, working in the shops and on the road. In 1879 he was made superintendent of the water works. The system used is the Holly system, where pressure is given direct to the mains by the engines, without stand-pipes. The plant has two Allis engines, with a capacity of one and a-half millions daily, and a Clapp & Jones pump, with a capacity of one and a-half millions. The engines are two hundred horse power each, the power being supplied by three batteries. The plant is situated on the bank of the Sangamon River, a mile south of Lincoln Park, and was originally started in 1871, with a capacity of only two hundred and fifty thousand gallons daily, but the new plant pumps two million gallons and has a reserve of twenty thousand gallons. It has thirty miles of main. Since Mr. Barnett has filled the position of chief engineer, and since the new machinery has been secured and placed in operation, no fault has been found with the system of water works, which is indeed very complete and would be an honor to a place much larger than Decatur.

The electric-light plant of which our subject has charge is owned by the city. The Wood system is used, with a Hamilton-Corliss engine of one hundred and seventy-five horse power, which was secured in 1885, at a cost of \$20,000. There were at first only fifty-nine arc lights, but these have been increased to one hundred and three. Under

the Wood system the cost of carrying on the electrical works has been reduced one-half, and it is needless to say that with Mr. Barnett at the head everything is done in a first-class manner. To some extent our subject has engaged in dealing in real estate, having erected and sold a number of houses. He has made all his investments in Decatur property, and still owns six residences in this city.

On the 28th of October, 1855, in Jacksonville, Ill., Mr. Barnett was joined in marriage to Miss Ann Kinney, a native of that city. They have three children: Nettie, wife of Clay De Pew, of Decatur, who is traveling for the firm of Race & Co.; George, who is in charge of a number of men in the Wabash yards; and Charles, who is chief clerk in Griswold's hardware store of Decatur.

Socially, Mr. Barnett is a Knight-Templar Mason. He belongs to Ionie Lodge No. 312, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T., of which he was Captain-General for two years. In 1877, he was elected on the Labor ticket as Alderman from what is now the Seventh Ward, and held the position for two years, during which time he served as Chairman of the Committee on Streets and Alleys. When his term expired he was made Deputy Marshal, but he resigned that position after three months to enter upon his present work. Mr. Barnett is well known in Decatur as one of its leading citizens and as a popular gentleman, whose genial manner and sterling worth have gained him many friends.



**N**OAH JACOBS, who is engaged in farming on section 30, South Wheatland Township, is an honored early settler of Macon County, who has experienced all the hardships and difficulties of frontier life, while aiding in the development and advancement of the community. He well deserves representation in this volume, and it is with pleasure that we present this sketch



to our readers. Mr. Jacobs was born near Harper's Ferry, Loudoun County, Va., February 20, 1831, and is descended from good old Revolutionary stock, his grandfather, Christian Jacobs, having aided the Colonies in their struggle for independence.

The father of our subject, Adam Jacobs, was born in Loudoun County, and besides farm work, with which he became familiar, he learned to make plows and cradles. He also became a cooper and shoemaker. In the Old Dominion he married Rachel Edwards, whose father was also a Revolutionary soldier. In 1836 he came with his family to the West, making the journey with a wagon and a three-horse team. After a tedious journey they settled fifteen miles east of Springfield, Ill., the father purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land. Upon the farm which he there improved he and his wife spent their remaining days. He was a genuine pioneer and a sturdy and valued citizen of the community. In politics he was a lifelong Democrat, and in religious belief was a Lutheran. In the family were seven children who grew to mature years, and three are now living, the brothers of our subject being George, who served in the Forty-first Illinois Infantry during the late war; and Jesse, who makes his home in Kansas.

Noah Jacobs was five years old when he came to this State. His boyhood was passed in the log cabin in Sangamon County, and the life he lived was a typical frontier one. He had to go eighty miles to mill, and used to drive hogs to St. Louis, it requiring twelve days to make the trip. He went to school very little. Through reading, traveling, and through experience and observation, however, he made himself a well-informed man. He remained at home until his mother's death, when, at the age of sixteen years, he began working as a farm hand at \$6 per month, being thus employed until his marriage.

On the 14th of September, 1854, in Sangamon County, Mr. Jacobs married Sarah A. Ayres, who was born in Kentucky December 1, 1834, and is a daughter of Robert Ayres. In 1855 Mr. Jacobs came with his wife and child to Macon County, and lived for a year in Decatur. He then bought

thirty acres of land near his present home, on which was an old log house with a clapboard roof, across which poles were laid to hold the boards in place. At length he sold that place and bought his present farm, comprising one hundred acres of rich and fertile land. The place is well watered, has good buildings upon it, good grades of stock are there raised, and in all its appointments it shows the careful supervision of a thrifty and enterprising owner. He also has land in Blue Mound Township, and has just sold a small farm for \$5,000.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs have been born seven children. William, who was born in Sangamon County, married Miss Garver, by whom he has four children, and is now proprietor of a meat-market and grocery store in Decatur. Logan, who married Miss Edwards, operates his father's farm in Blue Mound Township. Thomas, who is a good scholar and for ten years successfully engaged in teaching, is now an agriculturist of Wheatland Township; he married Miss Glaseoe. Charles, who married Miss Oren, of Decatur, owns a farm in Harristown Township. Noah M. was educated in the Normal School in Normal, Ill., was formerly a teacher, and is now employed on the *Herald*, in Decatur. Hattie is at home; and Carrie is the wife of William D. Miller, of Wheatland Township.

Mr. Jacobs has served as School Director for eighteen years, and filled the office of Assessor for three years, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity. He cast his first vote for Millard Fillmore in 1856, supported Lincoln in 1860, and is now a leader in Republican circles in this community. Himself and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Elwin, have contributed liberally to its support, and are faithful workers in the Master's vineyard. For many years Mr. Jacobs was Superintendent of the Sunday-school, and has been active in training youthful minds so that in later years their lives will be upright and honorable. His own life has been one well worthy of emulation, and his deeds of generosity, kindness and benevolence have won for him the love of many and the respect of all. As a means of recreation, our subject indulges

his taste for hunting. A Nimrod of expert marksmanship, he has brought down many fine animals, and several deer heads are on his walls, while a large bearskin adorns the floor. He has hunted in Michigan, Arkansas, Missouri and Mississippi, and each year engages in a hunting expedition.



**A**LONZO HALL, M. D., the leading physician of Niantic, who has engaged in practice in this place since 1885 with marked success, is a native of Kentucky, his birth having occurred near Lexington on the 19th of December, 1858. He is a son of James Harvey and Sallie Ann (Pritchett) Hall, both of whom were also natives of Kentucky. On the breaking out of the late war, the father enlisted in the Union service, and while at the front the mother removed with her family of eight children to Illinois, locating on a farm five miles west of Niantic. When the war was over, Mr. Hall joined his family, and upon the old homestead he and his wife spent their remaining days.

The Doctor was quite a young child when the family came to Macon County. He spent the days of his boyhood and youth upon the farm, and acquired his education in the public schools. When he began earning his own livelihood he embarked in the livery business in Niantic, but after a short time formed a partnership with his brother, James P., and engaged in the manufacture of brick and tile in Tuscola. At length they sold out their business, and at the age of twenty-four years Mr. Hall began reading medicine, preparatory to entering the profession, with Dr. A. C. Foster, then a practicing physician of Niantic, now living at Blue Mound. The first course of lectures which he attended was in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of St. Louis in 1883. The following year he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago, and was graduated from that institution in the Class of '85. Returning to Niantic, Dr. Hall entered the office

of his old preceptor, Dr. Foster, but after a year the connection was discontinued and he has since been alone. He has been having an excellent practice, which might well be envied by many an older practitioner.

On the 25th of February, 1883, the Doctor was united in marriage in Chatham, Ill., with Miss Lizzie Ingels, of Farmingdale, Sangamon County. The lady was a native of that county, and for three years previous to her marriage successfully engaged in teaching. Four children were born of their union: Erma, who died at the age of three years; Anna Laura, six years old; Sallie Belle, aged four; and James Harvey, two years of age. The parents are both consistent members of the Christian Church and take an active part in its work, the Doctor filling the office of Deacon. In politics he was formerly a Democrat, but is now a staunch supporter of the Prohibition party. Since he began practice six physicians who were then located in Niantic or who came afterward have left the city because they could not secure sufficient patronage, as Dr. Hall received the greatest part of the business. He has both skill and ability, and his close attention to the profession has made him prominent among the physicians of Macon County.



**T**HOMAS LORD, a well-known and popular citizen of Decatur, was born near Chilli-cothe, Ross County, Ohio, February 18, 1823, and is a son of Garrison and Sophia (Abbott) Lord, both of whom were natives of Delaware. With their respective families they went to Ross County, Ohio, in an early day and were there married. About 1840 they became residents of Wheatland Township, Macon County, where they spent their remaining days. They had a family of seven children, five of whom are yet living. One brother, Andy, is a member of the police force of Decatur; Henry makes his home in Texas; James is in Oregon; and Sarah, wife of John Brewer, is living in Texas.

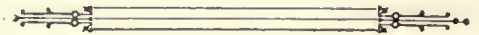


The subject of this sketch was a young man of seventeen years when with his parents he came to Illinois. At the age of twenty-four he left home to enter the Mexican War as a member of Company C, Fourth Illinois Infantry, under Capt. Pugh. The regiment joined Scott's army and participated in the battles of Cerro Gordo and Vera Cruz. They then went as far as Jalapa, but afterwards returned to Vera Cruz, and were then sent back to New Orleans, where Mr. Lord was honorably discharged after one year's service. While foraging for pumpkins, he received a blow from a club on his arm, which fractured the bone, but otherwise he escaped uninjured. For about five years he received a pension of \$8 per month, and in connection with his brother Henry, who was in the same company, was given a land warrant for one hundred and sixty acres of land. This he located six miles from Decatur, and, taking up his residence thereon, he began its cultivation, devoting his energies to its improvement for eighteen years. He made of it an excellent farm, but afterwards removed to another farm a-half mile to the north, where he made his home until 1888. The old homestead comprised two hundred acres of valuable land, and in addition he owns another farm of two hundred and forty acres, and he also owns two hundred and forty acres in Macon Township. To the cultivation of his land he gave his personal attention until ten years ago, and he also extensively engaged in raising cattle, sheep and hogs.

On the 1st of March, 1849, Mr. Lord was united in marriage with Miss Sallie McDaniel, who was born in Christian County, Ill., and died in Decatur, May 12, 1880. Seven children were born unto them, but five died in early life, and Minerva died at the age of seventeen. The only surviving child is Mary Ellen, wife of James S. Cussins, a druggist and physician of Owaneco, Christian County, Ill. He studied medicine in Rush Medical College, of Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1877, and with the exception of one year spent in Decatur has since engaged in practice at his present place of residence. He also owns a general store there, and is a prominent citizen as well as a leading physician. He married Miss

Lord on the 1st of January, 1878, and they now have three children: Minerva May, Lelah Lord and Bessie Marie.

In 1888, Mr. Lord came to Decatur, where he has since lived a retired life. He began for himself with only eighty acres of land, which he received for his services in the Mexican war. With this small beginning as a nucleus, he has become possessed of a fine property, and his industry and energy have made him a wealthy man. His prosperity is well deserved, being the just reward of his own efforts. From his boyhood Mr. Lord has been a great hunter, and many a deer and wolf has he killed. Each year he joins a party that goes to the wilds of Arkansas in October or November to spend several weeks in deer-hunting. He is a fine marksman, and many a trophy of the chase adorns his rooms. He is a pleasant, genial gentleman, delighting in humor, and his conversation is enriched by many a story of some thrilling hunting experience.



**D**R. MORRISON BRANDOM, a well-known oculist of Decatur, whose skill and ability have gained him a wide and well-deserved reputation, is a native of Indiana, his birth having occurred near Columbus, in Bartholomew County, on the 22d of October, 1832. He is one of a family of twelve children born unto John and Margaret (Walker) Brandom, both of whom were natives of Virginia. On the paternal side the family is of Welsh descent, and on the maternal side is of German origin. Both the Brandom and Walker families were noted for longevity. Her mother, Mary Stewart, died at the age of ninety-six. Her brother, Absalom Stewart, was for five years a captive among the Indians, and ran the gauntlet at Shawneetown.

The father of our subject was a Virginian farmer and emigrated to Indiana during its Territorial days, locating at what is now known as Rising Sun. After a short time he removed to Haw Patch,



in Bartholomew County, where he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land, upon which he made his home until 1834. He died in that year, in the faith of the Baptist Church, aged thirty-five. His wife died July 4, 1893, in her ninety-fourth year, her birth having occurred September 17, 1799. After her first husband's death she was again married, becoming the wife of Jesse Hughes, who died in 1844. By this husband she had one child. She afterward became the wife of George Rupe and survived him for thirty years. Harrison Bandom, M. D., of Springfield, Ill., is a twin brother of our subject, and the resemblance is so striking that their most intimate friends are deceived, and they themselves can scarcely select their own photographs.

The Doctor spent the days of his boyhood and youth upon the home farm and remained in Indiana until thirty-five years of age. His early education was acquired in the old-fashioned subscription schools. He remained with his mother until fourteen years of age, and from that time until 1858 worked by the month as a farm hand at very small pay. At length he determined to enter upon a professional career, and in 1858 began the study of medicine at Whitestown, Ind. In the winter of 1864-65 he attended the Ohio Medical College, of Cincinnati, but previous to this time had already engaged in practice at Americus and Buck Creek, Ind. From the latter place he removed in 1865 to Cerro Gordo, Piatt County, Ill., where he engaged in the practice of his profession for several years. In 1870 he came to Decatur, and with the exception of six years spent in Springfield, Ill., and Wichita, Kan., has since made this city his home and the scene of his labors.

On the 25th of August, 1861, was celebrated the marriage of Dr. Bandom and Miss Mary C. Starr, daughter of Henry and Lydia (Webb) Starr, of Tippecanoe County, Ind. Their union has been blessed with six children, but Harry died aged twelve years, and one died in infancy. Charlie, the eldest, an optician of Decatur, married Miss Nellie Winebrenner, and unto them have been born three children, Harry, Joseph and Irene. Lillie is the wife of George Gray, of Hot Springs, Ark. Blanche is the wife of Charlie Wagonseller, of Decatur, and

one child graces their union, Paul. Morrison completes the family.

In politics the Doctor is independent. Socially, he is a member of the Odd Fellows' society and of Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M. His wife holds membership with the Methodist Church. She is the owner of a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Pawnee County, Kan. The Doctor owns a pleasant home in Decatur at No. 1263 North Water Street. He has built up a good practice in this city, making a specialty of the treatment of eye, ear and cancer cases. He has been a close student of his profession, and by his untiring labors has won a foremost place in the ranks of his professional brethren.



**J**OHN H. HARTWIG is one of the self-made men of Macon County. He resides on section 27, Pleasant View Township, where he owns and operates a good farm of two hundred acres of arable land. Almost the entire amount is under a high state of cultivation, and the place is improved with good buildings and fences, and the other accessories of a model farm. Its well-tilled fields and the neat appearance of the place well indicate the thrift and enterprise of the owner.

The subject of this sketch is a native of Germany, his birth having occurred in the Fatherland on the 10th of April, 1824. He is a son of John and Eliza (Opka) Hartwig, both of whom were natives of that country, where they were reared to manhood and womanhood and spent their entire lives as farming people.

John Hartwig, whose name heads this record, attained his majority under the paternal roof, the days of his boyhood being passed in his native land in the usual manner of farmer lads. He there carried on agricultural pursuits until thirty-four years of age, when he determined to emigrate to America, believing that he would thereby benefit his financial condition. Bidding adieu to home

and friends, he sailed for the New World, and after a voyage of seven weeks on the broad Atlantic, which he crossed in a sailing-vessel, he reached the shores of the New World. He has never yet had occasion to regret the step then taken, for he has here found a pleasant home for his family and met with a degree of prosperity which would probably not have crowned his efforts had he remained in the land of his birth.

Ere leaving Germany, Mr. Hartwig was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Margaret Nust, a native of that country. She died on the home farm in Macon County in 1875, leaving two children, a son and daughter: Lizzie, now the wife of Louis Miller, a prosperous and progressive farmer living in Clark County, Ill.; and William, a successful agriculturist of this county.

When Mr. Hartwig reached Illinois he had no capital save energy and industry and a determination to win success. This determination he has carried out. For a time he worked as a farm hand and later he rented land for a few years, but as soon as possible with the capital he had acquired through his enterprise he purchased a small farm, and has since added to it from time to time, until it now comprises three hundred acres. All this represents his own earnings and is the just reward of his efforts. In his political views Mr. Hartwig is a Republican. He and his family are faithful members of the German Methodist Church, and are highly respected citizens of this community.



**J**OHAN SAWYER, a retired farmer residing in Decatur, claims Pennsylvania as the State of his nativity. He was born on the 11th of October, 1811, in Lebanon County, and is a son of John and Mary (Bell) Sawyer, also natives of the same county. The family was founded in the Keystone State in an early day. The father of our subject served in the War of

1812, and represented his district in the Legislature. He was a farmer, and spent his entire life in the county where his birth occurred. In the Sawyer family were five sons and five daughters, but only three are now living: John, Thomas Jefferson and Mrs. Sallie Young, of Philadelphia.

Our subject remained under the parental roof until after he attained his majority and became familiar with farming in all its details. In 1834, he was united in marriage with Miss Eliza, daughter of Adam Katring, of Lebanon County, Pa. Six children were born unto them. Mary, born March 4, 1837, became the wife of Silas Packard, of Decatur; John, the next, was born January 3, 1839; William, born April 19, 1841, married Miss Guliek; Orlando was born September 10, 1843; Emma L., born November 20, 1845, is Mrs. Butler, of Kentucky; Thomas E., born August 19, 1848, died when about a year old. The mother passed away within a few days of the death of the youngest child, and Mr. Sawyer was again married, on the 27th of May, 1854, this union being with Mrs. Harriet (Mylor) Guliek, widow of Levi Guliek, who was born in Loudoun County, Va., on the 18th of November, 1809, and died of cholera at Madison, Ind., September 14, 1852. His wife was born in Ross County, Ohio, March 27, 1821, and they were married January 3, 1838. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Guliek were born five children: Julia A., born September 27, 1840; William F., who was born March 27, 1843, and died March 30, 1847; Mary Ellen, who was born April 2, 1846, and died July 9, 1872; La Fayette, who was born August 2, 1849; and one who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer had three children. Anna B., born February 28, 1855, is the wife of Jacob Harnsberger, of Champaign, by whom she has two children; Edwin, born September 18, 1859, is at home; Alice, born December 28, 1861, died February 26, 1885, at the age of twenty-three years. The second Mrs. Sawyer passed away May 5, 1892, at the age of seventy-one, and her death was deeply mourned by many friends.

Mr. Sawyer whose name heads this record is one of the honored pioneers of Macon County. In the spring of 1834, immediately after his first marriage, he came to Illinois, and settled east of



the present site of Decatur. The country was new and wild and he lived in true pioneer style. On coming West he was accompanied by his cousin, James Geddes. Leaving his wife with friends in Indiana, they proceeded on horseback to select a home in the then almost unbroken wilderness. It was necessary to ford almost innumerable streams, and at times it seemed as if it would be necessary to retrace their steps. On reaching White River, at Muncie, Ind., the stream was so swollen that less determined men would have abandoned the journey, but they urged their horses into the flood, swam them across and went on their way. They had no fixed destination in view, and on reaching Decatur were so pleased with the place and its future prospects that they determined to cast in their lot with its pioneers. Mr. Sawyer made a purchase of one hundred and twenty acres of land just east of town, on which were a few improvements, investing \$600. Having secured a home he returned to Indiana, and in a few months he and his young wife were established in their new residence. They bore all the experiences of pioneer life, and twice in one season Mr. Sawyer drove an ox-team to Chicago to market, a distance of one hundred and eighty miles.

After the death of his first wife, in August, 1848, Mr. Sawyer went to California, in 1850, making the journey with mule-teams, and there he engaged in prospecting for gold. He made some money during that trip, and in 1854 returned to Macon County, where he has made his home continuously since. Soon after his return he purchased two hundred and five acres of land on the river, east of Decatur, which he afterward sold for \$10,000. He then went to Forsyth, six miles north of Decatur, and bought three one hundred and sixty acre tracts of land and another of twenty acres. Of this, he gave one son eighty acres and another one hundred and sixty but still retains possession of the remainder. In connection with this, he also owns a small tract of fourteen acres in the suburbs of the city, besides his residence property at No. 405 College Street and some on Water Street.

Mr. Sawyer has prospered in his business affairs, as is indicated by the possessions he has acquired. He has been a careful business man, devoting his

entire energies and attention to conducting his farm and incidental enterprises, and by careful oversight and honest dealing he has attained success in life; and now as he draws near its close he lives in the consciousness of an honorable career, and can take comfort in the fact that as the dark shadows creep apace, loved ones who have gone before will soon be met and welcomed. He has fought a good fight and his memory will be honored. Mr. Sawyer was made Mason in Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M., of Decatur, in 1849, following in the footsteps of his father, who was an active Mason before and during the great anti-Masonic period following the disappearance of the famous Morgan. With Macon Lodge he has now held membership for forty-four years and is highly esteemed by all his associates. He also belongs to the Chapter and Beaumanoir Commandery. In politics, he has been a lifelong supporter of the Democratic party. He ranks among the honored pioneers of the county, having here made his home for over sixty years. He came here when the county was in its early infancy and has therefore witnessed almost its entire growth and development. The early settlers were its founders, and as one of them, Mr. Sawyer well deserves representation in this volume.



PROF. M. E. LOCKHART, editor and proprietor of the *Niantic Times*, and the efficient Principal of the public schools, has grown to manhood in Niantic, and has won distinction among the friends of his youth, who recognize in him one of the leading and influential citizens of the community. He was born in this village December 26, 1859, and is a son of Jesse and Mary (Averitt) Lockhart, who were married in 1854. The father was born in Warrick County, Ind., June 8, 1826, and when a lad of about eleven years was forced to make his own way in the world. He began sailing on flatboats on the Mississippi, learned all the windings of the



river, and became pilot. On account of a severe attack of cholera he was forced to abandon that business, and in 1849 came to Macon County, Ill., where he secured a position with Mr. Acorn, making rails. In that way he got a start, and later purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, on part of which Niantic now stands. It was all wild prairie, entirely destitute of improvements, but he transformed it into a valuable tract and later added to it. For fifteen years he was a drover in Niantic. He possesses considerable mechanical genius and has invented a number of railroad devices. He formerly took quite an active part in politics, being one of six in this township that voted the Democratic ticket in war times, and he was a delegate to the Democratic convention held in Louisville. He cast his first vote for Zachary Taylor, whom he knew personally, and was also acquainted with Jefferson Davis. For forty years he has been a member of the Masonic fraternity in Christian County. He married the daughter of N. G. Averitt, who was a native of North Carolina. The parents of our subject are still living in Niantic and are numbered among the highly respected citizens.

The Lockhart family numbers six children. Alice is the wife of Thomas H. Claypool, of this county; Adelaine is the wife of Jacob Erisman; Lina is the wife of Gus Houffe, of Bloomington, Ill.; M. E. is the next younger; and Lewis and Henry are at home and are employed in the *Times* office. The children were all born and reared in this locality and were educated in the public schools, becoming respected men and women and valued members of society. The Lockhart family is of mixed Scotch, Irish and German descent.

Prof. Lockhart whose name heads this record spent his early years upon the farm, his days being passed midst play and work in the usual manner of farmer lads. His early education, acquired in the common schools, was supplemented by study in a school at Owensburg, Ky. He also attended Banglois Seminary and the Central Normal College, of Danville, Ind., and in the Northwestern College of Elocution and Oratory he was also a student for a time. At the age of twenty he began teaching, and has followed the profession more or

less since. He is perfectly familiar with the work of the schoolroom, is an able instructor, and commands the respect and confidence of his pupils. For three years he has been Principal of the schools of Niantic.

In 1881 Prof. Lockhart married Miss Julia Farnam, a native of Iowa. Their family circle numbers five children: Charles, Jesse, Bertha, Mary and Celia. The parents are members of the Christian Church, and in politics Prof. Lockhart is a Democrat. He has never been an office-seeker, but has served as Justice of the Peace with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. For three months he has been in charge of the *Niantic Times*, and has made it a bright and interesting paper. His school work alone would fit him to make it a journal of high literary merit, and his desire to publish a paper pleasing to the community has found recognition in an increasing patronage.



**A**NDREW H. MILLS, a prominent attorney-at-law of Decatur, has since the 1st of May, 1891, engaged in practice as a member of the firm of Mills Brothers. He has been a thorough student of the profession, and his abilities, natural and acquired, have placed him in the front ranks among his brethren of the law. Our subject was born in Putnam County, Ill., October 6, 1851, and is a son of Eli R. and Elizabeth H. (Kimber) Mills, natives of Pennsylvania, his father being a playmate of the late Hon. James G. Blaine. In an early day they located in this State. The father was a boatman, and sailed from Pittsburgh to New Orleans, later running on the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. After settling in this State, he and his brother-in-law, Capt. Price, became owners of some boats, which they operated until Mr. Mills' death, in 1855. Mrs. Mills survived her husband only two weeks, and died leaving an infant only a month old. Altogether there were nine children in the family. Miss Mary Johnson, who had lived with Mr. and Mrs. Mills

from the time when she was eight years of age, reared the children, keeping the family together until one by one, as they attained sufficient age, they started out in life for themselves. This noble lady who so kindly cared for the friendless orphans now finds a pleasant home with our subject.

We now take up the personal history of Andrew H. Mills, who remained with his benefactress until able to earn his own livelihood. After attending the public schools, he attended Lincoln University, a college of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, from which he was graduated in 1875, after pursuing a five-years classical course, with the degree of A. B. Two years later, on completing the post-graduate course, the degree of A. M. was conferred upon him. Mr. Mills now turned his attention to teaching. He became a tutor in the university, where he remained for two years, and then went to Waverly, Morgan County, Ill., where for three years he was Superintendent of the public schools. During this time he also read law, and in May, 1881, was admitted to the Bar. On the 1st of June, 1881, he formed a partnership with his brother, Isaac R. Mills, and they now have a large and constantly increasing practice. Our subject is now, and has been since June 1st, 1888, Assistant State's Attorney, and has assisted in the prosecution of all the cases on the criminal docket, his special work being to get each case ready for trial. Occasionally he takes an active part in criminal trials, as in the Crawford and Westbrook murder cases and the Hunter election case.

On the 2d of January, 1877, in Lincoln, Ill., Mr. Mills wedded Miss Elizabeth E. Bell, daughter of the Rev. W. C. Bell, a pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. She graduated in the same class as her husband, and also took a post-graduate course with him, and for three years after their marriage acted as his assistant teacher in Waverly. They have a family of five children: Ralph G., Judith B., Helen E., Harold E. and Andrew H., Jr.

The parents are both members of the Presbyterian Church, and Mr. Mills takes a very prominent part in church work. Four years ago he was elected Deacon, and quite recently he has been

elected Elder. For eight years he has served as teacher of the Bible Class, and for three years he has been Superintendent of the Sunday-school. Under his able leadership the attendance of the school has increased from two hundred and sixty to three hundred and sixty. He has attended many Sunday-school conventions of the county and is recognized as a leader in Sunday-school work. For seven years he has been an active member in the Young Men's Christian Association, and during all this time has served on its board and as President of its finance committee. It was through his efforts that David F. Hamsher made the association his residuary legatee and thus secured to it \$18,000. In politics, Mr. Mills is a stalwart Republican and for some years was Chairman of the Sixth Precinct. He has taken an active part in campaign work throughout the county and congressional district, and in 1886 he was the candidate for County Judge. Mr. Mills is well fitted by his keen judgment and fertile resources for leadership and has thus become prominent in the various lines of work in which he is interested. The community recognizes in him one of its best citizens, a man whose upright, honorable life is worthy of emulation, and whose word is as good as his bond.



JAMES A. BLAIR, proprietor and owner of the leading hotel of Blue Mound, is a native of Ripley County, Ind. He was born on the 2d of March, 1845, and is a son of James A. and Mary (Gourley) Blair. The father was born in Scotland and was a son of Briece Blair, an officer in the British army, and who was also a large farmer and stock-raiser. James Blair, Sr., spent his early life on the farm in Scotland, but a few years after his marriage he crossed the briny deep to America, locating in New York, where he remained for a short time. Coming Westward, he located in Ripley County, Ind., and, purchasing land, spent the remainder of his life in that local-



ity, engaged in farming and stock-raising. He was one of the honored pioneers of the community, and his death was deeply mourned. His wife, who is also a native of Scotland, is still living and makes her home with her children in Ripley County, Ind. The family numbered four sons and one daughter, but the latter, Isabel, who was the eldest, is now deceased, as is also James A. Charles B., who served for three years during the late war, now follows farming in the Hoosier State. Thomas A. is a prominent farmer and stock-raiser of Ripley County, Ind.; and James A. is our subject.

We now take up the history of the latter, who was reared to manhood on the old homestead in the county of his nativity. He began his education in the district schools of the neighborhood, and afterward attended the academy at Versailles, Ind., for three winters. At the age of sixteen he attended school in Shelby County for a short time. In August, 1862, when only seventeen years of age, he joined the boys in blue of Company K, Eighty-third Ohio Infantry, in which he served for about eighteen months. In December, 1863, there was a call on the battlefield at Champion Hills for thirty-two volunteers to assist the Seventeenth Ohio Battery, but only seven responded, of whom our subject was one. He was afterward detached to this battery, and later re-enlisted in the First Regiment of Mounted Veteran Artillery, in which he served almost sixteen months, or until a general order of the War Department commanded all detached men to return to their regiments. In consequence he returned to the Eighty-third Ohio, with which he served until the close of the war. He participated in a number of important engagements, including the battles of Chickasaw Bayou, Ft. Gibson, Champion Hills, Black River Bridge, the siege of Vicksburg, Jackson (Miss.), Cameron Bridge and the siege at Ft. Blakely, Ala. With the exception of about twenty days, when he was confined to the field hospital by illness, our subject was always found at the front, faithfully fighting for the preservation of the Union.

At the close of the war Mr. Blair returned to his home in Indiana, but after a month came to Decatur, Ill., in the fall of 1865, and began work

as a farm hand. In the spring of 1866, he rented a farm in Christian County and began farming in his own interests, and later purchased one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land in Pleasant View Township, and began its development. There he carried on agricultural pursuits and stock-raising with good success until 1887, when he rented his land and removed to Russell, Kan., where he remained for about eight months. On the expiration of that period he returned to the city which is still his home and here purchased a residence, having determined to make his home in Blue Mound in order to better educate his children. For a year, however, he continued to operate his farm, but in December, 1891, he purchased what was then known as the Ward Hotel, but is now the Palace Hotel. This he has since conducted. The establishment is complete in all its appointments and supplied with all modern conveniences. The attractiveness of the house and the genial and pleasant manners of the host have won for the Palace Hotel a liberal patronage.

On the 1st of July, 1875, Mr. Blair was united in marriage with Miss Dianah Workman, who was born in Christian County, Ill., and is a daughter of Stephen B. and Dianah (Bilyeu) Workman. For a number of years her father carried on merchandising in Loami, Sangamon County, Ill., but afterward became a farmer of Christian County, where his death occurred in 1864. His wife survived him for many years and died on the old homestead in Christian County in 1881. Five children, a son and four daughters, have been born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Blair, namely: Mary D., Effie A., James William Sheridan (who died at the age of sixteen months and eleven days), Nellie M. and Lulu Flossie May.

Mr. Blair is a staunch Republican, having been a warm supporter of that party since casting his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. He was then in the service and had not attained his majority. Socially, he is a member of Blue Mound Lodge No. 682, A. F. & A. M.; and Blue Mound Post No. 347, G. A. R. He and his wife and their two eldest daughters are members of the Christian Church. Mr. Blair has led a busy and useful life, and his industry and enterprise have brought



him a handsome reward in the shape of considerable property. Besides the Palace Hotel, which he owns, he still has his valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres, together with some town lots in Russell, Kan. All he has has been acquired through his own efforts, and he may truly be called a self-made man. He is one of the leading and highly respected citizens of Blue Mound, and well deserves representation in the history of his adopted county.



THOMAS W. WADDELL, who devotes his energies to agricultural pursuits, and makes his home on section 15, Niantic Township, is a native of this State. He was born in Madison, Ill., December 18, 1837, and is a son of A. W. Waddell, a native of North Carolina, who emigrated with his mother and her family to the West in 1820, and became one of the honored early settlers of Madison. After arriving at years of maturity, he married Miss Judith, daughter of Gen. Samuel Whiteside, who was then living in Madison County, but spent his last days in Christian County. In the former county, Mr. Waddell cleared and developed a farm of about two hundred acres, and thereon followed agricultural pursuits throughout the remainder of his life. He died in 1878, and his wife passed away soon afterward. They both lie buried in Troy Cemetery, Madison County.

Our subject is the third in order of birth in a family of three sons and two daughters, who grew to mature years and became heads of families. The eldest, John L., removed from Madison to Logan County, where his death occurred in 1890. Arminta J. is the widow of Andy Simpson, of Logan County; Thomas W. is the next younger; William B. is an agriculturist of Logan County; and Laurine is the wife of Port Simpson, of Iowa.

In the county of his nativity, Thomas Waddell spent his boyhood days, and in the public schools of the neighborhood acquired a knowledge of the common English branches of learning. Upon the home farm he remained until he had attained his

majority, and then chose as a companion and help-mate Miss Mary Elizabeth Norris, who was born in Bond County, Ill., but spent the days of her maidenhood in Madison County. At an early age she was left an orphan and was reared by her uncle, Thomas Bowen. Their union was celebrated in Madison County in September, 1857, after which they removed to Logan County, where Mr. Waddell purchased a small farm, which he operated until 1863. It was in that year that he came to Macon County and bought eighty acres of raw land, the same on which he now resides. It was entirely uncultivated, not a furrow having been turned or an improvement made thereon, but he at once began breaking and fencing it, and as the land was new and rich, it soon brought forth abundant harvests for the labor bestowed upon it. The boundaries of the farm have been extended by additional purchase, until it now comprises one hundred and sixty acres. In addition to the neat and substantial residence, there are good barns and outbuildings, an orchard and all the modern improvements.

Since casting his first Presidential vote for Stephen A. Douglas in 1860, Mr. Waddell has supported each Presidential candidate of the Democratic party, and has been elected to several official positions of honor and trust. He has served two terms as Assessor, has been Commissioner of Highways and School Trustee, and for a number of years served his district as School Director. He has been a delegate to numerous county conventions. His influence has ever been given in behalf of good schools, and his hearty support and co-operation aid every enterprise that he believes calculated to prove of public benefit. He is a member and Past Grand of the Odd Fellows' lodge of Niantic, and his wife is a member of the Christian Church of that place.

This worthy couple have a family of seven children yet living, the eldest of whom is W. A., a farmer of this county; George W. is married, and makes his home in Niantic; Adeline is the wife of Louis Claypool, of Decatur; Thomas L. is married, and carries on business in the county seat; Ella, widow of Warren Lindsay, resides at home; and Roy and Emma complete the family. They also lost three children in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Waddell are widely and favorably known in the county, where for thirty years they have made their home. The former's record is that of a self-made man, who began life empty-handed, his possessions consisting of nothing but a bright hope of the future and a determination to succeed. His untiring labors and unflagging perseverance, together with the assistance of his estimable wife, have brought him a well-merited prosperity.



**G**EORGE C. KINSMAN, of Decatur, is superintendent of the Wabash Railroad Telegraph System, which position he has held since March, 1884. His appointment to this important and responsible position indicates the confidence reposed in his ability, and his long continuance in the service shows that the trust has not been misplaced. He was born in Ellington, N. Y., August 22, 1850, and is a son of Abner B. and Asenath M. (Chandler) Kinsman, the former a native of Vermont, and the latter of the Empire State. The Kinsman family is of English origin, the ancestors having emigrated from Old Albion to America in 1634. The Chandler family is of Dutch descent, being founded by emigrants from Amsterdam, Holland.

The father of our subject emigrated from his native State to New York in 1834, and there followed farming throughout the greater part of his life. He belonged to the old early militia, formed to protect the settlers from the Indians. His death occurred in Ellington in 1892, in the eighty-seventh year of his age. He was a member of the Congregational Church, to which all of his family belong. His widow still survives him and is now eighty-five years of age. Of their family Emily M. is the wife of R. P. Boody, of Morenci, Mich.; John A. is living in Sugar Grove, Pa.; James M. is deceased; Jennie E. resides in Ellington, N. Y.; Frances M. is the wife of Cortland Bates, of Ellington, N. Y.; Ella M. is the wife of Chauncey Crumb,

of Grant, N. Y.; George C. is the next younger; and Willis C., of Decatur, completes the family.

Mr. Kinsman of this sketch remained at home until fifteen years of age and was trained to farm work. He then came to the West and worked for one year in Morenci, Mich., after which he attended school in Oberlin, Ohio. His connection with telegraphy began with his appointment to the position of night operator for the Wabash Railroad at Napoleon, Ohio, August 8, 1868. He was afterwards station agent and operator at Rockfield and Delphi, Ind., where he remained until about 1870, when he became operator and clerk in the Superintendent's office at La Fayette, Ind. He afterwards worked as freight and passenger conductor for the same company, and as train dispatcher went to Springfield, Ill., where he remained until March 1, 1878, when he resigned to take a position as special agent in the Postoffice department. He was then offered the position of chief train dispatcher at Springfield, and returned in 1879 to that city, where he remained until August, 1881. At that time he was appointed assistant superintendent of telegraph of the entire Wabash System, with headquarters at St. Louis. It was in the summer of 1883 that the headquarters were transferred to Decatur, and in March, 1884, he was appointed to his present position.

On the 5th of March, 1873, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Kinsman and Miss Lora S. Christianity. Her father, Hon. I. P. Christianity, of Michigan, was Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court for some years, and was afterwards United States Senator. Mrs. Kinsman was a member of the Baptist Church, and a lady whose many excellencies of character endeared her to all. She died in Ida, Mich., August 1, 1877, leaving a son, Charles C., who was born December 14, 1873, in Springfield, Ill. On the 27th of February, 1884, Mr. Kinsman married Miss Jennie W. Sanford, daughter of Gen. W. W. Sanford, of St. Louis, Mo. Her father was a soldier in the Confederate army, was taken prisoner, afterwards paroled, and later enlisted in the Union army as a private, but became a Brigadier-General. He died from wounds received in the service. Two children have been born to our subject and his wife, Lora and Wilson.

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





DAVID U. FREELAND



MRS DAVID J FREELAND

In connection with his other business, Mr. Kinsman acts as superintendent for the Western Union Telegraph Company for all its offices along the lines of the Wabash System, and the Toledo, Peoria & Western, and the Omaha & St. Louis Railroads. He is a man of sterling worth, true to every trust reposed in him, and has the confidence and high regard of all with whom business or social relations have brought him in contact. In politics he is a supporter of Republican principles. Socially, he is a member of Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M., and his wife is a member of the Baptist Church. They have a pleasant home at No. 641 Prairie Avenue, and besides this property Mr. Kinsman owns a partly improved section of land in Buffalo County, Neb.



**D**AVID J. FREELAND, deceased, was born April 19, 1819, in Orange County, N. C., where he remained until seventeen years of age, when he came with his parents to Illinois, in 1836. The family located in what was then Macon, but is now Moultrie County, at the head of Marrowbone Creek, which in the early days was called Freeland's Point. There our subject remained until he had attained his majority, aiding in the labors of the farm and teaching school in Moultrie and adjoining counties. In the spring of 1857, he purchased a half-section of railroad land in Milan Township and began its improvement. He was the second settler of the township, and became one of its influential and leading citizens.

Mr. Freeland married Miss Sarah Strain, of Moultrie County, who died in 1843, leaving a son, Alexander S., who is now a prosperous agriculturist of this community, and whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. The mother is a daughter of David Strain, one of the honored pioneers of 1830. In June, 1848, Mr. Freeland was again married, his second union being with Miss Martha Sawyer, who was born June 15, 1831, in Coles County, Ill., and is a daughter of John and Hannah

(Radcliff) Sawyer. Her father was a native of England, and when a small child was brought by his parents to America. He followed farming throughout his entire life, his death occurring in Coles County, Ill., at the age of seventy-seven. His wife was a native of Kentucky, and died in Coles County when fifty-five years of age. By the second union of our subject ten children were born, three of whom are deceased. Jaqueline became the wife of John Blackwood, a stock-dealer of Decatur, and at her death left a daughter, Dessie Grace, who is making her home with her grandmother; Kate Ida died at the age of eleven; and Sarah at the age of thirty-one. The last-mentioned daughter was finely educated, having graduated from the Northern Indiana Normal School, and was a successful teacher. The living are Mary E., wife of David Sanner, a leading farmer of this county; Charles W., who is successfully engaged in farming in Milan Township; Eunice, wife of Eli Scott, a resident farmer of Moultrie County; James J., who follows the same pursuit, and who married Miss Ella Mayes, of Dalton City, to whom were born two children: a daughter, Oaksie, deceased, and a son, David Ewing, about two and a-half years old. Martha R., wife of John Botwell; Josie F., wife of Sherman Keller, a traveling salesman, residing in Decatur; and Hannah Jane, wife of Samuel Ekiss, who attended the Illinois State Normal at Normal, and for many years was one of the most successful teachers in Macon County.

As Charles W. is the eldest son, he remained at home a part of the time, and aided in the labors of the farm until thirty-two years of age. He attended the Blackburn University of Carlinville, and afterwards engaged in teaching school and in teaching music in this and adjoining counties until 1886, when he began farming, and now is the owner of two hundred acres of land in Milan Township, comprising the fine farm on which he now resides. He has served as Supervisor of his township for five years, has been, School Trustee for eight years, and was also Tax Collector. In April, 1887, he married Miss Susan, daughter of William K. and Susan (Alexander) Inman, of Decatur. Two sons have been born unto them, Anton and Adin.



Mr. Freeland whose name heads this sketch left a large estate, valued at some \$40,000, which had all been acquired through his own efforts, and as the result of his own industry and good management. He possessed good business ability, was fair and honorable in all his dealings, and his word was as good as his bond. The utmost confidence was reposed in him, which was never betrayed, and he was one of the prominent and influential citizens of the county, having a large circle of warm friends. He held membership with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, was a kind-hearted, generous man, and his life abounded in good works. Upon the old home farm he passed away September 16, 1892, and in his death the county lost one of its best citizens. His widow still survives him and resides on the old farm. She is a most estimable lady, and has the high regard of all who know her.



**D**AVIS BROWN is President of the Decatur Leader Manufacturing Company. This thriving city is noted for its many and varied industries, among the most important of which is the one just mentioned. The gentleman at the head of this enterprise is a man of fine business ability and inventive genius, and it is with pleasure that we here give this record of his life.

On the 18th of August, 1860, Mr. Brown was born in Portland, Ind. His early boyhood days were passed in play and work in his native town, and at the age of fifteen he entered a repair shop. Subsequently he located in Bueyrus, Ohio, where he secured employment with a company engaged in the manufacture of machinery for making brick. He remained with the firm of Fry, Sheckler & Hoover for eight years, during which time he worked as a machinist, designer and salesman. He became familiar with the business in all its details, and, believing that he could improve upon

some of the machinery, he began making models and secured patents on brick machinery. These patents, however, which included a clay-crusher, cutting table and brick machine, he sold to the company by which he was employed.

On the 2d of August, 1880, Mr. Brown was united in marriage with Miss Mary F. Denney, who resided in Portland, Ind. By their union has been born a son, Elmer Lewis. Socially, Mr. Brown is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and his wife belongs to the Christian Church. In politics, he is a supporter of the Republican party, but has found no time to devote to office-seeking, his attention being fully occupied by his business interests.

In 1888, Mr. Brown left Bueyrus, and established the Brown-Frazier Manufacturing Company, of Portland. Mr. Frazier was formerly foreman of the *Chattanooga Times*, but became interested in the manufacture of brick-making machinery, and, forming a partnership with Mr. Brown, has since carried on the business in Portland, Ind. The Decatur Leader Manufacturing Company was incorporated on the 20th of April, 1891, with a capital stock of \$35,000. Mr. Brown was elected President, Elmer R. Frazier Secretary, and John A. Dawson Treasurer. The positions are now filled by the same gentlemen. The Board of Directors is composed of J. G. Shea, of Danville; Samuel Diller, L. B. Casner, J. A. Dawson and Davis Brown. Immediately after the incorporation of the company, a plant was erected at a cost of \$23,000. The Decatur Leader Manufacturing Company is the successor of the Brown-Frazier Manufacturing Company, of Portland, Ind., at which place they had a plant worth \$10,000. Several of the citizens taking stock in the concern, the business was increased, and now amounts to \$42,000 annually. They employ about twenty-seven men, nearly all of whom are skilled workmen, and they have two traveling salesmen upon the road. The company furnishes complete outfits for the manufacture of brick, and the machinery which they use is of the best. They also furnish all kinds of machinery for the manufacture of tile, including everything requisite to the business. Mr. Brown now has a number of patents pending, including the automatic cut-



ter, which in its perfection surpasses all others; the mechanical sander, the roller-brick machine, the "Gladiator," and a vertical tile-making machine for the manufacture of large-sized tiles. The excellent inventive genius of Mr. Brown has placed upon the market some of the finest machinery in his line. His ability in the management of business affairs is equal to that of his powers of invention, and the Decatur Leader Manufacturing Company is therefore enjoying a marked degree of success. In social circles, Mr. Brown is well liked, and by all with whom he has come in contact he is held in high regard.



**G**EORGE DEMPSEY, a carpenter and paving contractor of Decatur, is well known in this city, where for almost forty years he has made his home. He is numbered among the early settlers of the county, where he located in 1854, and as he has witnessed nearly its entire growth and upbuilding and has aided largely in its development and progress, he is well deserving of representation in this volume. A native of Ohio, he was born in Chillicothe February 10, 1825. Both his paternal and maternal grandfathers were natives of Ireland, and having come to America about 1760, served as soldiers in the Revolutionary War. They married Pennsylvania ladies, and the parents of our subject, Andrew G. and Margaret (Elmore) Dempsey, were both born in the Keystone State. The father emigrated Westward to Ohio just before its admission into the Union, and there made his home until 1865, when he started to Missouri to buy land, but he died on the way. His death occurred at the age of sixty-five years, and his wife, who survived him some time, passed away at the age of eighty-three. She spent her last days at the home of her son in Memphis, Mo. Both were members of the Methodist Church. Of their family of six sons and five daughters, seven are now living: John, a resident of Memphis, Mo.; James, of Spokane Falls, Wash.; William, of Green

River Junction; Mrs. Jane Snodgrass, of Memphis, Mo.; Catherine, wife of John Huffman, of Columbus, Ohio; and Mary, wife of William Miller, of Chillicothe, Mo.

George Dempsey spent his boyhood and youth upon a farm, and in Chillicothe, Ohio, where his education was acquired. He left home when fifteen years of age and was bound out to Robert Lowery to learn the carpenter's trade, serving a five-years apprenticeship. He then followed that business until after the breaking out of the late war, when he enlisted in Company E, Seventieth Illinois Infantry, for ninety days' service. That term having expired, he re-enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, and served until September, 1865, participating in the siege of Vicksburg and a number of other engagements. He entered the service as a private and was mustered out with the rank of Second Lieutenant.

On the 3d of September, 1846, Mr. Dempsey wedded Miss Mary J. Lowery, daughter of Robert and Ellen (Phillips) Lowery, natives of Maryland. Seven children were born unto them, but two died in infancy. Those still living are Ellen; Charles C., who resides in Chicago and for twelve years has been an employe of the Pacific Express Company; Andrew G., a railroad engineer living in Decatur, who married Miss Carrie Moffett, by whom he has two children, Lewis and Frank; Henry C., who married Miss Jennie Hawks, by whom he has a daughter, Alice; and Maria, who is the wife of John Peniwell, a grocer of Decatur. Henry C. is foreman of the Decatur Furniture Factory, with which he has been connected for eighteen years.

In 1854, Mr. Dempsey came to Illinois, his first intention being to locate in Springfield, but on the 14th of April of that year he landed in Decatur, and has here since made his home. In 1857, he erected a dwelling which has since been his place of residence. Throughout his entire life he has followed his trade of carpentering, and his excellent workmanship has brought him a liberal patronage. The county was new when he came here, and he has therefore witnessed almost its entire growth. He has taken an active part in everything pertaining to its upbuilding and ad-

vancement, and has long been recognized as a public-spirited and progressive citizen. Socially, he is a member of Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M.; and Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M. His wife holds membership with the Episcopal Church. His first Presidential vote was cast for Zachary Taylor, and he supported the Whig party until its dissolution, when he joined the ranks of the new Republican party and under its banner has since marched. He served as Superintendent of Streets in Decatur from 1873 until 1879, and was one of the first Aldermen on the city's organization. During his long residence in this community Mr. Dempsey has become widely known, and his honorable, upright life has gained him the warm regard and esteem of all with whom he has been brought in contact. As one of the honored pioneers of Macon County we gladly present him to our readers.



**W**ILLIAM H. DAVIS is the efficient and capable manager of the Western Union Telegraph office in Decatur, of which he has had charge for six years, having been appointed to the position in April, 1887. He is a man widely and favorably known in this community, and we therefore feel assured that this record of his life will prove of interest to our readers. Mr. Davis is a native of the Hoosier State and was born on the 8th of October, 1856, in Union City, Randolph County, Ind., and in that locality was reared to manhood. He spent a considerable portion of his youth in working on a farm by the month, and from quite an early age has earned his own livelihood. He may truly be numbered among the self-made men of Decatur, for whatever success he has achieved is due entirely to his own efforts.

On attaining his majority Mr. Davis left home and, going to Chicago, entered the general office of the Western Union Telegraph Company in order to learn the business. After he had mastered it he was accepted as an employe of the company, in 1881, and given work in the Chicago

office. Later he was sent to Bloomington Ill., where for four years he served in the capacity of telegraph operator. On the expiration of that period he was placed in charge of the telegraph office in Janesville, Wis., where he remained for a year. He then returned to the general office in Chicago, and a year later was sent to Decatur, as before stated. He has now been the manager of the Decatur office for six consecutive years, and has nine employes under him.

On the 20th of June, 1889, Mr. Davis was married to Miss Myra R. Smith, of Bloomington, Ill. She is a most estimable lady and a consistent member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church. They reside at No. 667 West Main Street, where they have a pleasant home. Mr. Davis takes considerable interest in civic societies, and is a member of the Masonic fraternity and of the Modern Woodmen lodge of Decatur. He also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is Past Noble Grand of Celestia Lodge No. 186, I. O. O. F. He has also attended the Grand Lodge. In politics he votes with the Democratic party, but has never been an office-seeker, political preferment having no attraction for him. His faithfulness and fidelity to the company by which he is employed are attested by the responsible position to which he was appointed. He has now been an employe of the company twelve years altogether, in which time he has faithfully labored for its interests. He is an enterprising and energetic young man, and the community finds in him a valued citizen.



**J**OHAN K. WARREN has since 1855 been recognized as one of the prominent and influential citizens of Macon County, and for many years has been one of the most enterprising business men of Decatur, a leader in all enterprises calculated to promote the growth and prosperity of his adopted city, and he well deserves representation in this volume. He was born and reared in the city of Philadelphia, yet



on coming to Illinois was not altogether unfamiliar with agriculture, having spent one season on an uncle's farm in New Jersey, together with several years upon his mother's farm in Pennsylvania, where, being of an inquiring mind, he learned a great many things about advanced farming. When a young man he determined to see the West and in some of its thriving towns seek a remunerative occupation that might give his energies full scope. His first resolve was to enter into the grain business in Chicago, but the keen lake breezes of that city did not agree with him and made his asthma, from which he has suffered from childhood, much worse. While conversing with a friend one day about the advisability of a change, his companion suggested that he go out on the prairies in the center of the State.

In consequence, Mr. Warren started out with a view to testing the prairie atmosphere and if congenial make a home in the West. He went first to Toulon, from there to Winona, upon the invitation and in the carriage of Mark Bangs, and thence proceeded south, stopping at Decatur. After a night spent at the Cassell House, where the St. Nicholas now stands, he awoke the next morning to find himself free from asthmatic troubles. Mr. Warren shouted "Eureka," and determined to locate here, so in 1856 his mother, Mrs. Ann Warren, left her friends and lifetime associates in Philadelphia and joined her son. They made their home on a farm in the northeast corner of Decatur Township until the fall of 1858, when Mr. Warren embarked in the manufacture of wheat drills as a partner of Stephen H. Boyakin, having purchased the interest of Tilghman H. Alexander in the manufacture of Pennoek's Wheat Drill. In 1859, he sold out his manufacturing interest to Mr. Boyakin and entered upon his own account into the insurance and real-estate business. His first experience as a solicitor was for William L. Hammer, who had the leading fire insurance agency in Decatur at that time. In 1861, Mr. Warren entered into a partnership with the late Henry B. Durfee in the real-estate, insurance and title abstract business, under the name of Warren & Durfee. In 1863, Bradford K. Durfee, who had

charge of the compiling of an abstract of the records of Macon County, became a member of the firm, which was known as Durfee, Warren & Co. The first system of title abstracting that was ever copyrighted was known as "H. B. Durfee's Continuous and Self-Connective System, with Durfee, Warren & Co.'s Improvements," and was largely introduced throughout the West from 1864 until 1869.

In May, 1867, Mr. Warren married Miss Emma, daughter of George W. and Almira A. (Giles) Powers, and a niece of Orlando and Samuel Powers. They took up their abode in Decatur and here lived until 1873. They then spent three years in California, and a year and a-half in the South, principally in Texas, on account of Mr. Warren's health, returning to their home in this place in 1878. While in California Mr. Warren had the misfortune to lose his beloved mother, from whom he had not been separated except for a few weeks for more than forty years. With deep feeling, he says that had he made the greatest success possible in this life he would have owed it all to her example and self-sacrificing devotion. Mr. and Mrs. Warren reside at No. 510 West Decatur Street. They have one son, Giles R., a rising young comedian, now in the East.

Since the organization of the party, Mr. Warren has been a staunch Republican. In 1867, he was the first Republican candidate for Mayor, and was elected by a good majority over Franklin Priest, the Democratic candidate, who was a popular and prominent man. He has also been a member of the Board of Education for nine years and has done effective service in the interest of schools.

From 1867 until 1872, our subject was prominent in securing the establishment of railroad lines through Decatur. By the action of the people along the line of the road he came into charge of the Indiana & Illinois Central Railroad, now the I. S. & W. R. R., and was identified with projecting and building the Pekin, Lincoln & Decatur Railroad from Decatur to Pekin, since merged into the Peoria, Decatur & Evansville R. R. By virtue of his position he was personally instrumental in the building of the Illinois Midland



Railroad, which subsequently became known as the Terre Haute & Peoria Railroad. He devoted his time to attendance upon both the Indiana and Illinois Legislatures in 1869, and was very active in securing favorable legislation for the building of railroads. He had particular satisfaction in the result of the management that procured the special charter for the Decatur & State Line Railroad from the Illinois Legislature, in opposition to an adverse railroad interest of a neighboring city. The present Wabash Line to Chicago was the result of procuring the said charter. In all this Mr. Warren performed for Decatur a work that was of the utmost importance to its subsequent growth and prosperity.

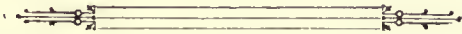
In 1868, our subject became one of the principals in establishing the present gas plant of the city, was its first Secretary and Treasurer, and for years has been the President of the company. He holds the same position with the Decatur Electric Company, the works for which were first started by Silas T. Trowbridge, who sold out to Joseph M. Clokey. The latter later disposed of the plant to the firm of Warren & Durfee, through whom it was made an adjunct to the Decatur Gas Light and Coke Company's works. Mr. Warren was the pioneer promoter of the building associations in Decatur. In connection with Ira T. Harris, of the Decatur Rolling Mill Co., he made the first move in 1873, in which he was joined by B. K. Durfee, and the Savings Fund Building and Loan Association was organized. The association progressed beyond the most sanguine expectations of its friends, until it had run about seven years, when, those who are familiar with these organizations in Illinois will remember, occurred the disastrous effects caused by an erroneous and illy-considered decision of the Illinois Supreme Court, rendered in 1880, declaring building and loan contracts to be usurious and unconstitutional. At this time the office of Warren & Durfee was the headquarters of two flourishing associations in Decatur—the Savings Fund Building and Loan and the Decatur Building Benefit Association. That decision closed up these associations and nearly all the others in the State. Upon a rehearing of the case, however, the Supreme Court of Illinois reversed the former de-

cision, and once more the firm established the business in that line by the organization of the Savings Fund Building Association of Decatur, which is now one of the most prosperous in the State. When Mr. Warren came to Illinois he brought with him many Eastern ideas, the building and loan association being one of them. Many of his friends at first declined to consider the scheme practical, saying that it would not be successful, as our population is of too transitory a character. What Mr. Warren wanted was to remedy the evils of transitory population by helping the laboring men here, as in Philadelphia, to become the owners of their homes, thus making them permanent residents; and hundreds of wage workers have been thus aided. H. W. Bartholomew is now President of the Savings Fund Building Association, and B. K. Durfee Secretary and Treasurer.

In 1881, Messrs. Warren & Durfee, owing to inducements made by the honest dealers and jobbers in the Grocers' Veneer Dish line in St. Louis and Chicago, and considering that the legitimate business of Decatur's citizens was not only to encourage enterprise but also to engage in manufacturing in some one line or other, established the first butter dish factory in Illinois; and when they ascertained that they could profitably bring the gum logs from Southern Illinois and furnish No. 1 dishes at \$1.40 per thousand, when they were offered \$2 and upward, they very soon secured a good trade from the jobbing interests throughout the country. Later on they found that the price induced others with capital to start factories in the heavily timbered southern country, knocking prices down to eighty cents per thousand, and they abandoned the business in 1885 and converted their plant into one for the manufacture of automatic grain scales, especially the grain weigher, register and loader for threshing-machines. The company are also pioneers in this line of manufacturing. They first made the Wilbur Dunkel Meter, but through the inventive genius of the Superintendent of the factory, Charles J. Hartley, they have put out four different kinds of weighers: the "Monarch," "Monarch Jo," "Triumph" and "Boss," besides the "I X L" Measurer, any one

of which has not been excelled by any other make in the country. The Boss Weigher and Loader has proved the most popular, and stands at the head of all machinery in that line.

Mr. Warren has been continuously in the general insurance business since 1859—in 1861 in connection with the late H. B. Durfee, and from 1863 until July, 1893, with B. K. Durfee, Mr. Durfee being then appointed Superintendent of Insurance for Illinois, and Mr. Warren succeeding to the business which he established thirty-four years ago, and which is now conducted under the name of the Warren Insurance Agency, with Henry L. Oldham as manager.



**P** H. HUNT, one of Decatur's most prominent business men, is a leading partner in the firm of P. H. Hunt & Co., contractors. A native of Ireland, he was born December 5, 1844, but when two years of age he left the Emerald Isle with his parents Edward and Catherine (Brannoek) Hunt, crossing the Atlantic to America. The family settled in Niantic Township, and afterwards removed to Decatur Township. The parents are still living and make their home in Decatur.

In the usual manner of farmer lads our subject was reared to manhood, and he aided in the labors of the field until eighteen years of age, when he went to Louisville, Ky., working as a carpenter in the employ of the Government on the barracks at Louisville and Nashville. He received \$3 per day for his services. After two years spent in the employ of the Government, he began learning the stone-cutter's trade in Louisville, completing it in Chicago, and receiving \$100, \$200 and \$300 for the first, second and third years of his apprenticeship respectively. He then worked as a journeyman for thirteen years, receiving \$4 and \$5 per day. He was employed in Madison (Wis.), St. Louis, Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Chicago. Mr. Hunt was a designer as well, and could letter, mold and

carve, and became a skilled workman, his taste leading him to take up the finer class of marble work. He began business for himself about 1874, in Louisville, Ky., and there carried on a marble shop for six years, after which he came to Decatur, in 1880. While in Louisville, when only twenty-three years of age, he was President of the Stone Cutters' Union, although one of its youngest members.

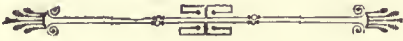
On the 5th of March, 1878, in that city, Mr. Hunt was united in marriage with Miss Mary Tierney, a native of Louisville. Unto them were born six children, but Edward, the eldest, was drowned in the Sangamon River at the age of ten years, and the loss to his parents, though softened, has never been obliterated by time. The other children are Winfield, Carlisle, John, Katie and Pettie.

On coming to Decatur, Mr. Hunt opened a marble shop, erecting monuments and furnishing building material. He soon afterwards secured contracts from the State on the new capitol and on the new court house for Sangamon County. He also made large contracts in the city of Springfield for stone-cutting, and did the first stone-paving in that city. From that time on he has had charge of extensive public contracts and has done a large and constantly increasing business. He continued alone for about eight years, when, in 1888, the present company was organized. It is composed of himself, Dan W. and Eli Brenne-man and W. P. Shade. They do a general business of about \$150,000 per annum, contracting for railroad bridges and street-paving, and they erect all kinds of public buildings, etc. Their business during the past year required about \$50,000 to conduct. Heretofore employment has been furnished to some three hundred men, but in this year, 1893, employment is furnished to about seven hundred men, requiring a pay-roll of about \$16,000 per month. Up to the 1st of August they have laid two miles of brick pavement, and their contracts will require the finishing of four miles additional this year.

Mr. Hunt usually votes the Democratic ticket, and he is a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church. When he came to Decatur he had a capital



of only about \$500, but in the legitimate channels of business he has achieved success. He has invested in Decatur real estate and is the owner of several pieces of choice property, including valuable building sites on North Water Street and a three-room brick store block on Broadway. Possessed of excellent business and executive ability and of good judgment, he has steadily worked his way upward to a position in the foremost ranks of Macon County's leading men, and to a similar position among her substantial citizens.



**I** SAAC R. MILLS is State's Attorney of Decatur, and has engaged in the practice of law in this city for many years. He is also extensively engaged in stock-raising, and is the owner of one of the finest farms of Macon County, comprising six hundred and forty acres of land. A native of this State, he was born in Putnam County September 5, 1853, and comes of an old Pennsylvanian family. His father, Eli R. Mills, was born in the Keystone State, and came to Illinois about 1841. He was a civil engineer, and for a number of years was on steamboats on the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. In Putnam County he owned a good farm, upon which he reared his family. He married Elizabeth Kimber, also a native of Pennsylvania, and they became the parents of seven sons and two daughters, six of whom are now living, two having died in early childhood, while Joseph passed away at the age of forty years, leaving a family of five children. The surviving members of the family are Thomas K.; Henry C.; Andrew H.; Isaac R.; Susan K., wife of Robert N. West; and Sarah M., wife of Alonzo F. Given. The parents of this family were members of the Society of Friends. The father died at his home in Putnam County in 1855, at the age of forty-two years, and his wife survived him only a few weeks.

The life record of Isaac R. Mills is as follows: In the usual manner of farmer lads the days of his

boyhood and youth were passed. After attending the common schools, he entered Lincoln University, of Lincoln, Ill., from which institution he was graduated in 1876. Having determined to make the practice of law his life work, he removed to Chicago and began studying with the law firm of Dent & Black. He was admitted to the Bar in 1878, after which he spent a year in Chicago, and then returned to Decatur, where he has since made his home.

On the 11th of September previous, Mr. Mills and Miss Mattie A., daughter of Stephen and Mary J. (Wilson) Mahannah were married. Four children were born of their union: Walter H., Mary J., Ida A. and Gertrude A. The mother died February 14, 1888, at the age of thirty-two, having been a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. On the 31st of March, 1891, Mr. Mills married Miss Mary R. Hachenberg, daughter of Joseph C. and Rachel R. Hachenberg, of Christian County. They have a little daughter, Jennie.

After coming to Decatur, Mr. Mills began practice and has since followed his profession. In an early day in his practice he was appointed by the court to defend William E. Westbrook against the charge of murder. The first trial resulted in the verdict of the death sentence, but Mr. Mills regarded this as unjust, and at his own expense carried the case to the Supreme Court, where the decision was reversed, resulting in a sentence for manslaughter for a penitentiary term of twelve years. After four years' imprisonment Westbrook was pardoned. There has never been but one man hung in Macon County for murder, and that was William H. Crawford, whose hanging was brought about through Mr. Mills' prosecution. It was the most noted case ever tried in the county. In 1883, our subject was elected City Attorney of Decatur, and served for six consecutive years. In June, 1888, he was appointed by the Board of Supervisors of Macon County to fill the unexpired term of Judge E. P. Vail, who was then State's Attorney, and had been elected Circuit Judge. In the fall of that year Mr. Mills was elected to the office, was re-elected in 1892, and will have served for eight years on the expiration of his present



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



JACOB SPANGLER

term. The fact of his appointment and election indicates his skill and ability and the confidence reposed in him by his fellow-townsmen, a trust he will never betray. Under his supervision while he was City Attorney a great many public improvements were carried forward.

Mr. and Mrs. Mills are members of the Presbyterian Church, and in politics he is a stalwart Republican. Socially, he is a Knight-Templar Mason, and belongs to Chevalier Bayard Lodge No. 189, K. P. He is a public-spirited citizen and has made numerous investments which have aided in upbuilding Decatur. He was and is largely interested in the development of the street railway system, and together with W. H. Starr established Riverside Park, the principal public resort and park of the city. He also laid off Riverside Place, the finest addition to the city. He was one of the organizers and is one of the stockholders of the Columbia Manufacturing Company. He is quite a horse fancier and is engaged in breeding and raising some very fine horses, making a specialty of driving horses. He controls one of the finest farms in the county, comprising six hundred and forty acres in Mt. Zion Township, which he devotes to farming purposes and stock-raising. In the various lines of work which he has undertaken, Mr. Mills has won success and has worked his way upward until he is numbered not only among the prominent men of his profession, but is also accounted one of the wealthy citizens of Decatur.



JACOB SPANGLER was widely known throughout Macon County, and had the respect and high regard of all. His friends were many and he had few, if any, enemies. He was born in York County, Pa., on the 10th of July, 1814, and in the Keystone State was reared to manhood. At the age of twenty-two he left the parental roof and started out to seek his fortune in the wilds of the Northwest Territory, being the first of his family to brave the dangers of

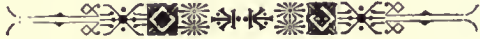
the times and undergo the hardships of those perilous days. He bought land in Illinois, and after making several trips to his possessions in the West he induced his father to seize the opportunity of acquiring property at Government prices, and as the result of these investments the father afterward became quite wealthy.

Locating first on his farm in Whitmore Township, Macon County, our subject aided his father in erecting what was known as Spangler's Mill, about four miles east of Decatur. In 1843 he was united in marriage with Miss Letitia Hall, of Macon County, and unto them were born two sons: James, who died in 1878; and Jacob, who lives in Sherman, Tex. The mother died in February, 1846, and the following year Mr. Spangler was again married, his second union being with Miss Ellen Walton, of Decatur. They became the parents of the following children: William, now a resident of Oreana, Ill.; Eliza, wife of A. J. Dailey, of Sacramento, Cal. Anna, wife of W. J. Long, of Decatur; Maggie, widow of Henry Rhodes, of Whitmore Township, who died April 11, 1892; Emma, who died at the age of four years; Frank, who died in infancy; Susan, wife of Henry Renshaw, of Alvord, Tex.; and Lula, wife of John Laver, a resident of Chicago.

By his industry, enterprise and well-directed efforts, Mr. Spangler acquired about five hundred acres of as fine farming land as could be found in Macon County, of the greater part of which, however, he later became dispossessed. He was of a very generous nature and very public-spirited. No friend sought his aid in vain, and he was forced to pay many security debts for his neighbors. He also gave freely of his means to the poor and needy, and no destitute one was ever turned from his door empty-handed, but all this did not increase his personal prosperity; on the other hand, his means kept growing less on account of the frequent demands made upon his resources. But who shall say that he was not blessed in the gratitude and thankfulness of those who shared his bounty? "Inasmuch as ye have given it unto one of the least of these, ye have given it unto me." At his death, however, he only had sixty acres of the farm which he had entered fifty years before.



In his family the true life of Mr. Spangler shone out. His second wife died leaving him with six small children, whom he tenderly cared and provided for, and for whom he could never do too much to enhance their happiness or promote their welfare. He possessed a spirit of more than ordinary merit, was quick to introduce improvements, and when told that he would never be able to enjoy them, would respond, "Well, if I do not live to enjoy them others will." He was a charter member of the Universalist Church and was buried with the rites of Odd Fellowship. He passed away May 10, 1886, when an unselfish, honorable life came to a close. Surely the world is better for his having lived.



**H**ENRY CASSELL, a prominent farmer of Macon County, who is now living a retired life, resides on section 12, Decatur Township, and his home adjoins the city limits of the county seat. A native of the Keystone State, his birth occurred in Dauphin County, Pa., in February, of the year 1826. The Cassell family is of German origin. The father of our subject, William Cassell, was born and reared in Lebanon County, Pa., and there became inured to the labors of the farm. After his marriage, he removed to Dauphin County, and in 1839 he emigrated Westward to Illinois, where his death occurred in Putnam County. He was a well-educated young man, and in his younger years engaged in teaching school. His wife bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Liedle, and was also born in Lebanon County, Pa. They were both members of the United Brethren Church, and were greatly interested in church work, giving liberally in support of the cause and aiding its advancement in all possible ways. In politics, Mr. Cassell was first a Whig and afterwards a Republican.

The family numbered ten children who grew to maturity. Augustus, the eldest, who for many years was County Judge of Putnam County, Ill.,

is now living at the age of eighty-one; Rosa Ann is deceased; Joseph died in Putnam County; Esther is the wife of Thomas B. Albert, of Decatur; Christopher has passed away. B. H. is represented elsewhere in this work; Michael, who was one of the boys in blue of the late war, now makes his home in Decatur; Henry is the next younger; and John is a merchant of Niantic. All of the children were born in Dauphin County.

The boyhood days of our subject were not days of ease and luxury. His father was in limited circumstances and he early began work upon the farm, learning to swing the axe, cradle and scythe, which were the principal farm implements during those early days. Sometimes during the winter season he attended school, which was held in a log cabin, and upon a slab bench he conned his lessons. He remained at home and gave his father the benefit of his services until he had attained to man's estate, when with his parents he left home and started on the canal from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh. On reaching the latter place, the water was so low that steamers could not run, and they took a keelboat to Louisville, Ky., being twenty-one days upon the trip. The family then rented a house in Louisville to wait for low water, and after a time purchased a team and came by land to Decatur, where they arrived about the 20th of November, 1839. The snow was then four feet deep and the weather was so cold that they could proceed no further until a brother of our subject, living in Putnam County, came with a sled and took them on to his home.

Our subject began to earn his own livelihood by working as a farm hand, and as soon as he had acquired some capital he purchased a farm of his own. As a companion and helpmate on life's journey, he chose Miss Sarah Ann Bashore, a native of Dauphin County, Pa., who during her girlhood came with her parents to Illinois. They were married in Putnam County, September 18, 1847, and in that community resided until the fall of 1854, when they came to Macon County, locating upon a farm owned by Mr. Cassell's brother, which adjoins his present homestead. Ten years later he bought fifty acres of land on section 12, Decatur Township, and to it has since

added until he now owns one hundred and thirty acres, a valuable tract, under a high state of cultivation. His home is a fine residence, substantially built; his barns and outbuildings are models of convenience, and his farm is equipped with all modern accessories. Mr. Cassell began life here with a team of horses, five head of cattle and \$60 in money, and his possessions have all since been acquired as the result of industry, enterprise and perseverance. He is now living a retired life, resting in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil.

For the past ten years, Mr. and Mrs. Cassell have held membership with the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Decatur. For nine years, he served as Township Commissioner, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity. His first Presidential vote was cast for Gen. Taylor, and he supported the Whig party until 1861, when he voted for President Lincoln. Since that time he has been a stalwart Republican. During the long years of his residence in Macon County, he has not only witnessed its growth and upbuilding, but has also taken a prominent part in its development and aided in its advancement. He well deserves representation among the early settlers and the best citizens of his adopted county.

**J**OHAN MILLER, a farmer residing on section 25, Niantic Township, is a native of Germany. He was born February 18, 1826, and is a son of John Miller, who was also born in the same country. The father emigrated with his family to the New World in 1832, and after the voyage across the Atlantic landed in New Orleans, during the summer. While proceeding up the Mississippi River he was stricken with cholera, and died at Red Church, twenty-eight miles north of the Crescent City. His wife and children continued on their way to St. Louis, and from there went to St. Clair County, where Mrs. Miller reared her family. She afterward

came to Macon County and lived with her son until her death, in 1872. In the family of six children, three sons and a daughter grew to mature years, but John and Joseph are the only ones now living. The latter follows farming in Texas County, Mo.

Mr. Miller, whose name heads this record, spent the days of his boyhood and youth in St. Clair County, Ill., and remained with and took care of his mother for a number of years. He was there married, August 20, 1852, the lady of his choice being Mrs. Rebecca Thompson, daughter of William Simpson, who was of English descent, and was one of the first settlers of this State. Her brother, W. G. Simpson, was a pioneer of Macon County, and cleared and developed two large farms in Niantic Township, which he still owns. They are now occupied by his sons, and he makes his home in Illiopolis, Sangamon County. Mrs. Miller at the time of her second marriage was the widow of James Thompson, who died of cholera at the age of thirty years, July 1, 1849. They were married in 1844, and their home was thirteen miles east of St. Louis. They had three children, but one died in infancy. The two living are Mary, wife of Henry Blackford, of Vernon County, Mo.; and Harriet J., wife of David White, of Mechanicsburgh, Ill.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Miller have been born seven children. William and Andy operate the home farm; George is a carpenter and joiner residing in Bement, Ill.; Lizzie is the wife of Henry Brown, of Pawnee, Ill.; Clementine, Clara and Eva complete the family. The mother has been a member of the Baptist Church for a number of years. In politics Mr. Miller is a stanch Democrat, but has never been an aspirant for public office.

After his marriage our subject engaged in farming for a number of years in St. Clair County, but in 1865 came to Macon County, where he bought fifty acres of land, a part of his present farm. After a few years he purchased an adjoining eighty-acre tract and ten acres of timberland. The farm is now under a high state of cultivation, the fields are well tilled, and the place is improved with good buildings, an orchard and other modern conveniences. Among the thrifty and well-to-do farmers



of Niantie Township Mr. Miller is now numbered, and his life has been well and worthily spent. His care for his mother was but a foreshadowing of the faithfulness and trust with which he has discharged every duty, either public or private, which has been reposed in him.



**I**RA WARNICK is one of Macon County's most honored pioneers, having resided longer within its borders than any other of its citizens. He now makes his home on section 35, Blue Mound Township. As he is so widely and favorably known, we feel assured that this record of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers. He was born in Tennessee, August 23, 1823, and is a son of William and Naney (Griffin) Warnick. The paternal grandfather, James Warnick, was a native of Ireland, who, emigrating to America, landed at Castle Garden August 15, 1758. His son William was born in North Carolina in 1784, and having attained to mature years wedded Miss Griffin, who was born in the same State and in the same year. With his father he removed to Rutherford County, Tenn., whence he came to Macon County, Ill., in 1825. After the organization of the county he served as its first Sheriff, holding the office from 1825 until 1835. In 1840, he was again re-elected for a term of three years. It was Mr. Warnick who, as County Sheriff, whipped Redman and Wyatt for horse-stealing, by order of the court, giving them thirty-nine lashes each. This was the only punishment of the kind ever inflicted in the county. Mr. Warnick served in the Black Hawk War, becoming Captain of the Rangers, and participated in the famous Stillman defeat, where he received a slight flesh wound. He had entered land from the Government and devoted his time and attention to the development of the farm.

The subject of this sketch was in his third year when brought by his parents to Macon County. Here he has since made his home. In the early

days he was a great hunter, when deer and other wild game were to be had in abundance. He experienced all the hardships and privations, as well as the delights, of pioneer life, and can relate many interesting incidents of Macon County when it was situated on the frontier. In his early boyhood he knew Abraham Lincoln, who was then a young man and often came to visit one of Mr. Warnick's sisters. Our subject was early inured to the arduous labor of developing wild land, and remained upon the home farm until eighteen years of age, when he started out in life for himself. His first work was to help drive a herd of cattle to Galena, Ill. On reaching his destination, he worked in that vicinity in breaking prairie at \$8 per month until December of the same year, when he returned to his home, walking all the way, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles.

On the 17th of April, 1843, Mr. Warnick was united in marriage with Miss Julia Burk, who was a native of Kentucky, and came with her parents to this county in 1840. Their union was blessed with nine children: James W., the eldest, is a prosperous farmer and farms the old homestead which his grandfather entered from the Government; Ellen is the wife of James Hill, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Arthusa is the wife of Winfield Chandler, a resident farmer of Macon County; Thomas is also engaged in agricultural pursuits in this community; Major is engaged in hotel-keeping in Decatur; Nancy C. is the wife of Prate Faleoner, of Blue Mound; Augusta is the wife of Raymond Moffett, a well-known agriculturist; and Ira G. is also engaged in farming.

After his marriage, Mr. Warnick entered a small farm, which he operated until he could secure land of his own. At length he secured from the Government a tract of land, and began the development of a farm, transforming the wild prairie into rich and fertile fields and making many improvements upon the place, such as are found on a model farm. He now owns about four hundred acres of the choicest land in Macon County.

Mr. Warnick is a well-preserved old gentleman, his eyesight being still so good that he can bring a squirrel off the highest tree, and he is so active



that he often makes a whole day's journey after game. Like his father, he is a staunch Democrat, but has never been an office-seeker. In 1893, he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 9th of September, and was laid to rest in Salem Cemetery. He is still living on the old homestead, which has so long been his place of residence. For sixty-eight years he has been numbered among the citizens of Macon County, and no person who was a resident at the time of his arrival is yet living within its borders with the exception of his brother Robert, who is the only other survivor of the family of eleven children. Familiar with the history of Macon County from the days of its early infancy, Mr. Warnick has watched its progress and development and has aided greatly in its upbuilding and advancement. His name is inseparably connected with its history, for he is one of its founders.



**E**LI NAP, a farmer of Niantie Township, living on section 26, was born in Yancey County, N. C., December 20, 1828, and is of Scotch descent. His father, John Nap, was a native of Scotland, and when a youth of sixteen summers crossed the broad Atlantic to America, locating in North Carolina, where he became acquainted with and wedded Miss Lydia Falks. He followed farming in Yancey County throughout the remainder of his life, and his death occurred there when our subject was fourteen years of age.

Being thus left fatherless, Eli Nap emigrated to Indiana, and in Lawrence County worked on a farm by the month until he had arrived at years of maturity. He then chose as a companion and helpmate on life's journey Miss Emily Newland, a native of Indiana. The marriage ceremony was performed in 1855, and the young couple began their domestic life upon rented land, living thus until their united labors had brought them a sufficient sum to purchase property. Mr. Nap then bought a farm in Lawrence County, and continued

its operation until 1861, when he sold out and removed to Macon County, Ill. For two years he rented a farm in Harristown Township, and then made a purchase of eighty-six acres of land, to which he afterward added a tract of thirty-two acres, making a nice farm of one hundred and nineteen acres. He erected good buildings upon it and placed the land under a high state of cultivation, but after a time he sold out and bought one hundred and sixty-three acres on section 3, Niantie Township. That farm he operated for eight years, when he again sold, and purchased his present home. The neat and thrifty appearance of this place indicates the careful supervision of the progressive owner. In the midst of the fields of waving grain stands a comfortable home, good barns and outbuildings, a well-kept orchard and the other accessories of a model farm. As Mr. Nap commenced life for himself a poor boy, with no capital and not even a change of clothing, he certainly deserves great credit for his success in life, which has placed him among the substantial farmers of the community.

In 1865 our subject was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 23d of February, leaving two children: Dr. W. Herschel, a man of superior education, who for three years engaged in the practice of medicine in Niantie and for two years in Bloomington, but who is now holding a responsible business position in Chicago; and Geneva, who is at home. On the 4th of February, 1872, Mr. Nap was united in marriage with Miss Nancy A., daughter of Thomas Lawton, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. She was born in Indiana, and by her marriage has become the mother of two children: Thomas, who aids in the operation of the home farm; and Robert Bruce, a lad of six summers, attending the home school.

Our subject is a Master Mason and his wife is a member of the Christian Church at Niantie. He proudly cast his first vote in 1856, supporting at that time President James Buchanan. In 1860 he cast his ballot for Stephen A. Douglas and has since been a supporter of the Democratic party. He was elected and served for three years as Commissioner of Highways, discharging his

duties in an able and creditable manner, but has never sought political preferment. He has been content to live a quiet life, and his unassuming manner, free from all ostentation and display, has won him a well-merited regard.



**C**HARLES E. CONNARD, who resides on section 2, South Wheatland Township, was born in Montgomery County, Pa., in November, 1829. His grandfather was Ebenezer Connard, and his father was John C. Connard, who was born in Bucks County, Pa., and there acquired a liberal education. He married Miss Dorothy Shriver, a lady of German descent, and in 1830 emigrated with his family to Ross County, Ohio, where he lived ten years. In 1840 he came with a team and wagon to Illinois, and made a location near where our subject now resides. His death occurred November 6, 1876, at the age of seventy-three years, and his wife died March 27, 1891, at the age of seventy-nine. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in politics was a Democrat until 1856, when he joined the Republican party. The following children constituted the family: Sarah Ann, wife of John King, of Elwin; Hannah, who was the wife of James Lowry, of Decatur, and died in 1856; Mrs. Catherine Widich, who is living in Webster County, Iowa; Maria Angeline, who died at the age of twenty; and Charles E.

The subject of this sketch received very limited school privileges, but, being ambitious to learn, he has by reading and observation become well informed. He was associated with his father in farming, and on the death of the latter became owner of four hundred acres of land, the greater part of which has been improved by Mr. Connard, only sixty acres having been fenced, while a log cabin constituted the only building when it came into his possession. In 1855, in Elwin, our subject was joined in marriage with Miss Nancy Eagur. They at once located upon the farm, and

Mr. Connard immediately turned his attention to the further development of his land. He has extensively engaged in agricultural pursuits, besides having dealt in grain for thirty years. He now carries on operations in that line in Elwin, being associated with his son, M. A. He built the elevator in Elwin, with a capacity of fifty thousand bushels, and also erected large cribs. To his son he has given part of his land, but he still retains possession of a valuable tract of two hundred and forty acres.

In 1878 Mr. Connard was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 30th of September, in the faith of the Methodist Church, with which she held membership. Unto them were born the following children: George, a farmer of South Wheatland Township, who married Rebecca Cline, who is now deceased; M. A., who is living in Elwin; Carrie, whose husband is a merchant of Ohio; Martin A., who is in the railroad office in Elwin; Charles H., a cashier and book-keeper in Marsilles, Ill.; and Hattie, who keeps house for Milton. In 1879 Mr. Connard wedded his second wife, Miss Elizabeth J. Roswell, who was born in Macon County, and is a daughter of Michael and Isabella (Davis) Roswell. Her father, who was one of the early settlers of this county, was a native of South Carolina, and his wife was born in Tennessee. They were married November 4, 1845, and he became a farmer of Long Creek Township. His death occurred on Christmas Day of 1888, and his wife died in September, 1880. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church. The children of the Roswell family are: David, a farmer of Tennessee, and Postmaster at Dug Hill; Mrs. Connard, who was born October 5, 1851; Isabella, wife of Scott Sapp, a shoemaker of Whiteboro, Tex.; Anna, wife of James Withgott, of Decatur; and Lillie, who is living with her sister in Texas. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Connard have been born three children: Curtis, Marcus and Walter.

Our subject has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church since 1849, and has held office in it much of the time. He cast his first Presidential vote for Fremont in 1856, and has since been a stalwart supporter of the Republican party. Since 1840 he has been connected with



this county, and his name is inseparably associated with the upbuilding and development of this community. He has been prominent in public affairs, and has aided largely in the progress and advancement of the county. Those who know him esteem him highly for his many excellencies of character, and he well deserves representation among the honored pioneers of the county.

M. A. Connard, the junior member of the firm of M. A. Connard & Co., grain-buyers of Elwin, was born on the old homestead in South Wheatland Township in 1858. His boyhood days were spent in the usual manner of farmer lads, and the public schools afforded him his primary education. In 1881 and 1882, however, he attended the Wesleyan College, of Bloomington. He has always been identified with farm work, and since 1882 he has been engaged in business as a dealer in grain. Previous to that time he had purchased grain for his father, but some eleven years ago the present partnership, which has since continued, was formed. Mr. Connard now buys one hundred and fifty thousand bushels of corn per year and one hundred thousand bushels of oats. The large elevator has a capacity of forty thousand bushels. There is a telegraph line connected with the city markets, which is operated by M. A. He also handles coal.

In June, 1885, M. A. Connard married Miss Eva L. Foster, a native of Decatur, and a daughter of David and Margaret (Price) Foster. She died in December, 1891, leaving three children: Arthur F., Nellie and May. Mr. Connard is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge of Decatur, holds membership with the Methodist Episcopal Church of Elwin, and while in college was connected with the Phi Delta Theta Society. In politics, he takes an active interest, and is a warm advocate of Republican principles. His worth and ability as well as his popularity are indicated by the fact that he is one of three Republicans who have held the office of Supervisor of South Wheatland Township in twenty-five years. He is a genial and pleasant gentleman and has the high regard of all who know him.

George S. Connard, another member of this honored and representative family, so well known in this county, was born on his father's farm

March 15, 1856. He became familiar with the rudiments of education in the district schools of the neighborhood, and was afterward graduated from Eastman's National Business College, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., in 1875. His life has been spent as a farmer, as a railroad agent for the Illinois Central Railroad, and as a grain-dealer in Elwin. He ran the first check-rower in the county, which was made by Haworth & Sons in 1869, and was purchased by his father. He continued farming on the home farm until 1883, when he bought eighty acres of land formerly belonging to his grandfather. He now has a fine place, well improved and highly cultivated, with a good residence and buildings and all the other accessories of a model farm.

George Connard was married February 3, 1883, to Miss Rebecca Crum, a native of Dauphin County, Pa., who came to Macon County in 1877 with her parents, Jonas L. and Elizabeth Crum. She died April 1, 1893, in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which she was a consistent and faithful member, and her death was mourned by many friends. Mr. Connard also belongs to the same church, and is Superintendent of the Sunday-school and Class-leader. He cast his first Presidential vote for Garfield, but for the past eight years has been a Prohibitionist. He served as Township Clerk before he had attained his majority. He is an enterprising citizen, and his good management, perseverance and industry have gained for him a comfortable and pleasant home



**W**ILLIAM THOMAS McLEAN, M. D., is engaged in medical practice in Maroa as a member of the well-known firm of Morgan & McLean. He comes from Kentucky, his birth having occurred in Harrison County, that State, July 31, 1858. His parents, Chambers A. and Lucy A. (Taylor) McLean, were both natives of Kentucky, and in early life the father began school teaching, which he followed until he entered



upon the practice of medicine in 1868. In 1864, he came to Illinois, and for twenty years made his home in Maroa. In 1884 he came to Decatur, where he still continues in the practice of his profession. He was the first Principal in the present school building in Maroa, and since coming to the West has been a prominent citizen of Macon County. In the McLean family were four sons and two daughters, namely: Sabina A. (deceased), William T., Joseph, Charles, James and Mabel C.

Dr. McLean whose name heads this record was a lad of only six summers when, with his parents, he came to Maroa. In its public schools he acquired his primary education, which was afterward supplemented by a course in the State University at Champaign. Desiring to enter the medical profession and make its practice his life work, he began a course of study in Rush Medical College, of Chicago, from which institution he was graduated on the 22d of February, 1881. Having received his degree, he then returned to his old home, where he has since continued practice, with the exception of ten months spent in Warrensburg. On the 1st of March, 1890, the present partnership with Dr. Morgan was formed, and has continued mutually pleasant and profitable up to this writing.

On the 16th of June, 1885, Mr. McLean was married to Miss Margaret P. Crocker, a daughter of John H. and Louise V. (Philbrook) Crocker, of Maroa. Four children have been born unto them, three sons and a daughter, John Crocker, Franklin Chambers, Edwin Philbrook and Anna Louise. The parents hold membership with the Presbyterian Church, in which the Doctor is serving as Trustee, and take an active interest in its growth and up-building. Socially, he is connected with Maroa Lodge No. 455, A. F. & A. M.; Maroa Chapter No. 192, R. A. M.; Maroa Lodge No. 314, I. O. O. F.; and the Knights of the Globe. He votes with the Democratic party. He has recently been appointed on the Board of Pension Examiners of Decatur. The Doctor has had a prosperous career and is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of valuable and well-improved land in Austin Township, that yields to him a good income, and he also has considerable property in this city.

While he does a general practice, he has for some time made a specialty of the study of the eye and ear and does considerable practice along those lines. He took a special course in 1890 at the Chicago Ophthalmic College, and in 1892 at the Post-Graduate Medical School of New York City. He keeps abreast with all the discoveries and theories connected with the science, has been a close student of his profession, and has therefore won a high reputation, which is well merited.



**H**ARRY M. PRESCOTT, an enterprising and progressive business man of Decatur, and one of the directors of the Decatur Lumbering and Manufacturing Company, is a native of the old Granite State and is also a representative of one of the early families of Macon County. He was born in Manchester, N. H., January 20, 1854, and when a child of four years was brought to Decatur by his parents, David G. and Clara C. (Barrett) Prescott. The father died on the 9th of September, 1892, at the age of sixty-four years, and his wife is still living at the age of sixty-two years, making her home with her son.

The subject of this sketch began his education in the public schools of Decatur, but in 1869 his father was stricken with paralysis, from which he never fully recovered. This caused Harry to abandon his textbooks and engage in some pursuit which would bring him in a livelihood. At the age of sixteen he entered the Elwood & Brother Planing-Mill; and received for his services seventy-five cents per day at the beginning. As he became more familiar with the business, he was given more responsible work to do, and his wages were correspondingly increased. He remained with that firm for seven years, and was finally placed in charge of the molding and scroll-sawing department. Being the eldest of a family of six children, he assisted largely in the support of his mother and sisters.

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



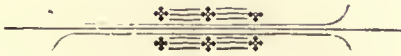
*J. M. Chambers*



*Elizabeth Chambers*



After severing his connection with the firm of Elwood & Brother, Mr. Prescott worked for one year in a furniture factory, running a scroll saw. He then spent one winter in the employ of Mr. Burrows in the Union Iron Works, being employed in the wood-work department. He next secured a position with the firm of Mills & Harry, now the Mills Lumber Company, with which he remained five years, in the planing-mill and carpentering department. In the winter of 1884-85, he served in the same capacity with Lyon & Gibson, and on the 1st of January, 1886, in company with Thomas V. Jones, he purchased stock in the Niagara Pump Company. The business was established by James Wiswell and William Aeuff, but on its incorporation became known as the Niagara Pump Company. Mr. Prescott continued his connection with that company until the 1st of January, 1888, when it was consolidated with the Gaddis & Huff Lumber Company, under the name of the Decatur Lumber and Manufacturing Company. Its incorporators were Frank Gaddis, Will J. Huff, T. V. Jones, Harry Prescott, James M. Wiswell and William Aeuff. In 1889, Messrs. Wiswell and Aeuff retired, and Mr. Huff later left the company. Mr. Kauff, the present Secretary, and Mr. Alsop, the present Treasurer, have since become members of the company. The Decatur Lumber and Manufacturing Company is doing a fine business and yields to its members a good income. In politics, Mr. Prescott is a Democrat, and, socially, belongs to Decatur Lodge No. 65, I. O. O. F.



**M**RS. ELIZABETH CHAMBERS, who resides in Piatt County, just across the line from Macon County, where she is widely known, was born on the 4th of November, 1822, in Lauderdale County, Ala., and is a daughter of John Dickey, who was born and reared in the State of Kentucky. In the year 1825 he removed to the North, accompanied by his family,

and settled in White County, Ill., where he spent two years, and April 17th, 1829, he became one of the pioneers of Macon County. He located in Friends' Creek Township, and was one of the leading citizens of the community until his death. He passed away in October, 1846, and was laid to rest in Cumberland Cemetery, in Friends' Creek Township.

Elizabeth Dickey spent the days of her maidenhood under the paternal roof, and on the 25th of October, 1848, went to a home of her own, as on that day she became the wife of James R. Chambers, a native of Pendleton County, Ky., born February 21, 1825. They began their domestic life in a log cabin home on section 21, Oakley Township. They had no capital, and the early days were ones of hardships and struggle, but it was also a period of perseverance, industry and economy, and with mutual confidence and love they traveled life's pathway together, and their arduous labors and untiring efforts at length secured them a small farm.

Eight children came to bless the home, namely: Martha E., Naney, William, Lucinda Jane, Isaac, John F., Margaret and Anna. Nancy died at the age of four years, and John F. died in December, 1891. Both are buried in Peck's Cemetery. All the other members of the family are living and all have left home with the exception of Lucinda Jane and Margaret, who remain with their mother on the farm, just east of the Macon County line, in Piatt County. This farm comprises over five hundred acres of as fine land as can be found in eastern Illinois and is under a high state of cultivation and well improved. The daughters, however, have just purchased a fine home in Cerro Gordo, valued at \$2,300, situated in the midst of three acres of land, whither they intend to remove in the near future. The Chambers household is always the abode of hospitality, and the members of the family are prominent and respected citizens of the various communities in which they live.

Mrs. Chambers can with just pride review her life work. She has been a consistent member of the Covenant Presbyterian Church for nearly sixty years, and has done all in her power for the upbuilding of the cause of Christianity. Her hus-

band was a practical farmer and a man of sterling worth. During his life he held many positions of honor and trust in his township, including the offices of School Director and Supervisor, and was honest and upright in all his dealings and faithful to every trust. In politics, he affiliated with the Republican party. He died December 23, 1890, and was laid to rest in Peek's Cemetery, leaving his life companion and six children to mourn the loss of a kind and loving husband and father.



**D**AVID SHELTON, who carries on general farming on section 11, Milan Township, is one of the worthy citizens that Ohio has furnished to Macon County. He was born in the Buckeye State, on the 6th of December, 1823. His father, Jeremiah Shelton, was a native of Virginia, and when quite a small child went with his parents to Ohio, where he grew to manhood and married May Augusta Shelton. She was of German extraction and was born in Ohio. The father of our subject was of Irish lineage and in 1844 removed with his family to Hamilton County Ill., where he passed the remainder of his life, being called to the home beyond at the age of fifty-five years.

The Shelton family numbered five children, but with the exception of our subject all are now deceased. He was the second in order of birth. The days of his boyhood and youth were passed in the home of his parents, but on attaining his majority he left home and returned to Ohio, where he began work on a farm at twenty-five cents per day. He was employed at farm labor for five years, after which he operated a rented farm for the same length of time. On the expiration of that period we find him in Missouri, where he carried on agricultural pursuits for seven years, when he removed to Christian County, Ill.

In the mean time Mr. Sheldon was married, Miss Sarah J. Taylor, of Ohio, becoming his wife. Their union was celebrated in January, 1848, and unto

them were born ten children. Those still living at this writing are: J. N., a Presbyterian minister of Illinois; James, a resident farmer of Macon County; Alonzo, who resides in Louisiana; and Albert, who carries on agricultural pursuits in this county. The mother's death occurred in 1870, and Mr. Shelton afterwards married Miss Mary A. Reynolds, of Moultrie County, Ill. One child has been born of this union, Robert, who is still at home and carries on the farm.

On coming to Macon County in 1866, our subject purchased one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land. Although it was then a barren tract, with characteristic energy he began its development and soon placed acre after acre under the plow, until now the entire amount is under a high state of cultivation and the waving fields of grain delight the eye of the passer-by. All that Mr. Shelton possesses has been acquired through his own labors, and as he now has a comfortable competence we see that his life must have been a busy one. Idleness is utterly foreign to his nature, and through well-directed efforts and good management he has gained the prosperity which numbers him among Macon County's substantial citizens. Like all true American citizens, he feels an interest in political affairs and keeps himself well informed on the political affairs of the day. His ballot is deposited in support of the Democracy, and his religious belief led him to become a member of the Christian Church.



**W**ALTER HUTCHIN, a boot and shoe dealer of Decatur, who carries on business at No. 117 North Water Street, is recognized as one of the progressive citizens of Macon County. It is to the enterprise of her merchants that Decatur owes much of her prosperity and her present advanced position among her sister cities of this commonwealth.

Our subject is a native of Kansas, and was born in Linn County on the 24th of February, 1860,

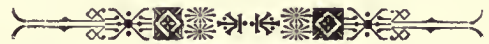


being the second in order of birth in a family of four sons and two daughters whose parents were Wallace and Miranda (Monson) Hutchin, both natives of Ohio. Of the children, Charles, the eldest, and Elmer, the fifth in order of birth, are now deceased. Elwood, Minnie and Elfa are still living. The father, who is a blacksmith by trade, came to Illinois at an early day and located in De Witt County, from where, after a residence of some years, he removed to Kansas. In 1862, he returned to Illinois, and is now living in Clinton. The paternal grandfather, Thomas Hutchin, was born in the Buckeye State, and was of French descent. He was a farmer and stock-dealer, and died when more than eighty years of age, in the faith of the Universalist Church. The maternal grandfather, Bushrod W. Monson, is still living, at the advanced age of eighty-three years, and makes his home with Mrs. Hutchin in Clinton, being numbered among the pioneers of this State. Soon after his arrival he entered land, the value of which increased as the years went by, until he became quite well-to-do.

Our subject was two years old when his father returned to De Witt County, where he was reared to manhood. His education was acquired in the graded schools of Clinton, and when quite young he began clerking in a hoot and shoe store. When he had accumulated sufficient capital he embarked in business for himself. The year 1880 witnessed his arrival in Decatur, at which time he began clerking for the firm of W. F. Busher & Co. Subsequently he formed a partnership with Mr. Busher, under the firm name of Busher & Hutchin, which connection was continued for five years, when our subject sold out and embarked in business for himself, and has now carried on operations at his present location for about four years. He is doing a good business, enjoys a liberal trade, and employs several men.

A marriage ceremony performed on the 8th of September, 1881, united the destinies of Mr. Hutchin and Miss Annie C., daughter of Benjamin F. and Martha E. Dillehunt, of Decatur. Two children were born of their union, Everett M. and Claire E., but the former died in infancy. The parents are both members of the First Baptist

Church and take an active part in its work. Mr. Hutchin serves on the Board of Trustees, of which he is Clerk. Socially, he is a member of Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M.; Chevalier Bayard Lodge No 189, K. P.; and the Grand Order of the Orient. In politics he is a supporter of the Democratic party. In connection with his store, he owns a pleasant residence, and his wife has a farm of forty acres in Blue Mound Township. His life has been a busy one, and to his own efforts may be attributed the success he has achieved.



**R**UFUS W. CHILSON is the proprietor of the Chilson Dye House, which is located at No. 134 South State Street, Decatur. This business was established in July, 1879, and has since been successfully continued. The dye house is a two-story building, supplied with all the machinery, appliances and conveniences necessary to the work, and employment is furnished to about five hands. Mr. Chilson enjoys a good business, of which he is well deserving.

Born in Belleville, Mich., on the 18th of February, 1855, our subject there made his home until 1867, when, at the age of twelve years, he went to Detroit. The following year he began learning the dyeing business, and for three years served as an apprentice, receiving no compensation whatever. In his seventeenth year he started in business with his brother, who was also a dyer, opening an establishment in Flint, Mich. They afterward did business in Port Huron for three years, and in 1878 went to Jacksonville, Ill., where they opened a dye house, carrying on business at that place for a time. In 1879, they came to Decatur and established a dye house in this place. The partnership continued for one year, when J. I. Chilson retired, leaving our subject alone.

On the 9th of September, 1878, Mr. Chilson was united in marriage with Miss Julia Hubbard, their union being celebrated in Port Huron, Mich. They hold membership with St. John's Episcopal



Church, but Mr. Chilson, who possesses a fine voice, is now the tenor singer in the choir of the Presbyterian Church. Socially, he is connected with Chevalier Bayard Lodge No. 189, K. P., in which he takes an active interest, and is also a member of Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M., of Decatur. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the Republican party, and though he feels an interest in politics, as every true American citizen should do, he has never been a politician in the sense of office-seeking. As a citizen he is public spirited and progressive and does all in his power to promote the best interests of Decatur, and to aid in its upbuilding. Himself and wife have many friends in this community and rank high in the social circles in which they move.



**T**HOMAS JEFFERSON ROBERTS, who owns and operates one hundred and sixty acres of good land on section 1, Niantic Township, ranks among the enterprising and substantial agriculturists of the community, and is numbered among the early settlers of the county, his residence here dating from November, 1852. He was born in Warrick County, Ind., September 28, 1845. His grandfather, John Roberts, removed with his family from Georgia to the Hoosier State in 1817, locating first in Gibson County, and afterwards in Warrick County. The father of our subject, Norman Roberts, was born in Georgia in 1800, and accompanied the family to the Hoosier State. His marriage took place in Indiana, to Miss Temperance Lockhart, by whom he had seven children, one of whom, William P. Roberts, lives in Sangamon County. His second wife, Mrs. Orpha (Whittinghill) Lockhart, was the widow of James Lockhart, brother of Temperance Lockhart and she had six children by her former marriage, one of whom, Jesse Lockhart, is living in Niantic. For a number of years Norman and his wife resided upon a farm in Warrick County, but 1852 witnessed their removal to Illinois. After three years spent

in Sangamon County, they came to Macon County, in 1855, and located in Niantic Township, where Mr. Roberts purchased a tract of eighty acres of raw land and opened up a farm, to the improvement of which he devoted his time and attention. His death occurred June 26, 1890, at the advanced age of ninety years. His wife was called to the home beyond February 6, 1870, and a marble monument in Long Point Cemetery marks their last resting-place.

The Roberts family numbered three sons and a daughter who grew to mature years. John W., the eldest, is a farmer of Harristown Township, Macon County; Norman is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Harristown Township; T. J. is the next younger; and Madeline is the wife of Lewis Blankinship, a farmer of Harristown Township.

The gentleman whose name heads this record has been a resident of Macon County since he was a lad of seven years. The public schools afforded him his educational privileges, but he is mostly self-educated, having acquired a good practical knowledge through experience and observation. At the age of nineteen years he left home to make his way in the world, and was employed as a farm hand by the month during the five succeeding years of his life. From the wages which he had received, he managed to save enough at the expiration of that period to purchase a farming outfit. Buying eighty acres of land in Harristown Township on time, he built thereon a small house and began the development of a farm, but after four years sold out and removed to Sangamon County, where he purchased eighty acres of land. To this he afterwards added an adjoining forty acres. One decade was passed in that county, after which Mr. Roberts bought one hundred and sixty acres of improved land where he now lives. This he broke and fenced, transforming the undeveloped land into rich and fertile fields. None of the accessories of a model farm are lacking, the place being complete in all its appointments. The pleasant residence is situated on a beautiful knoll and commands a view of Niantic and the surrounding country.

In Sangamon County, August 13, 1868, Mr.

Roberts married Miss Henrietta Clay Cash, a native of Kentucky, and a daughter of William Cash, who became one of the early settlers of Morgan County, Ill. Seven children have been born unto them. Arthur and Rufus aid in carrying on the home farm. The younger members are Genevra, Fannie, Bessie, Bertha and Katie, all at home. The mother is a member of the Christian Church. In politics, Mr. Roberts is a stalwart Democrat. The cause of education finds in him a warm friend and he is now serving as a member of the School Board of Niantic. His life record is that of a self-made man, who started out for himself empty-handed, but by determined will and energy has overcome the difficulties and obstacles in his path and gained the goal of his hopes.



**J** H. BRYNER, an honored veteran of the late war and a farmer residing on section 35, South Wheatland Township, is a native of the Keystone State. He was born in Fayette County, May 28, 1834, and when he was only three days old his father died. With his mother he remained until ten years of age, and since that time has made his own way in the world. In the family were four children: Allen and Perry, both living in Pennsylvania; Mary, who died in that State; and J. H. The family was scattered on the death of the father, and our subject and his brother have never met but twice.

Mr. Bryner whose name heads this record received very meagre school privileges, but by his own efforts has become a well-informed man. He worked on a farm in his native State until 1848, when, hearing of the better advantages afforded by the West, he emigrated to Champaign County, Ill. He started with twenty-five hundred head of sheep, which he sold along the way and in this State. In the spring of 1849, he went to Missouri, and in 1860 arrived in Decatur, whence he went to Moultrie County. Prompted by patriotic impulses, he enlisted in July, 1862, as a member of

Company A, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Illinois Infantry, under Capt. Van Fleet and Col. Richmond. His company and Company I took three hundred and fifty prisoners to Sandusky, Ohio, and afterwards went South, participating in the battle of Hot Springs, after which they spent the winter guarding railroads. During this time a hard battle occurred at La Grange, where our subject was taken sick; however, he rejoined the army at Vicksburg and served in the Twenty-fifth Ohio Battery during the siege. He joined his regiment at Helena, Ark., aided in the capture of Little Rock, and took part in the battle of Ball's Bluff, where he was detailed for the commissary department. After eighteen months, he made a perilous journey down the White River with a heavily laden boat, and then remained at Pine Bluff until July 12, 1865, after which his regiment was discharged, and with the One Hundred and Sixth Illinois he started across the country to St. Charles to take the boat for home. This was a wearisome march in rain and snow, and several men lost their lives on the way.

On his return, Mr. Bryner again came to Macon County and was employed as a farm hand and as a sheep-herder until he was enabled to purchase a small tract of land and begin farming for himself. With a determination to win success, he has labored long and earnestly, and prosperity has rewarded his faithful and persevering efforts. He is now the owner of a fine farm, which yields him a good income, and he also receives a pension from the Government.

In 1851, in Piatt County, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Miranda Bryner, who was born and reared in Pickaway County, Ohio. The following children have been born unto them: William, who was born in Missouri, and married Miss Weaver, but is now deceased; Clarinda, wife of Robert Waits, a farmer of Wheatland Township; Sarah, wife of William Rice, who is Mayor of Mt. Pulaski, Ill.; Annie, wife of Joseph Jones; and Perry Allen, of Decatur, a carpenter in the employ of the Wabash Railroad Company. The family is one widely and favorably known in this community, for its members are people of sterling worth. Mr. Bryner cast his first Presidential vote for Bu-



chanan, then supported Douglas, afterward voted for Lincoln, and has since been identified with the Republican party, whose principles he now warmly advocates. Socially, he is connected with the Grand Army post of Decatur. He has many friends throughout this neighborhood, for his excellencies of character have gained him universal confidence and esteem.



**J**AMES DINGMAN, who resides on section 14, Niantic Township, is one of the extensive land-owners of the county, owning more than a thousand acres. He is also numbered among the enterprising and progressive farmers, and his name deserves to be enrolled among the honored pioneers, for since 1845 he has lived in this county, and since November, 1833, has been a resident of Illinois. A native of Ohio, he was born in Shelby County, January 7, 1820, and is descended from one of the Revolutionary heroes. His grandfather, Capt. James Dingman, was a native of Pennsylvania, and for seven years and three months fought for the independence of the Colonies, being for four years under the command of Washington. His title was won in that conflict. When he died he had some \$14,000 pension money due him, but he would never draw a cent. His remains were interred in New River-ton Cemetery, in Sangamon County, Ill., where a monument marks his last resting-place.

Abraham Dingman, father of our subject, was a native of Pennsylvania, and when a lad went with his parents to Ohio, where he was reared and married Miss Jemima Bobo, a native of Virginia, and a daughter of Townsend G. Bobo. In 1833, Mr. Dingman emigrated with his family to Sangamon County, Ill., locating on what was known as German Prairie, six miles east of Springfield. He bought five hundred acres of land, quite a large portion of which was a timber tract along the Sangamon River. The present town of Riverton was situated on the old homestead. He there spent his

remaining days, dying July 2, 1835, at the age of forty-eight years. His remains were interred by those of his father. His wife survived him for a number of years, and passed away August 12, 1881, at the age of seventy-eight, being laid to rest in Long Point Cemetery, in Niantic Township.

Our subject is the eldest and only survivor in the family of four sons and three daughters, though all grew to mature years. He came to Illinois when a lad of thirteen and grew to manhood upon the old homestead in Sangamon County, remaining with his mother and operating the farm for a number of years after his father's death. Our subject was married in Sangamon County, in May, 1841, to Miss Emily Danley, daughter of Samuel Danley, of that county, who removed there from Kentucky in 1817. A brother, Levi Danley, aged ninety years, has lived with Mr. Dingman for the past ten years. Mrs. Dingman was born in Sangamon County in 1824. Two years after their marriage, the young couple came to Macon County, and Mr. Dingman purchased three hundred and twenty acres of improved land in Niantic Township, known as the Strickland Farm, and his home became the stopping-place for all travelers. From time to time more land was added to the farm, which now comprises one thousand and five acres. It is situated only a half-mile from Niantic, and, being improved with all modern conveniences, it is a very valuable and desirable place.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Dingman were born seven children: Richard R., who is married and lives on the old homestead; Elizabeth, wife of John S. Kiser, who is also living on the old home farm; Abraham, a farmer of Iroquois County, Ill., located four miles east of Watscka; Mary Ann, the wife of Samuel Van Hook, who is living on the old homestead; William, an agriculturist residing in Niantic; Melissa E., who is the wife of William Tilley, who lives on the old home farm; and John H., who is still with his parents.

In politics, Mr. Dingman was first an old-line Whig, and in 1860 voted for Stephen A. Douglas. He was personally acquainted with both Douglas and Lincoln, the latter having resided on a farm only four miles from the home of our subject. Mr. Dingman has never sought public office, but was



elected and served two terms as Supervisor, discharging his duties with the same faithfulness and promptness that have characterized his entire career. Himself and wife are prominent and consistent members of the Long Point Christian Church, which was established in 1856, and are highly respected citizens, their upright lives having gained for them warm regard. For sixty years, Mr. Dingman has been a resident of Illinois, and for almost half a century has lived in Macon County. He has been a witness of the growth of the county since the days of its infancy, has watched its progress and upbuilding, and has aided in its development. Although he has never been prominent in public affairs, yet in his quiet and unassuming manner he has borne his part in the promotion of the best interests of the community, and well deserves to be ranked among those to whom the county owes a debt of gratitude for what they have done in her behalf.



**C**HARLES J. HARTLEY, who holds the responsible position of superintendent of the Warren & Durfee Manufacturing Company, of Decatur, is a native of this State. He was born in Quincy September 4, 1848, and is a son of James and Sarah (Moffitt) Hartley. His paternal grandfather, Thomas Hartley, was a native of Virginia and served as a soldier under Washington in the Revolutionary War. He afterward emigrated to Kentucky, and was drowned in the Licking River while on a bear hunt.

James Hartley, one of his seven children, was born in Kentucky, whence he removed to St. Louis, where he became a carriage manufacturer, following that business for many years. In 1848 he went to Quincy, Ill., and was engaged as a millwright until his death, which occurred in 1852, when he was almost fifty years of age. He married Sarah Moffitt, who was a native of the Emerald Isle, as was her father, Thomas Moffitt, who emigrated with his family to America about 1820

and settled in New York. After a short time, however, he came to Illinois, locating on a farm near Nauvoo. He was formerly a seaman and was the first man to shoot the rapids at Louisville. After coming to Illinois, however, he carried on agricultural pursuits until his death. Mrs. Hartley survived her husband many years, and after his death became the wife of William McKinney, of Nauvoo, Ill., who died in 1865. They had one son, William, who died in 1882. The mother died the same year in Quincy, at the age of sixty-seven. The parents of our subject, who were members of the Roman Catholic Church, had a family of eight children, all sons.

Charles J. Hartley was only eleven years of age when he began working on a farm in Iowa, where he spent about a year. He then returned to his native State and once more entered the public schools of Quincy, where his education was acquired. At the age of fourteen he began learning the trade of a pattern-maker, but was soon afterward taken sick. When he recovered, several changes had taken place in the shop where he was employed and he began learning the machinist's trade, with which line of business he has been connected almost continuously since.

On the 6th of September, 1871, Mr. Hartley married Miss Eunice Spencer, daughter of William and Eunice (De Long) Spencer. They became the parents of three sons and two daughters, but one died in infancy, and Florence also passed away when quite young. Those still living are Arthur, Joseph and Inez.

Mr. Hartley followed the machinist's trade in Quincy for a number of years and then removed to Hannibal, Mo., where he remained for about a year, after which he returned to the city of his birth. It was in 1878 that he first came to Decatur. At that time he spent about a year in this city, after which he removed to Iowa, but when a short period had elapsed he again came to Decatur, where he secured the position of foreman in the Novelty Works, being there employed for two years. On the expiration of that time he took charge of the shops of the Warren & Durfee Manufacturing Company as superintendent, which position he now holds. Affairs are ably managed

under his careful supervision, and the company finds in him the right man for the place.

An event in the life of Mr. Hartley well worthy of mention is his service in the late war. In May, 1864, although only fifteen years of age, he enlisted as a private of Company A, One Hundred and Thirty-seventh Illinois Infantry, for the one hundred-days service, and when that time had expired he re-enlisted in Memphis, Tenn., in Company A, Sixth Illinois Cavalry, in which he served until the close of the war. He participated in a number of engagements, including the battles of Franklin and Nashville, and was wounded at Shoal Creek. He also had two brothers in the army: Henry, a member of Company E, Seventh Kansas Cavalry; and Robert, one of the boys in blue of Company L, Tenth Illinois Cavalry.

In his political affiliations, Mr. Hartley is a Democrat, and, socially, is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen; also of Celestial Lodge No. 186, I. O. O. F., and the Encampment. Himself and wife hold membership with the Episcopal Church. He was a faithful soldier during the late war, is now a public-spirited and progressive citizen, and a man true to every trust and confidence reposed in him.



**J**OSEPH SHAFER belongs to that important class of citizens who go to make up the bone and sinew of this country—the farmers. He is one of the substantial and progressive agriculturists of Macon County and owns and operates three hundred and twenty acres of land on sections 21 and 28, Niantic Township. His life record is as follows: He was born in Germany, August 4, 1828, and in his native land grew to manhood, receiving a good German education. He is entirely self-educated in English, however, as after coming to this country he taught himself to read and write the language of the people, and he is now a well-informed man. He served for

three years in the German army, being Lieutenant, or drilling officer, of his company, and he participated in the famous battle of Holstein in 1849.

After receiving his discharge, Mr. Shafer remained in the Fatherland for two years, and then, bidding adieu to home and friends, he took passage on a sailing-vessel at Bremen in 1853, which after a voyage of sixty-seven days dropped anchor in the harbor of New Orleans on Christmas Day. From New Orleans he at once proceeded up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, whence he went to Springfield, where he joined some friends who had come to this country several years previous. He soon afterward secured employment in a hotel in Elkhart, Ill., but subsequently returned to the capital city where he served as bar-tender for a year. This business, however, did not suit him, so he rented land and engaged in farming. After a few years, with the capital which he had acquired, he purchased a good farm in Sangamon County, near Rochester, and continued its cultivation until 1873, when he sold out and bought one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 28, Niantic Township, where he has since made his home. Since locating thereon he has erected a neat and commodious residence and a substantial barn, and has made other improvements which add greatly to the value and attractive appearance of the place. He has planted an osage hedge around the entire farm and divided it into fields of convenient size with the same. All the accessories and improvements of a model farm are there found, and the well-tilled fields and neat appearance of the place indicate the careful supervision of an enterprising owner.

In Sangamon County, March 20, 1856, Mr. Shafer was united in marriage with Miss Caroline Mescheta, a native of Germany. Seven children were born unto them, six of whom are living: Teresa, at home; Joseph, who is employed in Chicago; William and Tony, who aid in carrying on the home farm; Lizzie, who is deaf and dumb, but has been highly educated in the Jacksonville Deaf and Dumb Institute, which she attended for six years, and in St. Louis, where she remained one year; and Henry, who completes the family. Mary, the deceased daughter, was the wife of

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





W. J. TULLY

Henry Harbli. The children have all been provided with good educational privileges and are thus fitted for the practical duties of life. Mr. Shafer and his family are members of the Illiopolis Catholic Church. His wife died August 6, 1890, and his daughter Mary died on the 27th of the same month, and both lie buried in the Springfield Catholic Cemetery, where Mr. Shafer owns a beautiful lot, on which he has erected a monument to their memory.

Our subject is a man of sterling worth and strict integrity, widely and favorably known throughout this and adjoining counties. In 1890, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 21, Niantic Township, adjoining the home farm—a tract of rolling prairie under a high state of cultivation. His has been a busy life, and the reward of his labor and toil is seen in the fine farm which he now owns.



**W**INGATE J. TULLY, who for many years was one of the leading farmers and stock-raisers of Macon County, is now living a retired life in Decatur. He has been a public-spirited and progressive citizen and is well known to the people of the community as a man of sterling worth. He was born in Sussex County, Del., on the 20th of September, 1809, and is a son of Joshua and Lavina (Jones) Tully, who were also natives of the same State. In 1811 the parents emigrated to Ross County, Ohio, where in the usual manner of farmer lads our subject was reared to manhood. At the age of nineteen he began farming for himself. He purchased one hundred and fifty acres of land in Pickaway County at \$2 per acre, and immediately began its development. As he had not money enough to carry on the work without replenishing his exchequer, he labored for a time as a farm hand at \$10 per month, and in 1834 worked in a sawmill near Columbus, Ohio, for \$12 per month.

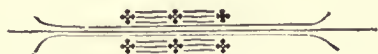
It was in 1854 that Mr. Tully came to Illinois, locating in Macon County, where he has since made his home. He purchased three hundred and sixty acres of prairie land in South Wheatland Township at \$13 per acre, and forty of timberland at \$10 per acre. There were very few improvements on the place, but he at once began its development, and his toil and labor soon wrought a wonderful transformation, changing the raw prairie into rich and fertile fields. His parents had accompanied him to the West and made their home with him until death. The father died at the age of seventy-seven, having survived his wife a few years. In the family were eight children, but four died in early life. Two sisters are now living, Lurana and Mary, who make their home with our subject. Nancy became the wife of Josiah Timmons, of Ohio, and after her husband's death she came to Macon County, living near her brother until called to her final rest, some fifteen years ago.

Mr. Tully added to his farm until it comprised four hundred acres, but he has since sold forty acres and now has three hundred and sixty acres remaining. It is a well-improved place and is considered the finest stock farm in Wheatland Township. It is well watered by Sand Creek and its rich pastures make it an excellent place for raising stock. Mr. Tully kept on hand the finest grades of horses and cattle and was extensively engaged in the breeding of hogs. The house upon the farm is a two-story residence and there are good barns and other necessary outbuildings. In fact, the place is one of the best improved in the locality.

On attaining his majority, Mr. Tully cast his first Presidential vote for Henry Clay, and since the organization of the Republican party has supported each of its candidates. For six years he has served as School Director of his district and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend. He is strongly in favor of compulsory education, for he believes the public schools one of the most important factors in producing good citizens. He takes a deep interest in the Masonic fraternity, having been made a Mason in Chillicothe, Ohio. He was a charter member of Mt. Zion Lodge, later



became a member of the organization in Macon, and now holds membership with Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M., of Decatur. For half a century he has been connected with this fraternity, in the growth of which he feels a deep interest.



**J**OHAN H. MILLER is successfully engaged in farming on section 1, South Wheatland Township. He is a prominent and representative citizen of the community, and is an honored veteran of the late war, who faithfully fought to preserve the Union, and left the service with the consciousness of no duty left undone. He is numbered among the early settlers of Macon County, his birth having occurred in Decatur Township, a mile north of the county seat, August 8, 1841. His father, David Miller, was born in Virginia, December 27, 1790, and emigrated to this county before 1830, becoming one of the honored pioneers. He was married October 9, 1827, to Miss Mary Muirhead, who was born July 17, 1808, and died September 19, 1832. Three children were born of that union: James D., who is now a farmer of California; William M. and Thomas, both of whom died in childhood. For his second wife, Mr. Miller chose Mrs. Mary Y. Wheeler, a sister of J. Y. Braden, and the widow of Henry Wheeler. Their union was celebrated April 13, 1834. She had five children by her first marriage. Elizabeth, who was born in 1826 and is now deceased, was the wife of David Britt; Samuel R. resides in Decatur; William E. is deceased; Nancy J. is the wife of Mason Packard, of San Jose, Cal.; and A. J. is a stockman of Harristown Township. Unto the parents of our subject were born sixteen children, but of this number several died in childhood. Margaret T., who was born in 1835, is the widow of Abraham Travis and lives in Carlinville, Ill.; Laura is deceased; Mary H. is the wife of George Orin, a dairyman of Decatur; George S. is deceased; John H. is the next younger; Mrs.

Lavina Cramer is living near Carlinville; Mrs. Lucetta Groves makes her home in Carlinville; Daniel operates a fruit farm in California; and Mrs. Harriet Robinson and Triphosa are deceased.

On coming to this county, Mr. Miller entered land from the Government, and upon the farm which he developed spent his remaining days. He endured all the hardships of pioneer life, not the least among which was having to go to Chicago and St. Louis to trade. He was in limited circumstances but became well-to-do, and at his death, which occurred October 6, 1853, he left a good farm of two hundred acres. He and his wife were among the earliest members of the Christian Church of Decatur. In politics, he was a Whig. He lived a quiet, unassuming life and had the warm regard of all who knew him.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood upon the old farm north of Decatur. The city was then a small hamlet, and he used to buy dry goods, boots and shoes and groceries all in the same store, and when he went to mill with a sack of grain would wait until it was ground, and then return with his flour. His educational privileges were such as the subscription schools afforded until in later life, when he attended the schools of Decatur for two terms. His father died when he was twelve years old, and the greater part of the farm work then devolved upon him, but he became inured to the arduous duties and early learned to swing the axe and scythe.

On the 7th of August, 1862, Mr. Miller left home and joined Company B, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, at Decatur. The regiment was organized and drilled at Camp Macon, and went to Vicksburg, joining Sherman's army. Mr. Miller participated in the battle of Arkansas Post, was under Grant's command at Vicksburg during the forty days' siege, took part in the battles of Champion Hills, Jackson, Missionary Ridge and Chattanooga, and his regiment was one of the first to cross on the pontoons. Mr. Miller was elected Second Sergeant at Camp Macon, was made Second Lieutenant at Young's Point, and later became First Lieutenant. He was slightly wounded in the thigh by a spent ball at Lookout Mountain. He served in the Atlanta campaign,



and on the celebrated march to the sea and went through the Carolinas to Petersburg and Richmond. When the war was over, he took part in the Grand Review at Washington, where wave after wave of bayonet-crested blue passed by the stand where the President of the United States stood watching the troops that had preserved the Union. Mr. Miller received his discharge in the Capitol City, and reached his home in July of 1865, after three years of faithful service.

Our subject was married November 8, 1867, to Miss Lottie Cox, a native of this county and a daughter of William Cox. They began their domestic life upon a farm north of Decatur and there lived until 1873, when they removed to their present farm in South Wheatland Township. Mrs. Miller died in January, 1889, leaving five children: William, who married Miss Jacobs and is a farmer of South Wheatland Township; Mattie, the wife of David Diller, a ranchman of Albany, Tex.; Ada, who was educated in the public schools and in a business college, and is now an employe in the County Treasurer's office; Ettie and Minnie, who are at home. Mr. Miller was again married, December 8, 1891, in Blue Mound Township, his second union being with Mary Muirhead, a daughter of William Muirhead. Her father has for sixty-three years been a resident of this county. Mrs. Miller was born in Harrison County, Mo., and at the age of eight years came to this county. For three years she was successfully engaged in teaching in this locality.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller have a pleasant home, conveniently located upon a fine farm of two hundred and twenty acres of good land that yields a golden tribute to the care and cultivation of the owner. Besides his residence there are good barns and other necessary buildings, and the place is well-equipped with everything found upon a model farm, while the owner is ranked among the leading agriculturists of the neighborhood. He was the organizer and is a member of Tom White Post No. 529, G. A. R., of Mt. Zion, and has served as Commander. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Miller cast his first vote for Seymour and has since been a Democrat. In 1872, he was candidate for Sheriff. For five

years, he served as Supervisor of his township, and was a member of the building committee under whose supervision the county court house was erected. He also served as Collector for two years, and in that office, as in all others, discharged his duties with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents.



MRS. ELIZABETH SPANGLER, who is numbered among the early settlers of Macon County, resides on section 13, Decatur Township. She is a daughter of John Zorger, who was born in York County, Pa., in 1803, and was of German descent, his parents having been natives of Germany. His boyhood days were spent upon the home farm, and he afterward worked in a distillery for five years. He was married October 9, 1827, to Miss Mary Furringer, who was born in Philadelphia, and was also of German lineage. Her father was a farmer and was an honorable and upright man, whose family numbered fourteen children.

Mr. and Mrs. Zorger began their domestic life upon a farm and there resided for nine years. In 1839 with his wife and six children, the father started Westward. They had two good teams, a tent and a stove, and thus the discomforts of the journey were somewhat relieved, although the trip was a very tedious one. On the wild prairie were deer and wolves and Indians still passed through the neighborhood. Mr. Zorger secured land from the Government, at Danville, Ill., a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, to which he added until he had three hundred acres in Whitmore Township. He built the first two-story frame house in the county, and made other excellent improvements upon his place, which added greatly to its value and desirability. Although he came here poor, by economy, enterprise and good management he gained a handsome competence. His death occurred in 1888, at the age of eighty-five years. His wife died May 29, 1878, in

her seventy-seventh year. They had traveled life's journey together for almost half a century, sharing with each other the sorrows and joys, the adversity and prosperity of life. In politics, the father was a Democrat, and was a member of the Weinbrenarian Church. His wife held membership with the German Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Spangler and her sister Caroline were twins and the eldest children in the family. The latter died at the age of twenty-seven. Andrew is a large land-owner of Kansas. John and Ann both reside upon the old home farm. Mary, twin sister of John, is a widow and lives with her son in Macon County; and Mrs. Susan Morrison completes the family.

The lady whose name heads this sketch spent her girlhood in the usual manner of farmers' children. Her educational privileges were quite limited, as there were only subscription schools in the neighborhood. She used to spin, weave and dye cloth and perform other such labor as fell to the daughters of the household in those days. In 1849 she became the wife of Joseph Spangler, who came from York County, Pa., and had served as a teamster, distiller and miller in the Keystone State, becoming quite wealthy. He was married in Pennsylvania to Barbara Bentzly, and unto them were born nine children. The mother died in March, 1847, at the age of sixty-three years. To each of his children, Mr. Spangler gave one hundred and sixty acres of land. Only two daughters of the family are now living: Mrs. Connelly, of Decatur; and Mrs. Daniels, of this county.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Spangler lived at Spangler's Mill, on the Sangamon River, and later removed to Hickory Point Township, whence they came to the farm in Decatur Township. Here Mr. Spangler died February 17, 1862, at the age of seventy-five years. He was a member of the Universalist Church, to which his widow also belongs, and in politics was a supporter of the Democracy. In the fall of 1835, he came to Illinois, and built one of the first mills in Macon County. He was a prominent and enterprising citizen, and an honored pioneer, whose loss in the community was deeply mourned.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Spangler were born the fol-

lowing children: Lydia Strong, who resides in La Harpe, Hancock County, Ill.; Mrs. Caroline McDaniels, who died in Kansas, leaving four sons; Hattie, who died at the age of seven years; and Frank, who operates the old home farm, of which he has had charge since seventeen years of age. Mrs. Spangler is an intelligent and estimable lady, widely known throughout the community, and is held in high regard for her many excellencies of character.



**E**PHRAIM BEAR, who is now living a retired life in Decatur, is numbered among the honored early settlers of Macon County, where for more than forty years he has made his home. His birth occurred in Cumberland County, Pa., on the 20th of July, 1818, but he comes of an old New England family. His grandfather, Jacob Bear, was born in 1747, and died in 1793. Ephraim Bear, Sr., the father of our subject, was born in 1784, and died in 1865. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Mary Bowers, was called to her final rest in 1861, and both were buried in Macon County. The family was originally of Swiss origin.

The subject of this sketch was reared to manhood upon the old home farm, and early became familiar with agriculture in all its details. Having attained to mature years, he was married at the age of twenty-six to Miss Elizabeth Mounts, who died four years later. She had had a son, Joseph Hartman, who died at the age of seventeen months.

Mr. Bear of this sketch remained on the old homestead until thirty years of age, when he removed to Franklin County, Pa., there making his home until 1852. On the 3d of June of that year he landed in Decatur, coming to the West in company with his brother, Jacob Bear, and Isaac Shelabarger. They drove overland to this place and settled in Harristown Township, six miles west of this city. Our subject secured one hundred and

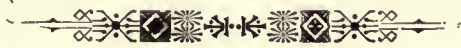


twenty acres of land, for which he paid \$7 per acre, and at once began its development. After six years he removed to a new farm near Bearsdale, in Hickory Point Township, and there his brother Samuel located some five years later. Jacob Bear died in November, 1891, and Samuel died February 25, 1880, both leaving families, who still live in this county. Mr. Bear of this sketch purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land near Bearsdale, paying \$14 per acre for eighty acres and \$7 per acre for the remaining land. To the cultivation and improvement of that farm he devoted his time and attention until 1878, and made it one of the best places in the locality. It is still in his possession and yields to him a good income.

On the 27th of September, 1849, Mr. Bear was again married, in Franklin County, Pa., his second union being with Miss Susan Hamsher, sister of B. Hamsher, of Decatur. She was born June 3, 1828, in Franklin County, and died February 13, 1882. The children born of that union are as follows: Mary Elizabeth, wife of John E. Braden; David Franklin, of Illini Township; John Newton, who follows farming in Hickory Point Township; Charles Cain, a harness-dealer of Decatur; Elmer Knisley, who died in infancy; Martha Ellen, widow of Henry C. Blaine, of Decatur; Ulysses Grant, who died in infancy; and Leah Lou and Olive May, both of whom graduated from the High School of Decatur, and were graduated from Knox College in the Class of '91. Both the latter have successfully engaged in school teaching, and Olive is employed in that vocation at the present time, while Leah, who has received a musical education, is teaching instrumental music.

On coming to Decatur in 1878, Mr. Bear embarked in the grocery business, which he carried on for some four years, but he is now practically living a retired life, enjoying a well-earned rest. His life has been a busy one, and as the result of his enterprise, good management and perseverance, he has acquired a handsome competency, which surrounds him with many comforts. In politics, he was in early life a supporter of the Whig party, but on its dissolution joined the ranks of the new Republican party, with which he has since affiliated.

For forty years he has been a member and faithful worker in the Church of God, and has served as Elder since coming to Illinois. His honorable, upright career and his many excellencies of character have made him highly esteemed and his life is well worthy of emulation.



**W**ILLIAM H. SHORB, of Decatur, is a well-known and popular citizen, who is now serving as Justice of the Peace of Decatur Township. He entered upon the duties of this office in November, 1892, having been elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Ira B. Curtis. The term was to expire on the 1st of May, 1893, but at the election held on the 4th of April of that year he was chosen his own successor, being elected for a four-years term, on the Republican ticket. He had already given evidence of the policy he would follow, and his fellow-townsmen knew that they would find in him a prompt and efficient officer, faithful in the discharge of every duty. This same straightforwardness in all the affairs of life, and his genial manner, have won Mr. Shorb the respect of all and made him a popular man.

The life record of our subject is as follows: He was born in Gettysburg, Pa., on the 6th of April, 1829, and the first twenty-seven years of his life were there passed. During his youth he served an apprenticeship to the cabinet-maker's trade, but afterward opened a buggy and carriage manufactory in his native city. In 1855 he removed to Greencastle, Pa., where he carried on a more extensive business in the same line until 1859. In 1861 we find Mr. Shorb as a patriotic citizen offering his services to his country. He was accepted and mustered in as a member of Company C. Second Pennsylvania Regiment. He had not only responded to the first call for troops, but had assisted in raising the company, of which he was made Orderly-Sergeant. On the 31st of July his term expired, and on the 15th of August he re-enlisted



in the Fifty-fifth Pennsylvania Infantry for three years' service. He was made Orderly-Sergeant and sent to Norfolk, later going to Hilton Head, S. C. He participated in the Banks' expedition, after which he did guard duty until the spring of 1864. In 1862, while attempting to destroy Pocolago Bridge he received a wound in the neck.

During his service Mr. Shorb was made Sergeant-Major, later received promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant, and was afterward made First Lieutenant. On the 15th of June, in front of Petersburg, just after the fort was blown up, he was wounded, a piece of shell striking his shoulder. For sixty days he lay in the hospital, and then rejoined his regiment in front of Petersburg. On the evening on which he again met his regiment he was placed in command of his company, but by exposure he became disabled, and in consequence was made Regiment Quartermaster, which position he held until mustered out of the service in January, 1865. His service was long and arduous, and he has never yet fully recovered his health.

While home on a furlough after being wounded, Mr. Shorb was married in Harrisburg, Pa., in August, 1864, to Miss Mary Magdalena Zarger. After his return from the war he located in Harrisburg, where he engaged in the manufacture of agricultural implements, and later in carpenter work. It was in April, 1867, that he came to Decatur, and here he carried on contracting and building until his ill-health forced him to abandon that occupation in 1871. In 1877 he was made Superintendent of Streets, and held that position for seven years, during which time he had employed under him from sixty to eighty men. He then purchased an interest in the La Fayette Street Railway, at La Fayette, Ind., and became its Secretary and manager, but after a year the road, which was owned entirely by Decatur men, was sold. On his return to this city our subject was made Overseer of the Poor for Decatur Township, serving one year.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Shorb have been born the following children: Mary, wife of Phil Muhller, of Decatur; Ella Gertrude, who graduated with honor from the High School, then engaged in teaching German in the High School for a year,

and is now pursuing the regular course at the Ann Arbor University of Michigan; and William Arthur, a member of the firm of Zimmerman & Shorb, plumbers and steam-fitters of Decatur. The mother of this family died about 1880.

Mr. Shorb takes quite an active interest in political affairs and is one of the leading Republicans of this locality. He warmly advocates the principles of his party and does all in his power to insure its success and promote its progress. Socially, he is Past Commander of Dunham Post No. 141, G. A. R. He is also Past Chancellor of his lodge of the Knights of Pythias. Our subject was a faithful soldier in the hour of his country's peril, and is alike true as a citizen in her days of peace.



**T**HOMAS LAWTON, who carries on general farming on section 13, Niantie Township, deserves to be mentioned among the early settlers of the county, for his residence covers a period of almost forty years, dating from 1854. He was born in Allegheny County, Pa., December 17, 1823, and is a son of Thomas Lawton, Sr., a native of Vermont. The grandfather and great-grandfather also bore the same name. The latter was a native of England and in early life followed the sea. Later he came to this country, locating in Vermont, and was one of the Green Mountain heroes of the Revolutionary War. He also served as a drummer in the French and Indian War, and lived to the advanced age of one hundred and four years. His son Thomas, the grandfather, was a soldier in the War of 1812, and lived to be ninety-three years old.

The father of our subject grew to manhood in Vermont, and in an early day removed to Allegheny County, Pa., where he married Mrs. Elizabeth (Cooper) Newell, who was born on the Atlantic Ocean, while her parents were emigrating from Ireland to America. Mr. Lawton was a man of good education and engaged in teaching in early life. He also worked as a carpenter and joiner.

and followed the occupation of farming. In 1831 he removed to Cincinnati, Ohio, and there built the first rolling-mill west of Pittsburgh. For five years he resided in that city, and then returned to Pennsylvania, where he remained until 1837. That year witnessed his emigration to Indiana. He became one of the pioneers of Bartholomew County, where he cleared and opened up a farm, and also did some mechanical work. A few years later he went to Washington County, Ill., and subsequently to St. Louis, Mo., where he worked in a foundry and afterward kept a hotel. His death occurred in 1883 at Oakdale, Neb., at the age of eighty-seven years.

Thomas Lawton whose name heads this sketch removed with his parents to Indiana and grew to manhood in Bartholomew County. He received good educational advantages, and to his father he gave the benefit of his services on the farm until he had attained his majority, when he operated a stationary engine for a few years. In 1854 he became a resident of Macon County, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land from the Illinois Central Railroad Company, in connection with his brother, Robert Bruce Lawton. Together they cleared and broke the land, and as it was new and rich soil soon gathered abundant harvests. They worked together until 1873, when Robert met his death by accident while running a mowing-machine. He was then forty-eight years of age. Our subject has built a large, substantial residence upon the farm, erected good barns and other outbuildings, planted an orchard, and has to-day one of the most valuable and desirable places of the community, his farm being pleasantly located within two miles of Niantic.

Mr. Lawton was married in Indiana in 1846 to Miss Margaret Oram, a native of Ohio. She died in 1850, leaving two children. Thomas J., who was reared to manhood in this county, located in Putnam County, Mo., and afterward moved to Mercer County, where he died in September, 1892. Naney Ann is the wife of Eli Nap, a substantial farmer of Niantic Township. Mr. Lawton was again married, July 20, 1862, his second union being with Miss Elizabeth Ann, daughter of William S. and Mary Johnson. Her father was drowned

in the Miami River, in Ohio, in 1842; after which the mother came to Illinois with her children. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Lawton were born eight children: William, who is married and operates a part of the old homestead; John L., who died at the age of nineteen; Robert Bruce, who died at the age of four years; Mary Elizabeth, wife of William Elder, a farmer of Christian County, Ill.; Minnie Alice, wife of John Dingman, of this county; Lucy attending school; and Flora and Cora, twins.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawton are members of the Christian Church, in which our subject holds office, and are leading and faithful workers. In politics he is an old Jackson Democrat and cast his first vote for Franklin Pierce. He has ever been a friend to the public schools, and for the cause of education he did effective service while on the School Board. Commencing life for himself empty-handed, he has by his own labor and enterprise accumulated a valuable farm and good home and deserves all the praise that is conveyed in the term "a self-made man." He has witnessed the growth and development of the county and has aided in its promotion and progress. A man of integrity and upright character, he has the confidence of all, and he and his estimable wife have the esteem of a large circle of friends and acquaintances.



**B**ASIL M. STAHL, who is engaged in farming on section 16, Niantic Township, where he owns and operates one hundred and sixty acres of land, is numbered among Macon County's native sons, and first saw the light of day January 25, 1858, in the township where he still makes his home. His father, John Stahl, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, and remained in his native State until eighteen years of age. In 1850, he journeyed Westward to Sangamon County, Ill., where he began working as a farm hand by the month. He there married Miss Sarah M. Wood, who was born in Sangamon County, but spent her maidenhood days partly in Greene



County. Mr. Stahl entered eighty acres of land from the Government, securing the same with a land warrant which his father, Alexander Stahl, had received for services in the Black Hawk War. There he carried on agricultural pursuits for three years, after which he came to Macon County, where he engaged in farming and reared his family. He was called to the home beyond in June, 1889, at the age of fifty-six years. His wife still survives him and is now a resident of Niantic. To them were born four children, who all grew to mature years, the subject of this sketch being the second in order of birth; Minerva, the eldest, is living in Niantic; George A. is a farmer of this county; and Clara B. is the wife of Thomas Pritchett, of Macon County.

Basil Stahl spent the days of his boyhood and youth upon the old homestead farm, and is familiar with the experiences of frontier life. He had but limited educational privileges, but in farm work his training was not so meagre. He aided his father until after he attained to mature years, and then assumed the management of the old homestead. His entire life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits, and his thorough understanding of the business in all its details, combined with energy and enterprise, have made him a successful farmer.

In February, 1883, Mr. Stahl was united in marriage with Miss Laura A. Dingman, a daughter of George W. Dingman, one of the honored pioneers of the county. She too was born in this community. Two children grace the union, Ora Grace, aged ten, and Walter Dingman, aged two years, and they also lost one daughter in infancy.

The young couple began their domestic life upon a farm, Mr. Stahl operating rented land in Harriestown and Niantic Townships for a few years. In the spring of 1889, he purchased and located upon the farm which has since been his home, and to the further cultivation and improvement of the place devotes his energies untiringly. His land is well tilled, and, as the result of his care, the fertile fields yield to him a golden tribute. The home is pleasantly located about four miles from Niantic. Mr. Stahl has been identified with the Republican party since casting his first Presidential vote for Gen. James A. Garfield. Himself and wife are mem-

bers of the Christian Church, and in the community where they have always lived they have the respect of a large circle of friends and acquaintances, which fact attests their well-spent lives.



NICHOLAS BOMMERSBACH, a florist of Decatur, doing business at No. 702 South Spring Avenue, opened his present establishment, which is the oldest in the city, on the 17th of March, 1881. He invested about \$2,400 in the business, and his annual trade now amounts to over \$2,000, having increased from year to year. He now has 150x500 feet of ground, and ten thousand square feet are covered by glass. His greenhouses are heated by hot-water pipes and are supplied with all the modern improvements known to the trade. He does a good business outside of Decatur, as well as in the city, and makes a specialty of supplying cut flowers, plants, bulbs, etc., employing from two to four hands to help him in his work.

Mr. Bommersbach is a native of France, having been born in the city of Metz, on the Moselle, June 25, 1845. At the age of fifteen he began to learn the trade of a florist, for which privilege he had to pay \$350, and during the first year he received no wages. In the War of 1870, our subject served in the French army, and went to Belgium, and from there to Paris. He participated in the battle of Weissenberg, and in the battle of Sedan, where Napoleon was captured. In Paris he was stationed in the Fort of St. Etienne, and took part in many actions in the siege of that summer. He was afterward at Versailles, where he did guard duty until the 6th of April, 1871. The soldiers had many hardships and trials to endure and frequently had hardly enough food to keep them from starving.

After being mustered out of the service, Mr. Bommersbach returned to his home in Metz, but the idea of seeing his country, Alsace, become a province of Germany was so distasteful to him



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



C. F. McElroy

that he determined to emigrate to America, and in 1871 he crossed the broad Atlantic to the United States. He first located in Albany, Ind., but after a short time went to Nashville, Tenn., where he remained for more than two years, working as a florist. We next find him in Indianapolis, Ind., where he was employed in the same capacity during the eleven succeeding years of his life. For nearly nine years of that time he was Superintendent of the greenhouses belonging to the insane asylum. From Indianapolis he came to Decatur, where he has since made his home.

On the 28th of December, 1876, while a resident of Indianapolis, Mr. Bommersbach was united in marriage with Miss Katie Baker, a native of the capital city of the Hoosier State. By their union have been born four children, three sons and a daughter, John Nicholas, Albert, Arthur and Clara, who are all still under the parental roof. In his political views, Mr. Bommersbach is a Republican. Since coming to the New World he has met with good success in his undertakings and has now a comfortable home, many friends and a good business. His labors and his untiring energy and perseverance have secured him a trade which is constantly increasing and one which he well merits.



**C**HARLES FOSTER McELROY was the son of Elder George W. McElroy, who died very suddenly in Smith County, Kan., October 30, 1880. Elder McElroy was one of the most self-sacrificing men of his time. His educational talents were commensurate with his industry and energy, and the citizens of the community in which he resided appreciated him both as a minister and as an educator. Had he lived three days longer he would have been elected Superintendent of Public Instruction in his county. Dying so young, only in his thirty-third year, he left Charles at the age of four and his younger sister to be cared for by the mother.

The mother of our subject, Mrs. Laura Ophelia

McElroy, was born at Franklin, Morgan County, Ill., March 2, 1853. She was married to Elder G. W. McElroy, County Evangelist of Macoupin County, at Bloomington, Ill., April 25, 1875. Two children, Charles F., born April 26, 1876, and Georgia Pearl, born October 22, 1878, were the result of this union. After the death of her husband Mrs. McElroy returned to Macoupin County, and for four years taught in the High School at Girard, Ill., and later taught two years in Niantic, Macon County, where she met and married J. M. Hawk.

Charles Foster McElroy is the grandson of Elder Robert Foster McElroy, who was one of the pioneer preachers of Illinois. He died at Palmyra, Ill., in 1875, at the age of seventy years. He joined the church when he was thirteen years old, and for this was driven from home by his father, who was opposed to the particular faith which he professed. He returned afterward to his native town and held a meeting, at which he baptized his mother, two brothers and a sister. His father would not go to the meeting, and the son was too proud-spirited to go home without his father asking him.

Our subject, at the age of nine years, ranked first in the advanced class at Niantic, grading even higher than some who held certificates. He learned printing in Springfield, Ill., and began his career at the age of fourteen. A year later he consecrated his young life to Christ, and was baptized by Elder J. B. Briny, at Springfield, Ill.

The true mettle of our young editor was brought out by the necessity that demanded energy and industry, and his young talents were well directed by the noble-minded mother, whose articles have lit up the pages of many papers and magazines, and find a permanent place in "The Poets of America."

As an example of her writing, we here present the poem entitled, "Thoughts Awakened by the Snow," which was first published in the *Chicago Ledger* in 1892:

I am sitting at my window  
While the snowflakes gently fall,  
Forming drifts upon the pavement,  
Shrouding white the rugged wall;



And I'm thinking how good actions,  
 Silently performed, may prove  
 Canopies of sheerest beauty,  
 Hiding faults from those we love.

Yet, as snow beneath the sun's rays  
 Melts so quickly from our sight,  
 So God's eye observes the evil,  
 Hates the wrong, approves the right.  
 As it vanishes, revealing  
 Once again the wall so bare,  
 So impure or upright motives  
 He discerns with insight rare.

Life is like the fleeting snow-drift,—  
 Hopes must perish, hearts must break;  
 Earthly pleasures prove but phantoms,  
 Heav'nly aims their place should take.  
 Let our lives be like the snowflake,  
 White and spotless, always pure;  
 May our cares as quickly vanish,  
 Earthly woes heav'n's joys procure.



**J**AMES M. DODD, who is engaged in the real-estate, loan and insurance business as a member of the firm of Dodd & Sanner, claims Indiana as the State of his nativity, his birth having occurred in New Albany, September 17, 1850. He is the eldest in a family of four children, born unto Thomas S. and Lucinda M. (Mitchell) Dodd. His paternal grandfather was a native of Virginia, and in 1820 emigrated to Missouri, locating in Ralls County, where he entered land from the Government and followed farming. His death occurred about ten years later. The maternal grandfather, James Mitchell, was born near New Albany, Ind., and there spent his entire life, being called to the home beyond at the age of seventy-nine years. He was a brick-mason, farmer and merchant, and was one of the early members of the Christian Church in the days of the Reformation. Thomas Dodd, our subject's father, was born in Missouri, his wife being a native of the Hoosier State. He became a steamboat captain and pilot on the Ohio and Mississippi

Rivers, spending forty years of his life in that way. He is now living retired at the age of sixty-nine years, on a farm adjoining New Albany, Ind. During the war he was on transportation steamers used in the interest of the Government. Himself and wife are faithful members of the Christian Church. Only two of their children, James and Charles, are now living. Sanford died at the age of three years, and the only daughter died in infancy.

The boyhood days of our subject were quietly passed in New Albany, Ind., and he there acquired his education. At the age of fourteen years he started out in life for himself and has since made his own way in the world, so that whatever success he has achieved is due entirely to his own efforts. He was first employed for three years as a salesman in a book and stationery store, after which he became the general delivery clerk in the postoffice in New Albany, spending the succeeding year and a-half in that way. In 1869 he removed to Evansville, Ind., and entered the employ of Mark, Warren & Co., wholesale dealers in glass and queensware, with whom he remained for more than ten years, a trusted and faithful employe of the firm, as is indicated by his long-continued service.

On the 10th of May, 1870, Mr. Dodd was united in marriage with Miss Abbie R., daughter of John R. and Sarah R. (Beherrel) Daniel, residents of New Albany, Ind. Three children have been born of their union, namely: Frank S.; Nellie Estella, who died in infancy; and Earl B.

In 1880, Mr. Dodd left Evansville, Ind., and came to Decatur. Here he entered the china, glass and queensware establishment of E. D. Bartholomew & Co., with whom he remained for eleven years. His experience in the State of his nativity well fitted him for his position, and his employers found him an excellent salesman. He left that house, however, in 1891, to become a member of the firm of Dodd & Sanner. These gentlemen carry on a real-estate, loan and insurance business at No. 153 Merchant Street, and have already secured a liberal patronage. Mr. Dodd is a member of the Modern Woodmen and of the National Union. In politics, he is a sup-

porter of Republican principles, and has recently been elected Alderman of the Third Ward for a period of two years. His life has been an honorable and upright one, and he is accounted one of the worthy citizens of Decatur. Himself and wife are members of the Methodist Church, and have a pleasant home at No. 647 West Decatur Street.



**E**LI BRENNEMAN is a member of the firm of D. W. Brenneman & Co., wholesale liquor dealers of Decatur. He resides at No. 226 Franklin Street and does business at No. 116 Franklin Street. He claims Indiana as the State of his nativity, his birth having occurred in New-castle on the 1st of December, 1847. Under the parental roof he was reared to manhood, and when a youth of seventeen years entered the service of his country for the late war, enlisting in 1864 as a member of the One Hundred and Fortieth Indiana Infantry. He did service in Tennessee, being stationed at Nashville and at Memphis. Later the regiment was sent to North Carolina to join Sherman's army. Our subject was taken ill with typhoid fever in Murfreesboro, Tenn., but rejoined his command in North Carolina, and was in that State when, after the surrender of Lee, he was honorably discharged under the general order.

Returning to his home in Indiana, Mr. Brenneman there remained until 1869, when he came to Decatur and secured a position as clerk with his brother, D. W. Brenneman. He served thus for three years, and in 1872 became a partner in the business, since which time he has been associated with his brother in all his business relations. Eli Brenneman has full charge of all their house interests, which are in a thriving condition under his able management. He is also interested in the Elm Grove Stock Farm, where are bred some of the finest trotting-horses to be found in the country.

In the year 1871, Mr. Brenneman was united in

marriage with Miss Mary Clanton, who died fifteen years later, in 1886. He was again married, on the 14th of July, 1888, his second union being with Mrs. Mary Leonard, widow of Thomas Leonard, a well-known and prominent citizen of Decatur. The lady is a native of Waterloo, N. Y., and bore the maiden name of Mary Gettings. By her former marriage she had two children, both sons, Raymond and Herman Leonard, who are now thirteen and eleven years of age, respectively.

Mr. Brenneman exercises his right of franchise in support of the Republican party, with which he has affiliated since attaining his majority. Socially, he is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. His residence in Decatur covers a period of almost a quarter of a century, during which time he has been prominently connected with some of its leading business interests. The firm of Brenneman & Co. is well known, not only throughout Macon County, but throughout a wide extended territory. Their enterprise and good business management have brought them a comfortable competency, and they are now numbered among Decatur's substantial citizens.



**H**ERBERT C. JONES, M. D., is a member of the well-known firm of Catto & Jones, physicians and surgeons of Decatur. Born in Athens, Ohio, on the 7th of January, 1855, he is a son of J. Lindley and Ellen (Cameron) Jones, the former born in Athens, Ohio, and the latter in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. They had but two children, the elder being Mattie J., wife of A. H. Crippen, of Ft. Reed, Fla. The father was a school teacher in his early life in Ohio, and afterwards engaged in merchandising in Greenfield and Athens, of that State. He served in the late war and went with Sherman as far as Atlanta. He and his wife hold membership with the Methodist Episcopal Church of Athens, and he is the



Treasurer of the Board of Trustees. The paternal grandfather, Gilbert Jones, died in 1885 at the age of ninety-seven years. He was a native of New York and was of Welsh descent, but his wife was of German lineage. He served in the War of 1812 and afterward drew a pension in recognition of his services. Of his ten children, two served in the late war, Lewis and Wallace. The former was taken to Libby Prison, and the latter was killed at the battle of Stone River.

Dr. Jones was brought up in Athens, Ohio, and there began his school life, but he was graduated from the High School of Greenfield, Ohio, in 1871. He afterward attended the Ohio University at Athens, and subsequently, studying medicine, was graduated from the Medical College of Ohio, in Cincinnati, in 1876. After completing his course the Doctor engaged in the drug business for four years in Jacksonville and Sanford, Fla., and while in the former place was united in marriage with Miss Florence Correa, daughter of Gabriel A. and Sarah A. (Woods) Correa, natives of the Danish West India Islands. Their union, celebrated on the 3d of September, 1879, has been blessed with two children, Lindley and Florence.

In 1881, Dr. Jones sold his interests and came to Illinois, locating in Cerro Gordo, where he formed a partnership with Dr. Harsha, which continued three years, when Dr. Harsha came to Decatur. Our subject continued alone in Cerro Gordo until the fall of 1887, when, on account of the failing health of his wife, he returned to Florida and there spent the succeeding two years. On the expiration of that period he came to Decatur and formed the existing partnership with Dr. Catto. They now have the largest practice in the city, and it is well deserved, both being men of skill and ability. Dr. Jones has been a close student of his profession and keeps abreast with all the improvements and theories connected with the medical science.

The Doctor and his wife are members of the Presbyterian Church. Politically, he is an independent Democrat, and while in Sanford, Fla., served as Alderman. He takes considerable interest in civic societies and is now a member of Ionic Lodge No. 312, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter No.

1, R. A. M.; Decatur Council No. 16, R. & S. M.; Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T.; Chevalier Bayard Lodge No. 189, K. P., and Medinah Temple of the Mystic Shrine. He twice served as Master of the Blue Lodge in Cerro Gordo and once in Florida. He belongs to the Illinois State Medical Society and the Central District Medical Society. He owns a nice home in Decatur, and also some property in Winter Park, Fla.



**A**DAM BALMER, a florist doing business in the enterprising city of Decatur, claims England as the land of his birth. He was born in Durham, on the 11th of May, 1861, and is a son of Thomas and Margaret (Anderson) Balmer, both of whom were natives of Scotland. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Joseph Balmer, was a Scotch farmer, and in the land of his nativity his death occurred at the age of eighty-six years. Leaving his native home, his son, Thomas Balmer, emigrated to England. He is a gardener and florist and carries on business in that line in Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, where for some years he has made his home. His wife died in 1873, in the faith of the Presbyterian Church, with which she held membership. Mr. Balmer is also a member of the same church and serves as Deacon in the local congregation. Their family numbered three sons and two daughters: Thomas, Margaret, John, Mary and Adam.

The subject of this sketch spent the days of his boyhood and youth in Newcastle-on-Tyne, and was educated in the public schools. He remained with his parents until he had attained his majority, and under his father's directions learned the florist trade, becoming familiar with the business in all its details. He also served a three-years apprenticeship to the business in England.

Having arrived at years of maturity, our subject determined to seek a home in the New World, where he believed that superior privileges and advantages were afforded young men. Crossing the



broad Atlantic and landing in the United States, he made his way West to Danville, Ill., where he secured a position as Superintendent of a greenhouse, being thus employed for about nine years. On the expiration of that period he came to Decatur, in the spring of 1892, and established business for himself. He now has a large greenhouse at No. 925 North Union Street, and can fill all orders for potted plants and cut flowers. His trade has steadily increased and he is now enjoying a liberal patronage.

On the 30th of October, 1888, Mr. Balmer was united in marriage with Miss Mary Annie Williams, a daughter of Joseph and Ann (McConahie) Williams, who were natives of Newcastle, England. Three children grace their union, two sons and a daughter: Thomas, Joseph and Hazel. The parents are both members of the Episcopal Church, and Mr. Balmer exercises his right of franchise in support of the Democracy. The wisdom of his choice of a home is shown in the success that has attended his efforts.



**J**OHAN R. HAYS, one of Macon County's extensive land-owners, residing on section 23, Hickory Point Township, claims the Hoosier State as the place of his birth. He was born on his father's farm in Wayne County, Ind., September 5, 1830, and is one of eight children, whose parents were John and Rebecca (Haddley) Hays. The family is of Scotch-Irish descent, and the father of our subject was a native of Pennsylvania. Of the children, Ebenezer is now living in Madison County, Iowa, where he carries on agricultural pursuits; Nancy is deceased; John R. is the third in order of birth; Rebecca, deceased, was the wife of Alexander Brett; Benjamin has also passed away; Cynthia is the wife of Isaac Skillman, of Oregon; William is deceased; and Thompson H. is a farmer and stock-dealer of Winterset, Iowa.

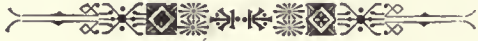
No event of special importance occurred during

the youth of our subject, which was quietly passed upon his father's farm in Indiana, and in Vermilion County, Ill. In 1834 the family had come to this State and located near Danville, where they lived for a year, and then went to Piatt County. The year 1841 witnessed their arrival in Macon County, and saw them located upon a farm in Hickory Point Township, when our subject was a lad of eleven years. Here he grew to manhood and became inured to the hardships and difficulties of life on the frontier. The nearest schoolhouse was northeast of Decatur, a distance of two and a-half miles, but a few years later a schoolhouse was erected in the township, a mile and a-half from the home of our subject. His educational privileges, however, were quite limited, but through reading, experience and observation in later years he has become a well-informed man. He remained at home with his parents until twenty seven years of age, when his father gave him eighty acres of land, the nucleus of his present farm.

Mr. Hays completed his preparation for a home by his marriage with Miss Rachel Montgomery on the 26th of March, 1857, the lady being a daughter of William F. and Amelia (Suver) Montgomery. They began their domestic life upon a small farm given to Mr. Hays by his father, and they have since made their home there. From time to time as their financial resources increased, Mr. Hays added to his possessions and extended the boundaries of his farm, until now seven hundred and seventy acres of arable land pay a golden tribute to the care and labor bestowed upon them. This is one of the most highly improved and valuable farms of the community, with its comfortable residence, good barns and outbuildings and well-tilled fields.

The home has been blessed with a family of four children: Charlie, a resident farmer of Hickory Point Township; William, an agriculturist of Whitmore Township; Frank, at home; and Cynthia, who died April 26, 1872. The family is one of prominence in the community and its members are widely and favorably known. Mr. Hays exercises his right of franchise in support of the Democratic party. He has led a busy life, yet has found time to serve his township as Collector, Supervisor and

School Director. The occupation to which he was reared, and which he has since followed in pursuit of fortune, has yielded him a good return, and he now has a comfortable competence, which surrounds him with all that goes to make life worth living



**A**LBERT T. SUMMERS, an attorney-at-law and loan-broker of Decatur, doing business at No. 145 North Water Street, is a native of the State which is still his home, his birth having occurred in Paris, Edgar County, on the 21st of December, 1857. His father, Charles Summers, was also an attorney, a civil engineer and a railroad contractor, being engaged on the construction of the Indianapolis, Bloomington & Western Railroad and the Big Four. He died when his son Albert was an infant. The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Cynthia M. Trogdon. Since the death of her first husband she has become the wife of Dr. R. L. Walston, and makes her home in this city.

A. T. Summers whose name heads this record spent his early childhood days in Edgar County, and in 1873, when a lad of sixteen years, came to Decatur with his mother and Dr. Walston. Having attended the common schools he was graduated from the High School of this city in the Class of '75, after which he entered De Pauw University, of Greencastle, Ind., and after completing the scientific course of study in that institution was graduated in the Class of '78, with the degree of Ph. D. His literary course being completed, Mr. Summers then began reading law with his uncle, A. Y. Trogdon, of Paris, and afterward under the direction of Judge A. J. Gallagher, of Decatur. After two years' study he was admitted to the Bar in this city in 1880, before Judge C. B. Smith. Soon after he began practice, but drifted into the loan business, and now devotes the greater part of his time and attention to that feature of his business. He does a business to accommodate all

classes, and handles both Eastern and local capital. His business now amounts to from \$200,000 to \$250,000 per year, and he keeps three employes in his office.

On the 18th of October, 1881, in Lincoln, Ill., Mr. Summers was united in marriage with Miss Helen Pegram, of that city. She is a highly cultured lady and well educated, having graduated from the seminary at Monticello and from Union College. She holds membership with the Episcopal Church. The union of our subject and his wife has been blessed with three children, a son and two daughters, Charlie, Helen and Ruth. The family have a very pleasant and beautiful home at No. 706 West William Street. It was erected by Mr. Summers at a cost of \$10,000 in one of the styles of modern architecture, and is supplied with all conveniences and tastefully furnished. Its hospitable doors are ever open for the reception of the friends of the family, who are many.

Mr. Summers takes a great interest in civic societies and is especially prominent in Masonic circles, being a Thirty-second Degree Mason. He has filled all the chairs in Chevalier Bayard Lodge No. 189, K. P., is a member of the Odd Fellows' society, and a member of the Uniformed Rank, K. P., while himself and wife hold membership with the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Summers has succeeded in building up an excellent business; he loans money not only in Macon but in adjoining counties, and as the result of his enterprise he has met with a high degree of success, which is well merited.



**J**ESSE LEFORGEE, who is engaged in the real-estate and insurance business in Decatur, is numbered among the early settlers of Macon County, having been a resident of this county since 1856. During all this time he has carried on a book and stationery store and engaged in farming, and is now, as above stated, one of the real-estate dealers. His extensive busi-



ness interests have made him widely known, and we therefore feel assured that this record of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers.

Mr. Leforgee was born January 1, 1833, in Fleming County, Ky., and in that State occurred the birth of his parents, Ayres and Dorinda (Cassiday) Leforgee. The family is of French origin, and was founded in Kentucky by Abraham Leforgee, who emigrated from France and became one of the pioneers who located on the present site of Blue Licks. The maternal grandfather, Michael Cassiday, was born in Dublin, Ireland, and at the age of fourteen crossed the Atlantic, locating in Kentucky. He served in the Revolution from the battle of Lexington until the Colonies had achieved their independence. He bore all the hardships of that struggle, having his toes frozen and being several times wounded by the Indians. After the war, he entered three thousand acres of Government land in Fleming and Nicholas Counties. He was elected to the Kentucky Legislature for fifteen terms, and was in the Senate two terms, and, a man of more than average ability, became very prominent and influential in the State of his adoption. His death occurred in 1815. In religious belief he was a Presbyterian.

The father of our subject was born in August, 1795, and during the greater part of his life followed the trade of a carpenter. He also ran a large mill in Poplar Plains, Ky., for some years. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812, and afterwards drew a pension. In 1866, he came to Decatur, and there lived retired until called to his final rest in 1870. He was a member of the Methodist Church for more than sixty years, and was one of Nature's noblemen. His wife, who was also a member of the same church, passed away in 1868, at the age of seventy-two. Of their family of seven sons and three daughters, the following are still living: Martha, widow of D. W. Litster; America, wife of Dr. W. J. Chenoweth, of Decatur; Ayres; Jesse; Mary E., widow of James A. Leforgee; Frank and Robert.

The subject of this sketch was reared and educated in Poplar Plains, Ky., and learned the wool-carder's trade under his father in Wyoming, that State. Having arrived at years of maturity, he

was married, July 20, 1857, to Miss Julia A. E. Smallwood, daughter of James M. and Iva (Powell) Smallwood, whose people were natives of Ohio. They have been the parents of five children, of whom Iva, the eldest, and James, the fifth child, died in infancy. Walker L., who studied medicine and graduated from Rush Medical College, of Chicago, married Miss Jessie Drake, and a month later died. Dorendia C. is the wife of John E. Patterson, a dry-goods merchant of the firm of A. Waite & Co., of Decatur. They have a daughter, Jessie. Charles C. is a graduate of the law department of Northwestern University of Evanston and is now practicing in Decatur.

Mr. and Mrs. Leforgee hold membership with the Christian Church and he served as Deacon for many years. In church work he takes an active part, doing much for its upbuilding. In politics he is a Democrat and is a member of Celestial Lodge No. 186, I. O. O. F., and belongs to the Rebecca Degree. Mr. Leforgee has a good home property at No. 304 Macon Street, and is a prominent man in city affairs. For almost forty years he has resided here, and has therefore witnessed much of the growth and development of the city, and has always identified himself with those interests calculated to prove of public benefit.

THOMAS ACOM, a wealthy and influential farmer residing on section 4, Niantic Township, is one of the honored pioneers of Macon County, and one of its leading citizens. Public spirited and progressive, he has taken an active part in all that pertains to the welfare of the community and the promotion of its best interests. Few men are more widely known, and none more favorably, in Macon County than the gentleman whose name heads this sketch.

Mr. Acom is a native of England, his birth having occurred in Yorkshire November 1, 1819. His father, Thonias Acom, spent his entire life in that locality as a farmer. He also served as Constable,



and was a mau of sterling worth. The mother bore the maiden name of Mary Rains, and both were members of the Church of England. Of their family of ten children, five grew to mature years, but our subject is the only one now living. The others all passed away in England with the exception of Robert, who died in Morgan County, Ill.

In the public schools of his native land our subject acquired a good English education. He remained under the parental roof until twenty years of age, and then, in the spring of 1840, came to America, believing that he could better win a fortune in the New World; and time has not disproved this opinion. He sailed from Liverpool to New York, and after a voyage of six weeks and three days landed on American shores. He at once made his way to Jacksonville, Ill., crossing the Alleghany Mountains in railroad cars, which were drawn up and over by pulleys. He went by canal to Pittsburgh, and down the Ohio River to St. Louis, where he arrived with only about four English sovereigns in his pocket. The season of harvesting came on, and he worked for about three months in the fields. When harvest was over, he hired to Porter Clay, brother to Henry Clay, and afterward worked in the stables of a stage company for two years. He also worked at the carpenter's trade, and seems to have had a special aptitude for mechanics, as he could follow anything in that line successfully. Returning to Jacksonville, Mr. Acom rented land and engaged in farming for two years, and in 1845 went to Sangamon County, locating near Springfield. He there spent a year upon a rented farm and became well acquainted with Abraham Lincoln, once serving as a witness on a case where the martyred President acted as an attorney.

It was in 1850 that Mr. Acom came to Macon County and pre-empted one hundred and sixty acres of Government land, upon which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made. There were no buildings between his home and Decatur; in fact, he was one of the first to locate on the prairie. Deer were very numerous, and in a single day he has killed three. The first summer our subject broke prairie, and kept "bache-

lor's hall" in a corn crib. Having plowed and planted his land, it soon began to yield to him abundant harvests, and he has since been extensively and successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He bought his land for \$1.25 per acre but it is now worth \$70 per acre. His landed possessions at present aggregate fifteen hundred acres, located in Macon and Sangamon Counties, Ill., and in Kansas.

March 31, 1844, in Morgan County, Ill., ten miles west of Jacksonville, Mr. Acom wedded Miss Juliana, daughter of Samuel Munson. She was born April 27, 1818, in Maryland, and was reared in that State. Her father was a native of New Jersey, and spent the last fourteen years of his life in this community, dying at the home of our subject. His wife, Elizabeth (McDonald) Munson, died in Maryland. Mrs. Acom came to Illinois when a young lady of twenty years, reaching her destination in 1838. By their union were born eight children: Sarah Elizabeth, who was born in Sangamon County, and has always lived at home; Sophia, wife of Silas Grosh, who runs an elevator in Decatur and also in Chicago, where he resides; Henry Owen, a large land-owner and farmer of Montgomery County, Kan., who married Belle Hensbarger; John W., who married Miss Mary Cobell, of Whitmore Township, and is a successful agriculturist of Lake City, Ill.; Martha Jane, who became the wife of George Jacobson and died some ten years ago; Mary E., wife of Charles Bruce, a well-to-do farmer of Niantic Township; and two children, Robert Allen and Laura Ann, who died in childhood. The children received good educational advantages, attending the public schools, and the family is an industrious and enterprising one, its members occupying useful positions in the various circles of society in which they move.

Mr. Acom cast his first Presidential vote for William H. Harrison in 1840. He then supported the Whig party until its dissolution, since which time he has been a stalwart advocate of the Republican party. He has never sought or desired public office for the honor or emolument that it would bring, but when called upon has faithfully served as School Director, which office he filled

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



W. A. BROOKS



for twenty years. He has been Trustee for many years, was Township Supervisor for one term, and Road Commissioner for several years. No trust reposed in him has ever been betrayed; on the other hand, he faithfully performs every duty allotted to him. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Niantic, having been a church member all her life, and Mr. Acom has ever given liberally to church work. He was one of the building committee of the church and aided materially in the erection of the house of worship. The prominent part he has taken in public affairs in this community is well known to many of the citizens of Macon County. In an early day he aided in surveying all this part of the county, and did all the plastering for his neighbors for miles around. He also built chimneys and did general carpenter work, and was prominently identified with the progress made in the community. His name is inseparably connected with the history of the county, and we are pleased to place his sketch in this RECORD.



**W**ILLIAM A. BROOKS, who resides on sections 21 and 22, Whitmore Township, is the owner of a good farm of three hundred acres of land. Its neat and thrifty appearance indicates the careful supervision of the owner, who is numbered among the leading agriculturists of the community. The fields are all well tilled, and the many excellent improvements upon the place add both to its value and attractive appearance.

Our subject is a native of Kentucky, having been born in Nicholas County, near Carlisle, on the 2d of July, 1831. He is a son of John and Susan (Clingin) Brooks, both of whom were natives of the same State. The father, however, was of Scotch descent, and the mother of Irish lineage. John Brooks was a stonemason by trade, but followed farming throughout the greater part of his life. He died in Kentucky in September,

1844, in the faith of the Methodist Church, of which he was a consistent member. His wife, who belonged to the same church, passed away in 1870. They were the parents of six children, the eldest of whom is William; Frauees is the wife of William Austin, a brickmason residing in Bloomington; Mary died in August, 1891; John M. died in February, 1867; and D. E. is a farmer and stock-raiser of Whitmore Township.

During the boyhood and youth of our subject he attended the subscription schools for about three months and spent the remainder of the year in work upon the home farm, early becoming inured to the arduous labors of the field. He remained with his mother until twenty-one years of age, and then started out in life for himself empty-handed. For about a year he earned his livelihood by working as a farm hand in Kentucky, receiving \$10 per month as compensation for his services. It was in 1850 that he came to Illinois and made a location in Madison County, where for a short time he again worked as a farm hand by the month. He then determined that his efforts should result in more benefit to himself, and so rented a farm, which he operated in his own interest until 1859. In that year his place of residence was changed to Mt. Auburn, Christian County, where he operated rented land for seven years, after which, in 1866, he made his first purchase, becoming the owner of an eighty-acre farm, upon which he made his home during the next decade. On the expiration of that period he removed to Macon County, in 1876, and after a three-years residence in Decatur Township made his home in Hickory Point Township until 1884. In that year he purchased his present farm.

In 1851 Mr. Brooks was united in marriage with Miss Millie A. Febeck, who died in 1856, leaving one child. This son, James S., died in 1864. In 1858 our subject was again married, his second union being with Miss Mary A. Pardee. He and his wife are members of the Christian Church, and are worthy people, held in high esteem throughout the community. Mr. Brooks is a Republican in politics, and takes quite an interest in the growth and success of his party. For

seven successive years he served as Assessor, proving a capable and efficient officer.

In making his purchase of land in 1884, our subject became the owner of a tract of one hundred and sixty acres on sections 21 and 22, Whitmore Township. To this he has since added until his farm now comprises three hundred acres of well-improved and highly cultivated land. There he carries on general farming and stock-raising with good success. He began life empty-handed, and by his own unaided efforts has worked his way upward. He may truly be called a self-made man, and the compliment conveyed in that term is well deserved.



**W**ILLIAM LOWERY FERGUSON, who is General Manager of the City Electric Railway of Decatur, is a thorough business man in the fullest sense of that term, and is one of the progressive and public-spirited citizens of Macon County. He is a native of the Buckeye State, his birth having occurred in Xenia on the 20th of July, 1853. The family was founded in America by the grandfather of our subject, a native of Scotland, who, with his four brothers crossed the broad Atlantic to America, landing in New York, where they separated. James Ferguson first settled in the Empire State and afterward removed to Ohio. He met his death while driving cattle from Ohio to New York, being frozen to death.

The parents of our subject, Aurora B. and Mary E. (Holiday) Ferguson, were both natives of Ohio. The former was a carpenter and contractor, and a local preacher of the Methodist Church. In 1856 he emigrated Westward to Fairfield, Iowa, where he spent the remainder of his life. During the war he enlisted in Company H, Thirtieth Iowa Infantry, in 1862, was made Orderly-Sergeant, rose to the rank of Captain, and as such was mustered out at the close of the war, after three years of faithful service. He was born May 23, 1818, and died February 10, 1879, in his sixty-second year,

his death being the result of disease contracted in the army. His first wife, who was born July 25, 1823, died June 26, 1864. She was a member of the Methodist Church and a very earnest worker in its interest. The family numbered five sons and two daughters, but with the exception of our subject the only one living is Jennie, wife of Harry L. Holiday, of Decatur. Mr. Ferguson was again married, on the 8th of November, 1865, his second union being with Mrs. Hester L., widow of Rev. James S. Smith, a Methodist minister, and daughter of Tinley and Elizabeth (Gray) Brooks. Two children were born of this union: Jessie Aurora, wife of Thomas Eagan, an attorney-at-law, of St. Francis, Kan.; and James T. B.

The subject of this sketch was a child of only three years when his parents removed to Iowa. He was reared in Fairfield, there remaining until nineteen years of age, and acquiring his education in the common schools and in Fairfield College. At the age of sixteen years he began learning the tinner's trade, serving an apprenticeship of four years. On the expiration of that time he established himself in Decatur as a dealer in hardware, tinware and stoves, and followed that business for about fourteen years. During the last five years he was associated with B. W. Dillehunt. In 1886 they sold out to Lytle & Eckels, who still carry on the business. In company with D. S. Shellabarger and A. E. Kinney, they built the Citizens' Horse Car Line, the first street railway of Decatur. A year before selling his hardware business, Mr. Ferguson took charge of the car line on account of the death of Mr. Kinney. In the spring of 1889, the firm built the first electric street railway in the State of Illinois, and it has since been in successful operation. It is now known as the City Electric Railway, and our subject is its General Manager, while D. S. Shellabarger is its President.

On the 28th of October, 1874, Mr. Ferguson married Miss Catherine J., daughter of Adam and Leah (Cormany) Imboden, natives of Pennsylvania. Their family numbers two children, Gussie I. and William Fred. The mother is a member of the Methodist Church and a most estimable lady, whose friends throughout the community



are many. Mr. Ferguson exercises his right of franchise in support of the Republican party. He is a man of excellent business and executive ability, sagacious and far-sighted, and straightforward and honorable in all his dealings. He ranks high in both business and social circles, and he is well known throughout Decatur as one of its prominent citizens.



**N**AOMI PIERCE COLLINS, M. D., is a skillful physician of Decatur and one of its leading citizens, having taken a prominent part in public affairs. She claims Kentucky as the State of her nativity, her birth having occurred in Jessamine County August 25, 1861. Her parents were James and Mary Jane (Gibney) Pierce, both natives of Kentucky. During the infancy of their daughter they emigrated to Illinois, locating in Adams County. The father afterward became a contractor of Decatur. The mother died in 1883.

The maidenhood days of the daughter were spent under the parental roof, and after attending the common schools she entered Chaddock College, of Quincy, Ill., from which she was graduated in the Class of '79. She then began teaching in Payson, Adams County, where she was employed two years, during which time she began reading medicine with Dr. L. H. Baker, now of Chicago. A love of the medical profession seems to be inherent in her mother's family, and our subject early evinced a taste for it. She had made a thorough study of physiology while in school and had determined to enter the medical profession, so after continuing her reading for two years she entered the Woman's Medical College, of Chicago. Having pursued a thorough course of study, she was graduated in the Class of '85, and won the degree which placed her in the medical ranks.

In the mean time the Doctor's father had located in Griggsville, and she began practice there,

but in June, 1886, she came to Decatur and opened an office. From the beginning she has enjoyed a good practice, being very successful in her treatments of her patients. On the first day she had three patients, and from that time forward her business has steadily increased. She has given special attention to the diseases of women and children, and being a close student she keeps herself well-informed on every thing connected with her profession.

On the 3d of June, 1890, was celebrated the marriage of Dr. Pierce with Dr. Albert Lawrence Collins. They both continued practice, having a joint office. Our subject is a member of the Capital District Medical Society and of the Central Illinois District Medical Society. She stands high in the profession, having rapidly worked her way upward to a position of prominence, but she is not only a leader in medical circles, for since 1888 she has been Secretary of the Equal Suffrage Association and has taken an active part in promoting the interests of that organization. She assisted in selecting a lady as a member of the School Board of Decatur, the first to serve in any official position in this city. Dr. Collins is the Secretary of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and served as the President of the Young Woman's Christian Temperance Union. She holds membership with the First Methodist Episcopal Church, and is President of its Christian Endeavor Society. Socially, she is a member of the Order of Eastern Star No. 111, of Decatur, and is a charter member and also the Vice Oracle of the Royal Neighbors of America, the ladies' auxiliary of the Modern Woodmen of America.



**P**ETER H. BRUECK is a wide-awake and enterprising real-estate dealer of Decatur, who since 1872 has made his home in this city. As he is widely and favorably known, we feel assured that a record of his life



will prove of interest to many of our readers. He claims Prussia as the land of his birth, which occurred in Mandel, on the Linden, May 3, 1855, his parents being Peter and Catherine (Baertges) Brueek. When our subject was only two years of age his parents with their family left the Fatherland and crossed the waters to the New World, locating in Belleville, St. Clair County, Ill., where the father engaged in farming. His death occurred at the age of fifty-nine years, and his wife died when fifty-seven years of age. The family numbered nine children, as follows: Mrs. Catherine Staudt, of Murphysboro, Jackson County, Ill.; Anton, a machinist of St. Louis, Mo.; Mary, wife of George F. Deeke, an architect of St. Louis; Phillipene, widow of Charles H. Printz, a saddler of St. Louis, who died leaving three sons; Margaret, wife of John L. Koontz, of Helena, Mont., who is interested in silvermining; Christine, of Helena, Mont., wife of William Lorey, a dealer in artists' materials and supplies; Peter H., whose name heads this record; Emma, wife of Gustave Printz, a mechanical engineer of St. Louis; and Minnie, who is living in Helena, Mont.

Mr. Brueek whose name heads this record was reared in Belleville until seventeen years of age, when he left that place for a more progressive and enterprising town. While there he was employed as a salesman in the dry-goods house of Linn & Westerman, the first-named partner of which afterward became a member of the firm of Linn & Seruggs, of Deatur. On leaving Belleville, Mr. Brueek determined to make his home in this city, and with his stock of money and worldly effects which was very small, he started. He drove cattle on the way for a farmer who was removing from Belleville to Deatur, and for several nights after his arrival in Macon County he slept in a shed. He went to his old employer, Mr. Linn, who told him that there was no vacant place in his employ, but he would try and get him a position with John Ulrich, a grocer. Before he had concluded any definite arrangement with Mr. Ulrich, however, it happened that Barnum's circus was announced to exhibit at Deatur. Mr. Linn, knowing that he would need extra help in the store that day, had Mr. Brueek come over and as-

sist. The young man looked rather shabby, his clothes being well worn, but he made large sales that day, and the next morning his employer came to him and told him to go to the tailor's and get a new suit at his expense. He then gave him a permanent position, and our subject remained with that house for ten years, being one of their most trusted and best employes. During that time he formed an extensive acquaintance among the citizens of Macon County.

In the autumn of 1880 Mr. Brueek was united in marriage with Miss Annie Haworth, the accomplished daughter of L. L. Haworth, one of the leading citizens of this place. She died in 1887, leaving a son only four days old, Haworth L. B.

After severing his connection with the firm of Linn & Seruggs, Mr. Brueek formed a partnership with L. L. Haworth, and engaged in the coal, brick and tile trade, doing a prosperous business for some time. He is now engaged in the real-estate business, buying, selling and exchanging property, and he has laid out four additions to the city. He is a progressive and enterprising man of good business ability, and to his own efforts is due the success of his life. Socially, he is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and in religious belief is an Episcopalian. His pleasant, genial manners and true worth have made him one of the influential and representative citizens of his adopted country.



**R**ICHARD J. CLOUGH, who follows general farming on section 8, Maroa Township, is a native of the Buckeye State. He was born in Jefferson County on the 28th of September, 1831, and came to Illinois when a young child, the family settling in Morgan County. The Cloughs are of English origin. The father of our subject, Joseph S. Clough, was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1800, was there reared to manhood, and on the 13th of December, 1823,

was united in marriage with Miss Ann C. Makin, who was also a resident of Yorkshire, England, and a daughter of Richard and Catherine Macon. They began their domestic life in the land of their nativity, but in 1829 they bade adieu to home and friends and sailed for America. They first located in Ohio, where they remained until 1831, when they removed to Morgan County, Ill. There they made their home until 1856, which year witnessed their arrival in Macon County. Here the father spent the remainder of his days, his death occurring in 1884, and he was laid to rest in Ridge Cemetery, his loss being deeply mourned. His widow is still living and now makes her home in Maroa, at the advanced age of ninety-one years, and is the oldest lady residing in that place. She is a faithful Christian and has been a member of the Christian Church for over forty years.

Mr. and Mrs. Clough traveled life's journey together as man and wife for more than sixty years, and their union was blessed with a family of twelve children, as follows: Eliza Ann, Sarah Jane, Emula, Christiana (who died in infancy), Catherine M., Richard J., John H., Christiana (who is deceased), William S., Edwin and Edward (twins, both deceased), and Barton W.

The subject of this sketch received but limited opportunities for securing an education, as he was reared upon the frontier, where schools were few, and as his services were needed upon the home farm. He started out in life for himself in 1869, having remained at home with his parents, aiding them in the cultivation of the farm, until that time. When young he learned the carpenter's trade and followed it for a short period, but has carried on agricultural pursuits throughout the greater part of his life. He thoroughly understands everything connected with farming, and in the management of his business he has succeeded in making one of the best farms in the neighborhood. He still resides on the old homestead, which comprises about one hundred and twenty acres of excellent land and is under a high state of cultivation, yielding to him a golden tribute in return for his care and labor.

In 1860 Mr. Clough was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Ann Hayes, who died in 1861, and was

laid to rest in Ridge Cemetery. In 1876 he was again married, his second union being with Miss Louisa C. Davis, who was born in Scott County, but was reared in Macon County, Ill. Six children have been born of their union: Leila, Arthur, Ethel, Nellie, Howard and Homer. The parents are devoted members of the Methodist Protestant Church and are people of sterling worth, whose many excellencies of character have won them high regard. They have a quiet but pleasant home and an interesting family. In politics Mr. Clough is a supporter of Democratic principles. His life work is one of which he may be proud, for he has been a kind and devoted son, husband and father, and has the esteem of all with whom business or social relations have brought him in contact.



**C**HARLES GROSS, proprietor of the Hotel Brunswick, which is situated at the corner of Wood and Water Streets, Decatur, has but recently taken charge of this place, succeeding W. A. Truax, who was proprietor for three years, yet he is already recognized as a popular and capable landlord. The life record of Mr. Gross is as follows: He claims Ohio as the State of his birth, which occurred in Medina County on the 19th of September, 1856. The first twelve years of his life were spent in that locality and his education was there begun. His father, Charles Gross, was a farmer of the Buckeye State, and in 1865 came to Macon County, Ill., accompanied by his family. He located upon land in Pleasant View Township, near Blue Mound, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until his death. He was called to his home beyond in October, 1891, at the age of seventy-two years, and many friends mourned his loss. His widow is still living and now makes her home in Blue Mound.

With his parents, Charles Gross came from Ohio to Illinois. As soon as old enough to handle the plow, he began work in the fields, and from a very



early age he had charge of the home farm, managing all the affairs connected with it. Desiring, however, to give his attention to other pursuits than that of agriculture, in 1884 he embarked in the grocery trade in Blue Mound, which he carried on for two years. He then came to Decatur, in 1886, and opened a restaurant, doing business in that line until becoming proprietor of the Hotel Brunswick.

On the 26th of February, 1878, in Blue Mound, Ill., Mr. Gross and Miss C. M. Young were united in marriage. The lady is the daughter of Benedict Young, of that place, and is of German birth, but when she was a year old the family left the Fatherland and crossed the Atlantic to the United States. The days of her maidenhood were all passed in Illinois. By the union of our subject and his wife has been born a daughter, Ella May, now fourteen years of age.

In politics, Mr. Gross is a supporter of Democratic principles. Throughout his entire life he has given his attention and time to his business interests, and though much responsibility was placed upon him in his early years, it developed a self-reliance and force of character which have stood him in good stead in his later life. As proprietor of the Hotel Brunswick he is meeting with good success. This house contains forty sleeping apartments, besides parlors, dining-rooms, kitchen, sample-rooms, etc. There is already a good list of patrons, and we have no doubt that the business will steadily increase.



**J**OHAN DILLER, who holds the position of superintendent of the Decatur Tile Company of Decatur, claims Pennsylvania as the State of his nativity. He is the eldest child in the family of Samuel and Rebecca Diller, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. The place of his birth is in Cumberland County, Pa., the date of that event being the 6th of October, 1855. His father was an agriculturist, and in

the usual manner of farmer lads our subject was reared to manhood, attending the district schools during the winter season and aiding in the labors of the field throughout the summer months. At length he determined to seek a home in the West. Carrying out that resolution, he came to Decatur in 1881, and has since made his home in this city. After his arrival in Macon County, he sought employment and secured a position in Shellabarger's mills, where he remained for four years.

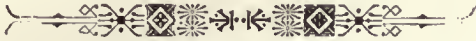
While there employed, Mr. Diller was married, choosing as a companion and helpmate on life's journey Miss Maggie May Oren, who was a daughter of George Oren, one of the early residents of Decatur. The lady was born and educated in this city and remained under the parental roof until her marriage. Their union was here celebrated on the 15th of April, 1885, and has been blessed with one child, a daughter, Ida O.

Having severed his connection with the Shellabarger mills in August, 1885, Mr. Diller entered the employ of the Decatur Steam Tile Company, and after working in the yards for two years, during which time he became thoroughly familiar with the business in all its main branches and its details, he was made superintendent, which position he has now filled for six consecutive years, to the entire satisfaction of the company. The Decatur Steam Tile Company was incorporated on the 1st of September, 1882, with a capital stock of \$25,000, which has since been increased to \$50,000. At the beginning they owned thirteen acres of land. Of this, twelve acres have been worked, but, having made additional purchase, they now own, eighty acres. Only about three and a-half feet of the surface clay can be used. About two years ago the company abandoned the manufacture of tile and has since been engaged exclusively in the manufacture of vitrified brick, the capacity being something like twenty thousand daily. Employment is given to about twenty-five men, over whom Mr. Diller has sole charge.

Our subject and his wife have a wide acquaintance in this community and their hospitable home is ever open for the reception of their many friends. Mrs. Diller is a member of the Christian Church. In his political views; Mr. Diller is a Republican,



and though he manifests an interest in politics he has never been an office-seeker, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his business interests. He now occupies a responsible position, and the faithful manner in which he discharges his duties has won him universal confidence and respect.



**H**IRAM JOHNSON is the senior member of the firm of Johnson & Dimock, real-estate dealers of Decatur. He claims New Hampshire as the State of his nativity, his birth having there occurred on the 22d of February, 1835. He comes of an old family of English origin, which was founded in America by four brothers who, crossing the Atlantic in an early day, settled in New England. The grandfather, Abraham Johnson, spent his entire life in Cornish, Sullivan County, N. H., and on the farm on which he lived was born, in 1808, John Johnson, the father of our subject. After the latter grew to manhood, in December, 1832, he wedded Orrel Fletcher, daughter of Elizabeth Fletcher. She was born in Cornish, N. H., in June, 1813. Our subject's maternal grandfather, Ebenezer Fletcher, was a Revolutionary hero. At the beginning of the War for Independence, he enlisted as a private, was wounded at the battle of Tieonderoga and was made a prisoner by the British.

In the Johnson family were only two children, John F., who resides on the old home farm in Cornish, N. H., which has now been in the possession of the family for three generations; and Hiram, of this sketch. Under the parental roof our subject spent the days of his boyhood, and acquired his education in the Kimball Union Academy, in Meriden, N. H. At the age of seventeen he began teaching in the old Granite State, and after attaining his majority he came to the West, locating near Alton, Madison County, Ill., where he followed the same profession until the war.

Hardly had Ft. Sumter been fired upon ere Mr.

Johnson offered his services to the Government to aid in crushing out the rebellion. On the 16th of April, 1861, he joined Company F, Seventh Illinois Infantry, which was commanded by Capt. Cummings, and which was the first Illinois regiment mustered into service in the war. The troops were stationed at Alton and Cairo, and at the end of three months Mr. Johnson received his discharge in Mound City, his term having expired. Returning to his home he resumed teaching, which he followed until 1864, when he re-enlisted, and was assigned to Company A, One Hundred and Forty-fourth Illinois Infantry. His meritorious conduct won him promotion. He first served as Commissary-Sergeant of the regiment, later as Sergeant-Major, afterwards as Second Lieutenant and finally as First Lieutenant. The troops were largely engaged in garrison duty in St. Louis, having charge of rebel prisoners. He was honorably discharged at Springfield in August, 1865.

Ere his second enlistment, Mr. Johnson was married, in September, 1863, in Madison County, to Miss Matilda W. Sanner, a native of that county, and a daughter of Samuel Sanner. Her father removed to Penn Township, Shelby County, in 1866, and there died in April, 1880. Mr. Johnson engaged in teaching for a term of six months in Shelby County after his marriage, and then turned his attention to farming in that county, which he successfully followed for about twenty years. He still owns two fine farms, one of three hundred and twenty acres in Shelby County, and one of two hundred acres in Macon County, all of which is valuable land. In 1885, he came to Decatur and bought an interest in the Decatur Tile Works, to which business he devoted his energies for some years. He is still a stockholder in the company, which does an annual business of \$30,000, has served as Vice-President and is now Secretary and Treasurer. In 1887, he embarked in the real-estate business, but sold out in 1892 to Walter Brothers, and in August formed his existing partnership with Mr. Dimock. They do a good business in loan, insurance and real estate, being one of the leading firms in their line in the city. Mr. Johnson is also interested in the Leader Manufacturing Company, which latter is

engaged in the manufacture of machinery used in brick and tile works. He also owns stock in the Scott Sweat Pad Manufacturing Company.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were born five children: Edward B., who is a contractor in brick paving and does a large business in Decatur and adjoining cities; John, who died October 9, 1880, at the age of seven years; Ada M. and James D., who are in their second year in High School; and Nellie, who died in October, 1886, at the age of seven.

Mr. Johnson is a stalwart supporter of the Republican party, and takes an active part in local political affairs. On the death of A. T. Hill he was appointed to the office of Supervisor of Decatur Township, and has been twice elected as Assistant Supervisor. He also has served as Assessor and School Treasurer, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity. His wife is a member of the Woman's Relief Corps of Decatur, and Mr. Johnson holds membership with Dunham Post No. 141, G. A. R., and Ionie Lodge No. 312, A. F. & A. M. Himself and wife are faithful members of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he serves as Trustee. He has led an upright and honorable life, well worthy of emulation, and his successful business career is the result of his fair dealing, as well as of his good management and ably directed efforts.



**L**EVI TOWL, Vice-President of the Citizens' National Bank, was born in Evansport, Defiance County, Ohio, on the 10th of March, 1848, and at the age of sixteen years became a resident of Bryan, Ohio. The public schools of his native State afforded him his educational privileges and he completed his course in the High Schools of Bryan. He manifested special aptitude for his studies, was a thorough student and was always found at the head of his classes. He began to teach in the High School of Bryan one term after his graduation, and remained in the Buckeye

State until twenty years of age, when he came to Illinois, locating in Piatt County, near Cerro Gordo, where he had a sister living. In this State he began teaching, following that profession in Piatt and Macon Counties for ten years. In the mean time, with money which he had secured in this way, he purchased land in Oakley Township. He had only \$2 left after reaching Illinois, but he was regarded as a very able instructor and could command from \$45 to \$60 per month, which was considered excellent wages for a teacher. Turning his attention to agricultural pursuits, Mr. Towl began the development of his farm, which he cultivated and improved until 1882. It comprised one hundred and eighty acres of land, which he transformed into rich and fertile fields that yielded to him a golden tribute. He also engaged in stock-raising, and that branch of his business proved a success.

On the 21st of June, 1870, Mr. Towl wedded Miss Alice Pick, of Cerro Gordo, Piatt County, daughter of George Pick, who is now living in that county at the age of eighty-three years. Their union has been blessed with four children, a son and three daughters: Elmer K., who is now pursuing a classical course in the State University of Michigan, from which he will graduate in 1894; Cora, wife of J. E. Kennelly, a druggist of Decatur; and Floy and Libbie, who are at home.

On coming to Decatur in 1882, Mr. Towl purchased twenty-four acres of land on the north side of the city, for which he paid \$250 per acre. He has since platted forty-eight lots, one-half of which he has sold at the rate of \$2,000 per acre. He still retains possession of twelve acres of land and is engaged in gardening, which he has carried on extensively for the past eight years. In 1892 his sales from the twelve acres amounted to \$1,720 cash. He employs two men and is enjoying a flourishing trade. From 1882 until 1886 Mr. Towl operated a dairy. In 1887 he sold his farm in Oakley Township and then loaned his money until the 15th of January, 1892, when he became interested in the Citizens' National Bank with Milton Johnson, and increased its capital stock from \$100,000 to \$200,000. In January, 1893, he was elected Vice-President, and has since given

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





MRS BURCHARD JENSEN.



BURCHARD JENSEN.

his attention to the duties of the office. He also owns five residences in the city, three of which he has built. Mr. Towl supported the first Presidential candidate of the Prohibition party, of which he has since been a stanch advocate, the cause of temperance having long found in him a warm friend. He and his wife are members of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Decatur, and are highly respected citizens of the community, being held in warm regard by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.



**B**URCHARD JENSEN, who is engaged in general farming on section 7, Decatur Township, is one of the worthy citizens that Germany has furnished Macon County. He is a native of Schleswig, his birth having occurred in the city of Apenrade, August 17, 1843. He is a son of F. A. Jensen, a merchant and dealer in dry goods, who spent his entire life in the Fatherland. The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Albertina Ehlis, and unto herself and husband were born four children: Peter, who was killed in the war with France; Fredericka and Mary, who still reside in Germany; and Burehard of this sketch.

Mr. Jensen whose name heads this record spent the days of boyhood and youth in the city of his nativity and acquired his early education under the instruction of a private tutor, after which he attended college in Kiel for a year and a-half. On the expiration of that period, being then seventeen years of age, he began farming, but on attaining his majority he determined to seek his home and fortune in America. Carrying out this resolution, he went to Havre, whence he sailed to New York, and on reaching the shores of the New World made his way to Illinois. It was in 1865 that he landed in Macon County, where with the exception of five years he has been engaged in farming and working for the railroad company, having been employed for ten years in the Wa-

bash roundhouse in Decatur. From 1856 to 1861 he was in Missouri and Texas, but returning to this county has since made it his home. He has now spent nine years upon his present farm, which comprises seventy-eight acres of rich land, which yields a golden tribute to the care and cultivation of the owner.

Mr. Jensen was united in marriage in 1873, in Decatur, with Miss Mary Froriep, a native of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, who came to America at the age of fourteen with her parents, the family locating in Decatur. By the union of our subject and his wife have been born four children: Paulina, Walter, Otto and Freda.

While in his native land Mr. Jensen entered the German army at the age of twenty years, as a member of the Second Guard Regiment, and served fourteen months, during which time he participated in several battles, aiding in the war between Germany and Denmark. In politics he is a supporter of the Democratic party and his first Presidential vote was cast for Horace Greeley. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias of Decatur and is a well-to-do citizen, who by his own efforts has gained a pleasant home and comfortable competence. The busy years of his life passed in this locality have been such as to win him high regard, and he now has many warm friends throughout the community.



**W**ILLIAM H. THOMPSON, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits on section 15, Niantic Township, is a native of Greene County, Ill., his birth having there occurred on the 17th of September, 1839. The family is of Irish lineage. The grandfather, William Thompson, became one of the early settlers of Kentucky, and there the father, James Thompson, was born in 1803. The latter came to Illinois with the family about 1820, and became a pioneer of what is now Greene County. From the Government he entered one hundred and sixty acres of wild



land and opened up a farm, devoting his time and attention to agricultural pursuits throughout the remainder of his life. He was married to Miss Susan Yates, who was also born in Kentucky, and was a daughter of John Yates. The death of our subject's father occurred in 1880, his wife having passed away several years previous. This worthy couple had a family of nine children, five sons and four daughters, of whom three sons and three daughters are now living.

William H. Thompson spent the days of his boyhood and youth in the usual manner of farmer lads, and in the common schools acquired his education. After he had arrived at man's estate he engaged in farming for himself on the home farm for several years, after which he bought land in Greene County, a tract of eighty acres. After operating this for a few years, he sold out and went to Scott County, where he bought a good farm of eighty acres, upon which he made his home for thirteen years. Afterward, in 1882, he went to Christian County and bought a farm of one hundred and three acres with good improvements. There he made his home for five years when, in 1888, he took up his residence upon the farm which is still his home. He first purchased one hundred and ten acres, and afterward added to it an adjoining tract of ninety acres, so that now two hundred acres of rich and fertile land yield to him a golden tribute. The farm is pleasantly located about two and a-quarter miles from Niantic, and yields to the owner a good income as the reward of his labors.

In Scott County, December 15, 1864, Mr. Thompson was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Akers, who was born in Manchester, that county, and was a daughter of Thomas Akers. They became the parents of two children: Cora, now the wife of John Elliott, of Moultrie County, Ill.; and Fletcher, who aids in carrying on the home farm. The mother departed this life in December, 1891, aged forty-seven years, and lies buried in Long Point Cemetery.

Devoted to the interests of the Democracy, Mr. Thompson has cast his ballot for every Presidential nominee of that party since he deposited his first vote for Stephen A. Douglas in 1860. He

was elected Commissioner of Highways in 1892, and is the efficient incumbent of that office. His wife was a member of the Christian Church of Niantic, and he holds membership with the same religious organization. Though he started out in life empty-handed, he is now well-to-do, and his success can be attributed entirely to his own efforts. He has known no other home than his native State, and in the communities where he has resided he has won the confidence and regard of all by a well-spent life and honorable career.



ROBERT WOODS, who is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits on section 10, South Wheatland Township, was born in St. Clair County, Ill., January 15, 1817, and has probably resided longer in the State than any other citizen of Macon County. His grandfather was John Walker, and a curious incident occasioned his changing his name to Woods. At the time of the breaking out of the Revolution he lived near Halifax, Nova Scotia, and was forced into the British army, but two days before the battle of Long Island he deserted to join the American forces. While on his way he was stopped by a man who claimed to have authority to arrest him. Mr. Walker demanded to see his authority, and when the man began to fumble in his pockets for his papers the grandfather of our subject knocked him down and took his papers, which were made out in the name of John Woods. As a matter of precaution Mr. Walker took this name as his own, lest he should be captured and put to death. He served throughout the struggle for independence under that name, and when success had crowned the efforts of the Colonists he sent for his family to join him. He then went to Jefferson County, Ohio, and his son John, the father of our subject, at the age of ten years dropped the name of Walker and took that of Woods.

The father of our subject was reared in Jefferson County and the passing of a flatboat changed



the whole current of his life, for upon that boat was the lady who became his wife. He boarded the boat, went with her down the Ohio River, settled in the same neighborhood, and they were afterward married, locating in St. Clair County, Ill., about the beginning of this century. They experienced much trouble with the Indians, being among the pioneers of the State. The father died in February, 1855, when more than eighty years of age. His wife, whose maiden name was Delilah Hill, died August 19, 1826, when our subject was a lad of nine years. The family numbered nine children: William, who served in the Black Hawk War at Rock Island; Mary, who died in Wisconsin; John, who was in the Black Hawk War and died in St. Clair County, May 19, 1875; Peter, deceased; Robert, of this sketch; George, who was drowned in the Kaskaskia River in 1839; Thomas, who died in Central City in 1866; Nancy, who died in Missouri; and one who died in early childhood. For his second wife the father of our subject married Mrs. Susan McGuire, a sister of his first wife, and she had a daughter and son, James Marion (deceased), and Mrs. Delilah Holcomb, of St. Clair County.

John Woods deserves further mention on account of his coolness and bravery under grave surroundings. The following incident in the Black Hawk War will illustrate his character: The Indians had massacred the entire Hall family, near Chillock's Grove, except two daughters, who were captured, and a boy, who escaped and told the soldiers. The daughters were afterward restored by treaty. A Mr. Macumsum, who had been nearly killed by the Indians, was being carried by John Woods and three others, but, desiring a drink of water, they stopped at a spring, and as one of the party, Mr. McDaniels, was in the act of dipping up the water he was killed by a volley from the Indians, who lay in ambush. Mr. Macumsum was left and the men fled. All had escaped except Mr. Woods, who had been detained by trying to catch his horse, which had been in charge of another man, who on hearing the firing dropped his hold on the bridle and ran off. Luckily, however, the horse, became entangled in the bridle, and thus enabled Mr. Woods to catch

him the more easily, and although the last off the ground he was enabled to get beyond the bullets of the Indians and escaped. At this time Benjamin Scott (brother of Judge John M. Scott, who afterward was Judge of the Supreme Court of this State), who had been helping to carry Mr. Macumsum, was killed and decapitated, his head being carried off by the redmen as a trophy. Mr. Woods, however, had the gratification of knowing that one Indian scalp had been taken by him. He brought it to his home and it is kept in the family as a relic.

Robert Woods spent his early boyhood in the log cabin home, but on the death of his mother the family was scattered and the children were never all together again. For six years he lived with a Mr. Ward. The advantages of his youth were very meagre, and at the age of seventeen he began working as a farm hand, receiving \$7 per month for his services. For ten years he was employed in that capacity, and his labors were long and arduous. At length he took up eighty acres of school land, for which he paid \$1.25 per acre, and afterward entered another eighty-acre tract.

Mr. Woods was married March 16, 1843, in St. Clair County, to Elizabeth H. Short, daughter of William B. and Nancy (Hill) Short. The former was born in Monroe County in 1804, and the latter was a native of Pennsylvania. They began their domestic life upon a farm, and unto them were born nine children. George S., who served in the army under Gen. Sherman, died in Macon County in 1890, leaving a son, Robert S.; Joseph died June 18, 1891, leaving three children; John married Caroline Cox, afterward wedded Margaret Gooker, and died August 4, 1892; William died in St. Clair County at the age of twelve; Benjamin is also deceased; Alfred W., who wedded Ada Finney, of Lincoln, Neb., was educated in Musselman's Business College and is a teacher of architecture and mechanical drawing in the Wesleyan University. The mother of this family died December 4, 1864.

In 1866 Mr. Woods sold his farm in St. Clair County, and coming to Macon County purchased his present farm, then comprising one hundred and forty-four acres, to which he has since added ninety-four acres. He has a good home, has set out

many shade and fruit trees, and has also made many other useful improvements, which add greatly to the value and desirability of the place. He now owns three hundred and twenty acres in this county, but rents the greater part of his land, having acquired a comfortable competence, which now enables him to live retired.

Mr. Woods was married January 7, 1868, to Miss Ellen Elizabeth, daughter of Dempsey and Sarah (Edwards) Pope. She was born in Wake County, N. C., December 30, 1817, and came to Illinois with her parents at the age of ten. She was first married to John Elder, and they had six children, of whom the following grew to mature years: Sarah Jane; Lavina; Mary E., wife of William Wilson, of Arkansas; and William F., who was a soldier in the One Hundred and Thirteenth Illinois Infantry, and was wounded at the battle of Chickamauga, causing the amputation of his arm. Mrs. Woods had two brothers in the One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, and both died from disease contracted in the service. She remembers seeing President Lincoln in a wheat-field, harvesting his grain with a reaphook.

Mr. Woods cast his first Presidential vote for William Henry Harrison, supported Fillmore in 1856, voted for Lincoln in 1860, and has since affiliated with the Republican party. He has never been an office-seeker, preferring to devote his attention to his business interests. He may truly be called a self-made man, and for the success of his life he deserves great credit.



JOSEPH N. BAKER has long been connected with the mercantile interests, and is now connected with the banking interests, of Decatur. He is book-keeper for and a director of the Citizens' National Bank, filling the latter office on its organization. The entire life of our subject has been passed in this locality, and he has the honor of being a native of Macon

County, his birth having occurred in Long Creek Township, five miles southeast of the city, on the 7th of May, 1844. His parents were Newton N. and Talitha J. (Hodge) Baker, who owned a farm in that township and were highly respected citizens of the community.

Joseph Baker whose name heads this record remained upon the home farm and to his father gave the benefit of his services until twenty-two years of age. He began his education in the common schools and afterwards attended a private seminary in Mt. Zion. Not wishing to devote his entire life to agricultural pursuits, he left the farm when a young man and secured a position as clerk in the shoe store of V. Barber, remaining with Mr. Barber and his successor for five years. On the expiration of that period he became book-keeper for the firm of Linn & Scruggs, and after a few months he formed a partnership with Mr. Barber, his old employer. This connection was established in 1872. Under the firm name of Barber & Baker, they began dealing in shoes, and for eighteen years they carried on business together, their relations being mutually pleasant and profitable. In 1890, the firm retired from business.

On the 25th of April, 1878, Mr. Baker was united in marriage with Miss Ida Wieoff, who was born in Decatur July 31, 1859, and is a daughter of P. M. Wieoff. Unto them were born two children, but they lost one in infancy. Aliee A., their daughter, is now ten years of age. The parents are both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in politics Mr. Baker is an advocate of Democratic principles on questions of national importance. In local elections he votes for the man whom he thinks best qualified for the position. He takes considerable interest in civic societies and is an active member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Ionic Lodge No. 312, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M.; Decatur Council No. 16, R. & S. M.; Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T.; and Decatur Chapter No. 111, O. E. S.

On retiring from the shoe business, Mr. Baker entered the Citizens' National Bank as book-keeper. The bank then did business under the control of Casner, Dawson & Co. On its incorpo-



ration, the present name was assumed and our subject became one of its stockholders. He was also made a director and has since served in that capacity. His long business connection in Decatur has made him widely known throughout Macon County, where he is regarded as a man of sterling worth, as well as one of the representative and progressive citizens.



**W**ILLIAM J. CONDELL, of Decatur, was born in County Carlow, Ireland, on the 19th of September, 1819, and when a child of three years came to America with his parents, Thomas and Jane Condell. His father was a wholesale and retail dealer in queensware in Philadelphia, where William spent his boyhood days. During part of the time he aided his father in the store, but at the age of fifteen he came to Illinois and began clerking for an older brother in Carrollton, Greene County, with whom he remained for two years. He then went to Springfield, Ill., whence he came to Decatur, about 1840, and opened a branch store under the firm name of Condell, Jones & Co., of which he became manager. The main house was in Springfield. After about five years, in company with a fellow-clerk, he purchased the business, carrying it on under the firm name of Condell & Stamper. Operations were carried on in that way for two years, after which Mr. Condell purchased his partner's interest and was alone for some time, but as he had an extensive trade and the management was too great for one man, a partnership was again formed and operations carried on under the name of Stamper, Elliott & Co. During the same time, our subject was also engaged in the milling business.

The merchandise establishment was carried on under the name of Stamper, Elliott & Co., until the death of Mr. Elliott, when the firm became Stamper, Quinlan & Co. Mr. Quinlan, however, retired from the firm in 1865, and it then became

Stamper & Condell. In the mean time, Mr. Condell sold out his milling business to Mr. Shellabarger, who still conducts it. In 1867, the merchandise stock was divided, and, accompanied by his sons, Mr. Condell removed to Taylorville, where he engaged in merchandising. Some fifteen years ago he took charge of the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company, and has since done an excellent business in that line.

In 1845, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Packard, who was born in Royalton, Vt., March 14, 1827. She is a sister of Silas Packard, and a daughter of Silas and Lydia (Payson) Packard, the former a native of Maine, and the latter of New York. They emigrated from the Green Mountain State to Illinois in 1830, in company with the Hunting and Dunham families. The father had visited this locality the previous year and entered land. Six weeks after his arrival, in 1830, his death occurred. He had begun a house where the Arcade store now stands, and this his widow completed, making it her home for some time. She then removed to a farm, where she spent her last days. After the death of her parents, Elizabeth lived with her guardian, Joseph Williams, for a time, but afterwards made her home with her brothers and sisters until her marriage.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Condell were born three children, two sons and a daughter: William is connected with the Board of Trade and is engaged in the patent-medicine and baking-powder business in St. Louis. Charles, a traveling salesman of St. Louis, died in 1890, at the age of thirty-three years. He had married Miss Dora Hall, a native of New York, who is also deceased. They had two children: May, a young lady of sixteen years; and Lora, fourteen years of age. Both are living with their grandparents. The only daughter of our subject and his wife is Lou, who married John Young, of Decatur.

Mr. and Mrs. Condell are among the oldest members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he was Trustee for some years. He has also held other offices, and is a local preacher. He has taken an active part in both church and Sunday-school work and has done much for the upbuild-



ing of the cause. Socially, he is a Knight-Templar Mason, and in politics was formerly a Whig and then a Republican, but now supports the Democratic party. His life has been well and worthily spent, and his career has been an honorable and upright one, well worthy of emulation. He came to Decatur in a very early day and for half a century has witnessed its growth and progress.



**S**AMUEL K. SHAFFER was a well-known citizen of Decatur. He was born in Bucyrus, Ohio, on the 4th of January, 1831, and was the son of George and Hannah (King) Shaffer, who were also natives of the Buckeye State. They had a family of five children: William Harrison, Samuel K., Francis Marion, Senith A. and Mary. One daughter died in infancy, but the others grew to mature years. The father of our subject was a resident of Bellefontaine, Ohio. He enlisted as a soldier for the War of 1812, and died on his way home from New Orleans after that struggle.

Samuel K. Shaffer spent the days of his boyhood and youth in Bellefontaine, acquired his education in its public schools, and there learned the tailor's trade. On the 21st of June, 1859, he was united in marriage with Miss Erie M. Shaffer, daughter of Tobias and Mary Sbaffer, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. By the union of our subject and his wife were born nine children, five sons and four daughters, namely: Mariva R., Maggie, Fanta F. and Denver H., all of whom are now deceased; Frank, a carpenter of Decatur, who married Miss Luey Walker; Richard T., who married Miss Lulu E. Huff, and with his wife and two children, Leta May and Ralph T., resides in Decatur; Charley, Guy and Valley F., who complete the family.

Mr. Shaffer first came to Decatur in 1858, and purchased property in this city. He then returned to Ohio, but the following year again came to

Illinois, was married in Clinton, this State, and immediately afterward brought his wife to Decatur. He was well-to-do, and after locating in this city he erected a number of houses, which he rented, devoting his energies to the real-estate business. He also owned a farm of three hundred and sixty-five acres near Maroa, upon which the family resided for two years, but on the expiration of that period he sold the farm and they returned to Decatur, where Mr. Shaffer made his home until his death. He passed away December 22, 1891, when almost sixty-two years of age. He was a member of the Methodist Church, and was a man whose honorable and upright life won for him high regard, and at his death he left his family the priceless heritage of a good name. Mrs. Shaffer now owns a pleasant residence at No. 620 West North Street, together with other city property. She, too, is a member of the Methodist Church and, like her husband, delights in doing good.

The parents of Mrs. Shaffer were natives of Pennsylvania. Her father was a farmer by occupation, and in an early day removed to Ohio, locating in Lima, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in 1852. He was a member of the Methodist Church, to which his widow also belongs. She is now living with her daughter in Toledo, Ohio, and has reached the ripe old age of seventy-nine years. In their family were nine children: George and Miles, both deceased; William; Jacob; Adolphus; Anna, wife of S. K. Smith, of Toledo; Amelia and Angeline, both deceased; and Erie M., widow of Samuel K. Shaffer.



**J**OHAN C. GOOD, a gardener residing on section 9, Decatur Township, was born December 29, 1837, in York County, Pa., where his parents, Peter and Catherine (Zuger) Good, spent their entire lives. The father followed the occupation of farming, and died in his native county in 1892, at the age of eighty-one

years. He was a member of the Dunkard Church, a straightforward, upright man and a good citizen. He voted first with the Whig party, and on its dissolution became a Republican. His wife was of German descent, and died long ago on the old farm. In the family were nineteen children. Two of the children, Mrs. Matilda Kister and Mrs. Maggie Trimmer, are still living in this county; David served among the boys in blue of the late war as a member of a Pennsylvania regiment; three brothers and nine sisters are now living in Pennsylvania; one sister is in Ohio and one in Kansas; and the remaining brother is in Oklahoma. By attending school during the three-months session, which was held in the winter season, and making the most of his privileges, our subject became a well-informed man. He was thoroughly trained in all kinds of farm labor, and to his father he gave the benefit of his services until twenty-four years of age, when he began to labor in his own interest. In 1859, he went to Indiana. He had saved just enough money for his traveling expenses, and for a year after his arrival he worked for an uncle in Hamilton County, chopping wood, etc. The year 1860 witnessed his arrival in Decatur, Ill. He worked as a farm hand by the month until 1861, when he began farming for himself, but on the 6th of August he laid aside all business cares to enter the service of his country.

Mr. Good enlisted at Decatur in Company B, Forty-first Illinois Infantry, and was sent to St. Louis, where they guarded an arsenal. From there they went to Bird's Point and Paducah and participated in the battles of Ft. Henry and Ft. Donelson, where the regiment lost heavily. Mr. Good was shot in the jaw and also suffered much from exposure, the troops having to lie unprotected on the ground when the thermometer was below the freezing point. His term of service having expired, he re-enlisted with his regiment as a veteran and went with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea. He took part in all the battles of the Atlanta campaign, and when the war was over he participated in the Grand Review at Washington. On his return home Mr. Good engaged in farming in this county for two years, and then went to Piatt County, where he bought sixty acres of land

that was still in its primitive condition. He afterwards added to this another sixty-acre tract and made of it a fine farm, putting many good improvements upon it. In 1882, he removed to Decatur, where he spent one year, and has since lived upon his present farm, where he devotes his time to the raising of fruits and berries. He has made his own way in life, and has acquired a comfortable competence. In Decatur, in 1866, Mr. Good was united in marriage with Miss Comfort Reynolds, who was born in Ohio, and during childhood came to Illinois. They are both members of the Church of God, give liberally to its support, and are faithful and active workers in the Master's vineyard. Our subject has lived an upright and honorable life, worthy the high regard in which he is held, and his name is an index to his character.



**J**OHAN N. BILLS, a leading and influential citizen of Decatur, is a self-made man, who started out in life with limited means. The difficulties in his path he has overcome by determined will and energy, and the obstacles have only served as stepping-stones to something higher. Steadily working his way upward, he has at length attained to a position of affluence, and is numbered among the substantial residents of Decatur.

Our subject was born in Troy, Rensselaer County, N. Y., on the 5th of January, 1830, and comes from an old family of the Green Mountain State. His grandparents made their home in Vermont, and in that State his father, John A. Bills, was born and reared. When a young man he went to Troy, N. Y., where he was engaged in merchandising, and in 1855 he came to Illinois, purchasing a farm near Ramsey, Fayette County, where the closing years of his life were passed. He was married in Vermont to Miss Dorothy Gleason, who was born in that State in January, 1800. His death occurred in December, 1857, and his wife



passed away in January, 1885. Mrs. Bills had several brothers in the Revolutionary War. The family numbered seven children: Celestia, who died in California; John, of this sketch; Gardner, who is traveling for a Chicago house and makes his home in South Dakota; George, who with his brother Gardner served in the late war, and for several years has been engaged in dentistry in Chicago; Sylinda Marcella, who died at the age of three years; Otto, who died in childhood; and Charles Gleason, who died at about seven years of age.

The subject of this sketch remained in his native city until eighteen years of age, and acquired his education in the public schools and in the Polytechnic Institute. In 1848 he went to California with his father. They made their way through Mexico, crossed that country on muleback, and then went by ship to San Francisco, where the father remained. Our subject, however, went into the mines and spent two and a-half years engaged in hunting for the precious dust. He was quite successful in his undertaking, sending home to his mother \$5,000, every dollar of which was saved by her. He returned by way of the Nicaragua route and by boat to New York, where he arrived on his twenty-first birthday. In the fall of 1852, he went to St. Louis and was engaged in the practice of dentistry. In 1855 he took up his residence in Ramsey, Fayette County, where he opened a store, which he carried on until 1859. In that year he made a permanent location in Decatur. Opening a dental office, he continued practice in that line until 1865, since which time, having gathered together quite a competence, he has lived a retired life. He still owns considerable property in Decatur, including forty lots and residences in the city, and he also loans money.

Mr. Bills was married on the 25th of May, 1853, in Troy, N. Y., to Miss Arrozina Fuller, daughter of George and Hulda (Bruce) Fuller. The parents were natives of Vermont, but removed to Troy in 1833, and came to the West in 1856, locating in Vandalia. They afterward removed to Ramsey, and their last days were spent in Decatur. Mrs. Bills was born in the Green Mountain State, but was quite young when her parents removed to

New York. Her education was acquired in the city schools of Troy. She has one brother living in Peoria, and another brother, Phil C. Fuller, makes his home in Chicago. Her sister, Mrs. Mary Huffman, makes her home in Decatur. Mr. and Mrs. Bills had a son, George Clarence, who died in 1860, at the age of six years. They have an adopted daughter, Addie, who has made her home with them since her third year.

During the war Mr. Bills served as Revenue Collector, being appointed to that position by President Lincoln, and he proved a capable and efficient officer. In politics, he was originally a Democrat and later belonged to the Know-Nothing party. In 1860 he supported Bell, and since that time has voted with the Republican party. For many years his wife has been a member of the Baptist Church, and has taken an active part in its work. They are both highly respected citizens, who hold an enviable position in the circles of society in which they move.



GEORGE W. CARMEAN is a native of Macon County, having been born on the old homestead farm in Long Creek Township, February 6, 1856, and he now resides within a short distance of that place, on section 30. In the usual manner of farmer lads he was reared to manhood, his educational privileges being afforded by the schools of the neighborhood. He remained upon the home farm until twenty-one years of age, giving his father the benefit of his services, and then started out in life for himself. He engaged in farming on a tract of eighty acres of land, which he afterwards traded for the old homestead. He now cultivates two hundred and eighty acres of fine land, all of which is under a high state of cultivation. It is also well improved with a substantial residence, good barns and all the other accessories of a model farm.

On the 20th of December, 1877, Mr. Carmean married Miss Eliza Gott, a native of Sullivan



County, Ind., and a daughter of Richard and Cassandra Gott, with whom she came to Illinois when a maiden of fifteen years. Five children have been born of their union: Lillie Maud, James Melvin, Lola May, Lester George and John Henry. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church; they contribute liberally to its support and take an active part in its upbuilding. Mr. Carmean exercises his right of franchise in support of the Republican party, with which he has been identified since casting his first Presidential vote for Gen. Garfield. He is a valued citizen of the community and a public-spirited and progressive man.

Mrs. Carmean's father, Richard Gott, was born in Carlisle, Sullivan County, Ind., July 4, 1828. His grandfather, William Gott, who was a native of Germany, emigrated to Pennsylvania, thence to Kentucky, and later to Sullivan County, Ind., where he died at the age of ninety years. Lewis Gott, the father of Richard, was born in the Keystone State, and went with the family to Indiana in pioneer days. He married Miss Eliza Groves, daughter of Michael and Lucinda Groves, who were natives of Germany. He followed farming throughout his life, and died in Taylorville, Ind., in 1883, at the age of eighty-three years, having been a member of the Baptist Church. His wife still lives in Indiana. To herself and husband were born the following children: Mrs. Mary Ann Mosher, of Indianapolis; Sarah, who became the wife of Richard Smoek, and died in Indianapolis; Richard; Mrs. Catherine Lane, of Greene County, Ind.; Mrs. Margaret Chilton, of Indianapolis; and Thomas, who is living in Greene County.

Richard Gott was born in the log cabin home and reared on the frontier. His educational privileges were limited, but he early learned to make rails and swing the scythe and cradle. He remained at home until twenty-seven years of age, and then began working by the month as a farm hand for \$12 per month. This was the first money he ever earned. He was married January 16, 1853, in Sullivan County, Ind., to Miss Cassandra Hanley, who was born August 2, 1838, in the Hoosier State. Their union was blessed with the following children: John, who married Miss

Harrington, and is a farmer of Long Creek Township; Mrs. Eliza Carmean; Edward and Lucy, both deceased; and Charles, an intelligent young man of seventeen years, whose scholarship is the second in rank in the county.

Mr. Gott was numbered among the boys in blue, enlisting August 2, 1862, as a member of Company C, Fifty-ninth Indiana Infantry, Col. Alexander commanding. The regiment was organized at Gosport, and sent to Mississippi. The first battle in which Mr. Gott participated was that of Corinth, and he was also in the siege of Vicksburg and took part in the battles of Jackson, Champion Hills, Missionary Ridge, Chattanooga and the Atlantic campaign, also in the battle of Antietam and the march from Atlanta to the sea. He was one of the honored boys in blue and participated in the Grand Review in Washington, where the victorious troops paraded the city. While foraging about eight miles from Memphis, the regiment was captured and lost nearly half its men.

On the close of the war, when the country no longer needed his services, Mr. Gott returned to his home in Sullivan County, Ind., and in 1873 came with his family to Illinois, since which time he has carried on farming in Macon and Piatt Counties. He and his wife are members of the Christian Church of La Place. He cast his first Presidential vote for Pierce in 1852, and has since been a supporter of the Democratic party. He is a man held in high respect throughout the community where he makes his home, for his life has been well and worthily spent.



**C**HARLES L. JONES, who is numbered among the leading and influential agriculturists of Maroa Township, resides on section 15, where he has a highly improved farm. A native of Illinois, he was born in Morgan County on the 3d of April, 1848, and is of English descent. His father, Joseph Jones, was a native of

England, and when a lad of only six summers crossed the briny deep with his parents to America. The family located first in Pennsylvania, and there remained for a few years, after which they removed to Ohio. In the Buckeye State Joseph Jones wedded Miss Mary Loveless. Mr. Jones, who was a soldier in the Mexican War, in an early day came to Illinois and was a resident of Maroa, where he held different offices of public trust for many years. He served as Justice of the Peace for over twenty-four years in the town of Maroa, and proved a most efficient officer, as his long term indicates. He died in 1886, and lies buried in Maroa Cemetery. His wife is still living and resides in Maroa. This worthy couple were the parents of thirteen children: Elizabeth, who died and was buried in Ohio; Mary Ann, deceased, who was laid to rest in Ridge Cemetery; Esther Jane, who died and was buried in the same cemetery; Joseph K., who is living in Kansas; Charles L., of this sketch; Martha Jane, who died and was buried in Decatur Cemetery; Sarah Isabel, wife of Aaron Sayer, a resident of Kansas; Alexander and Phoebe, who are both deceased, and were interred in Ridge Cemetery; Charlotte, wife of Wilbur Fawkes, a resident of Chicago; Emma, wife of Aaron Roriek, who makes his home in Kansas; Edward, who is living in Oklahoma; and Frederiek H., who resides in Maroa.

The subject of this sketch was reared and educated in Macon County. The days of his boyhood and youth were quietly passed in the usual manner of farmer lads. He started out in life for himself in 1868, and the same year chose as a companion and helpmate on life's journey Miss Isyphena Lingle, who was born in Ohio and came to Illinois with her parents when quite young. Two children have been born of their union, Rozella M. and Charles J., both of whom were educated in Maroa, and are still with their parents on the old home farm.

In his political views, Mr. Jones is a Republican, but has never been a politician in the sense of office-seeking. Socially, he is connected with the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias, and is a member of the Modern Wood-

men and Knights of the Globe. Himself and wife are worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are active workers in its interest. The farm upon which they reside comprises one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land, supplied with good buildings and all modern improvements and conveniences. They have here a beautiful and attractive home, and this happy family has the good-will and esteem of all who know them.



**D**S. SHELLABARGER is a very progressive man, and in point of enterprise is undoubtedly the foremost spirit of Decatur. He has been a promoter of many of the leading industries of the city, and was the prime mover in securing the original street railway. He is now the principal stockholder and President of the City Electric Railway Company, and is also President of the Shellabarger Mill and Elevator Company, which corporation he and his sons own. Besides the large mill and three elevators in Decatur, the company has an elevator at Cerro Gordo, and one at Milmine, Piatt County.

Our subject comes from an old Pennsylvania family, and for three generations back his ancestors have been millers. His grandfather built a watermill on the Canadaguinett Creek, in Cumberland County, Pa., about 1820, and it remained in the possession of the family until about five years ago. The Shellabargers came originally from Switzerland, where they belonged to the military class, and the name was originally Von Schellenburg. Three brothers of the family crossed the Atlantic and located in York County, Pa.

The father of our subject, David Shellabarger, was a miller and also a farmer. David S., our subject, grew up on the home farm in Cumberland County, Pa., where he was born July 11, 1837. He worked in the fields or in the mill until nineteen years of age, but in 1856 he became imbued with a desire to try his fortune in the West. He followed Horace Greeley's advice, and, journeying



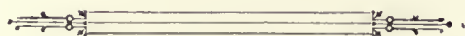
toward the setting sun, at length took up his residence in Decatur, where he worked in a lumberyard at \$1.25 per day. Subsequently he purchased an interest in the business, but in 1859 he disposed of that and purchased an interest in a little mill, then known as the Henkle & Condell Mill. When he entered the firm the name was changed to Henkle, Shellabarger & Co. They did a successful business for four years, and on the expiration of that period Mr. Shellabarger sold out.

In 1861, our subject bought an interest in the mill which stood on the site of the present Shellabarger mills and elevators. For several years he supplied the local trade, making flour for the farmers and others living within twenty or thirty miles of Decatur. He had two partners in the business: his uncle, Isaac Shellabarger, and Benjamin Dillehunt. Several changes occurred in the firm, and in 1888 the present company was incorporated, under the name of the Shellabarger Mill and Elevator Company, with a capital stock of \$150,000. As the business increased, the capacity of the mill was also enlarged. This was the first mill in the State to venture rolls on fall wheat. The Shellabarger mills are so well known that it seems almost needless to say that they are provided with all modern improvements and equipments and with the very best improved roller process machinery. The machinery throughout is large and heavy, thus giving the mill a great capacity, as well as the power to do strictly first-class work. No mill in the State makes better flour, and only two can turn out a greater quantity, the capacity being six hundred barrels of cornmeal and six hundred barrels of flour daily, besides two earloads of chopped feed every twenty-four hours. It was the company's aim to buy all the grain from home producers, but the capacity is so large that four-fifths of the supply is imported from other places.

In 1862, Mr. Shellabarger married Miss Anna E. Krone, daughter of David Krone, one of the early settlers of Macon County. Unto them have been born eight children. Adele is the wife of E. B. Hillman, an electrical constructionist, residing at Peoria, by whom she has one child, Margaret. Frank died in infancy. William, who is Secretary

of the Shellabarger Mill and Elevator Company, married Miss Thatcher, of Decatur, and they have two children, David S. and Charles Thatcher. Lucian is the next younger, and is the superintendent of the mills. Fred, who wedded Miss Pitts, is Treasurer of the company. Marie is the wife of Andrew Smith Crowder, a real-estate dealer of Spokane, Wash. Grace is at home; and Corinne, the youngest, will graduate from the Mt. Vernon Seminary, of Washington, in the spring of 1893.

In connection with the business interests already mentioned, Mr. Shellabarger is Vice-President of the National Bank of Decatur. As before mentioned, he was prominent in the establishment of the street-car system of Decatur, and it was largely due to his untiring efforts that the horse cars were superseded by the electric cars. Our subject believes in the protection of home industries in America for Americans, and is a staunch Republican, voting for the party which advocates protective principles. He has always been found on the side of progress and is ever ready to lend a helping hand to any enterprise by which the interests of the citizens will be promoted. On the other hand, he sincerely regrets that there are those who would seek to hinder and obstruct progress, sometimes merely on account of petty jealousy, but he always does his part, and no man stands higher and enjoys the approval of the best citizens of Decatur to a greater degree than D. S. Shellabarger.



**J**OSEPH R. LIKENS, one of the prominent and enterprising farmers and stock-raisers of Oakley Township, residing on section 28, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Marion County, July 7, 1847, and is a son of John E. Likens, who was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, January 20, 1819. His mother, a native of the same State, bore the maiden name of Sarah Ann Cole. Their union was celebrated in 1841, and



they made their home in Ohio until 1858, when they removed with their family to Macon County, Ill., locating on section 30, Oakley Township. They had five children: Jane, now the wife of H. Bear, a resident of Champaign County, Ill.; Lucinda M., wife of William Morris, of Moultrie County; Elizabeth, wife of William Lyon, a resident of Cerro Gordo, Piatt County; Joseph R., whose name heads this sketch; and Edgar, who died in 1872, when a young man of eighteen years. His remains were interred in what is known as Frantz Cemetery, in Oakley Township.

The subject of this sketch spent the first eleven years of his life in Ohio, and then accompanied his parents on their removal to this county, of whose growth and development he has now been an eye-witness for more than a third of a century. He has ever since been numbered among the leading citizens of the community, having always taken an active interest in public affairs. While not an office-seeker, he has at different times served the public in the capacity of School Director and Superintendent of Highways, discharging his duties in a prompt and faithful manner. Since attaining his majority he has been a supporter of the Democratic party, and, socially, he is connected with the Odd Fellows' lodge of Cerro Gordo.

Mr. Likens may truly be called a self-made man, for although he is now the possessor of a handsome competency, he started out in life for himself with limited means. In 1867, he was united in marriage with Miss Emma Upshaw, who died of spotted fever in 1868, and was buried in Cerro Gordo Cemetery. In 1871, he was joined in marriage with Miss Mary Hoots, and the family circle now numbers ten children: John E., Ross, Charles, Osear, Harmon, Jane, Effa, Perlie, Sena and Flossie, who are all still at home. One child, Frank, died at eight and a-half months of age. The parents are members of the Christian Church and are highly respected people of the community.

Throughout his entire life, Mr. Likens has followed agricultural pursuits and has also engaged quite extensively in stock-raising. He usually keeps from eighty to one hundred head of cattle, horses and hogs on hand during the entire year.

His farm is under a high state of cultivation and is well watered and fenced. There is a good residence and all the necessary outbuildings. One hundred and seventy acres of the farm lie in Macon County, and the remaining one hundred and seventy are just across the line in Piatt County. This farm yields him a handsome income, he having sold products to the amount of about \$33,000 in the last three years. A man of good business ability, industrious and energetic, he is numbered among the leading agriculturists of the community.



**L**EWRIGHT W. WHEELER, who resides on section 2, Oakley Township, was born on the 9th of May, 1838, only a few rods from where he now makes his home. His father, Garland Wheeler, was born and reared in Kentucky, and in that State, in 1822, married Miss Elizabeth Whitley. They became the parents of fourteen children, six sons and eight daughters, all of whom grew to manhood and womanhood, with the exception of Telitha, who died at the age of four years. In September, 1834, the father emigrated with his family from Kentucky to Macon County, Ill., and settled near what is now known as Ray's Bridge, where he entered from the Government eighty acres of land on sections 1 and 2, Oakley Township. He became one of the early settlers of the county and passed through many hardships and difficulties in providing for his family. He died in 1872, and his wife passed away in 1875. They were laid to rest in what is known as Wheeler's Cemetery, on the Sangamon River.

The subject of this sketch, being one of the younger members of the family, remained at home with his father for some time, but commenced to acquire property for himself soon after he became of age. He has since kept adding to his possessions, until he now owns nearly three hundred acres of valuable land, all under a high state of cultivation and supplied with good buildings and all

modern improvements. He is engaged in no special line of work, but follows general farming, raising all kinds of grain and devoting considerable time to stock-raising.

On the 11th of November, 1858, Mr. Wheeler married Miss Sarah Kemp, who died in 1865 and was interred in Wheeler's Cemetery. He was again married, September 30, 1869, when Miss Ann Boyd became his wife. She died in 1876, leaving a son, George R., to mourn her loss. On the 25th of September, 1879, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Wheeler and Miss Margaret Ross. Their union has been blessed with two children: Richard Carl, who was born in October, 1880; and Lynn Virgil, born November 19, 1884.

Mr. Wheeler had but limited educational privileges; in fact, his advantages in all directions were quite meagre, but notwithstanding his early deprivation he has succeeded remarkably well in life. He is a firm believer in Prohibition principles, and practices what he preaches. He is a kind husband and father as well as a good neighbor, and his many friends hold him in high esteem. His wife, who was born in Ohio, and came to this county about twenty years ago, is a member of the United Brethren Church, and a consistent Christian. She tries to do her part in life to make people better and happier, and her own home is bright and attractive, its hospitable doors being ever open for the reception of the many friends of the family.



JACOB M. LEHMAN, who devotes his energies to agricultural pursuits and resides on section 11, Hickory Point Township, is one of the honored veterans of the late war, and a worthy representative of one of the pioneer families of this county of 1844. He was born in Clarke County, Ohio, on the 5th of September, 1838, and was therefore only six years of age when he came to Illinois with his parents, Henry and Mary (Allbert) Lehman.

The Lehman family is of German origin. The father of our subject was a native of Pennsylvania, and was a shoemaker by trade. In 1844 he emigrated Westward with his family, locating in Deatur, and ten years later on a farm in this locality. The Lehman family numbered ten children, the eldest of whom is Jacob, and with the exception of two sisters, Mary and Lavina, he is now the only survivor. Those deceased are: Francis, Sophia, Ruth, Henry, Charlie and two who died in infancy.

The educational privileges of our subject were quite limited, as the schools of this community in an early day did not possess their present high standard of excellence, but by experience, observation and reading he has become a well-informed man. He was still with his parents at the breaking out of the late war. At the age of twenty-three he enlisted in 1861 as a private in Company B, Eighth Illinois Infantry. He was mustered in at Cairo, and, going to the front, participated in the battle of Ft. Donelson, his first active engagement. He was afterward under fire at the battles of Shiloh and Champion Hill, and participated in the entire siege of Vicksburg. During his entire three-years term of service he was never off duty except when home on a thirty-days furlough. Always found at his post as a faithful defender of the cause for which he had enlisted, at the expiration of three years he was honorably discharged at Vicksburg, on the 4th of August, 1864.

Returning to his home in Macon County, Mr. Lehman resumed work on the old farm and remained with his father until 1873. He then began renting land, but still continued to live at home until the following year, when he purchased a farm, the same upon which he now resides. It comprises one hundred and nine acres of arable land on section 11, Hickory Point Township, and there, in connection with the cultivation of his land, he carries on stock-raising, having a good grade of horses and cattle. The buildings upon his place are substantial structures, kept in good repair, and the neat appearance of his home indicates his careful supervision.

In 1873 Mr. Lehman was married to Miss Mary C. Weaver, a daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Seilor)



Weaver, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. The union of our subject and his wife has been blessed with a family of seven children, as follows: Ruth, Alfred H., Charlie A., Jacob, Gertrude, Ivy and Floyd. The family circle still remains unbroken. In his social relations, Mr. Lehman is an Odd Fellow and is a member of the Knights of Pythias. He takes quite an active interest in political affairs and votes with the Democratic party. He keeps well informed on all the issues of the day, both political and otherwise, and is recognized as one of the valued citizens of the community. The Lehman household is the abode of hospitality, and our subject and his wife, who are most estimable people, hold a high position in the circles of society in which they move.



MRS. ELIZA J. BREWSTER, who for a quarter of a century has made her home in Decatur, and has a wide acquaintance in this city, is a native of County Tyrone, Ireland. Her father, Joseph Robinson, was a native of the Emerald Isle, his birth having also occurred in County Tyrone. Bidding good-bye to home and friends, he crossed the broad Atlantic to America, landing in the New World in 1847. He went to Philadelphia, where for ten years he made his home, and in 1857 he came to Decatur, where for a time he worked at any honest employment which he could find which would bring him a livelihood. Ere leaving his native land he was united in marriage with Miss Rebeeca McFarland, and unto them was born a family of five children, four of whom are still living. The mother was called to her final rest in 1877. The father survived her for a number of years, and departed this life on the 14th of January, 1890. His last years were spent in the home of his daughter. He had made judicious investments in real estate, and at the time of his death he was quite well off, owning considerable property, both in the city and in farm lands.

Eliza J. Robinson spent the days of her girlhood

under the parental roof, and in the public schools acquired her education. With her parents she came to Decatur in 1857, and three years later she gave her hand in marriage to William M. Brewster, their union being celebrated in this city. Mr. Brewster was a native of New York, but at the time of his marriage lived in Springfield, Ill., and was employed as an engineer on the Wabash Railroad. By their union were born five children, all sons. Elmer J., the eldest, is a machinist now residing in Chicago; John C. is employed by the firm of Field & Wilson, in Decatur; William T. is employed in the furniture factory of this city; Joseph R. is a plumber of Decatur; and Samuel, who completes the family, follows the same trade in Champaign, Ill.

Mr. Brewster died at his home in this city in 1871. His death was mourned not only by his immediate family, but by a large circle of friends as well, for he was a popular man and held in high regard. Mrs. Brewster is living at the old home, where she has now resided for twenty-five years. She is the owner of a good farm of eighty acres of valuable land at Emery Station, and also of several pieces of residence property in the city.



ALEXANDER T. HILL was for many years one of the most prominent and influential citizens of Decatur, and the history of the county would be incomplete without a record of his life. He was a leading merchant, and was President of the Decatur National Bank. In social, business and church circles, he was both widely and favorably known, and the life which he lived was one well worthy of emulation. He was born in King and Queen County, Va., November 29, 1818, and was a son of Rev. William B. and Lucy (Garnett) Hill, who were both natives of Virginia. The father was a Baptist minister and teacher, and preached in Virginia, and in St. Clair County, Ill., after his removal to the West. His last days were spent in Macoupin County, where he



passed away in 1873, at the age of eighty years, having survived his wife a few years. Of their family of eight children, four were sons and four daughters. Of the number five are yet living: William B.; Mrs. Lucy G. Hord; Mary, wife of C. A. Jackson; Mrs. Anna Powell; and Richard B.

Mr. Hill whose name heads this record remained in Virginia until eighteen years of age and was there educated. In 1835 he emigrated with his parents to St. Clair County, Ill., and for some time engaged in clerking in Belleville. He afterwards spent some years in business for himself in Kane, Greene County, Ill., and was also connected with the Government mining office for a time. In 1854 he came to Decatur and opened a dry-goods store, which he carried on until the close of the war.

On the 6th of September, 1860, Mr. Hill married Miss Sarah D. Wilder, who was born in Attiea, N. Y., in 1834, and is a daughter of Thomas and Hannah (Dow) Wilder, the former a native of Massachusetts, and the latter of Vermont. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hill was born a son, Edward Wilder, who makes his home with his mother. He married Miss Anna L. Cox, of Decatur.

In 1874 Mr. Hill embarked in the banking business, becoming connected with the Decatur National Bank, which at that time had a deposit of only \$11. He built up the bank until it became, and is now, one of the strongest financial institutions of the county. He was one of its principal stockholders, long served as a Director, and was its President for thirteen years. He owned a number of fine farms near Decatur, and bought and sold considerable real estate. He built the home residence about 1882. In politics, he was in early life a Whig, and on the organization of the Republican party became one of its staunch supporters. He served as Supervisor for a number of years, but was never an office-seeker, preferring to devote his time to his business interests and the enjoyment of his home. He possessed most excellent business ability, and worked his way upward from an humble position to one of affluence. In all relations he was upright and honorable, and every trust reposed in him was faithfully discharged. He delighted in his home, and counted no cost too great that would enhance the happiness of his

family. A name untarnished by wrong-doing is the priceless heritage which he left to his son. He died June 8, 1888, in his seventieth year. Mrs. Hill still occupies the old home with her son. For many years she has been a member of the Presbyterian Church, is an active worker in all charitable enterprises, and throughout the community she has many warm friends.



**D**AVID T. HOLMAN, who owns and operates a good farm of eighty acres on section 26, Hickory Point Township, comes of a prominent family of Macon County, and claims Ohio as the State of his nativity. He was born in Ross County on the 19th of September, 1855, and is one of ten children, whose parents, Martin and Ferba (May) Holman, were also natives of Ohio. Of the family seven are yet living. The father was a farmer by occupation and followed that pursuit throughout his entire life. In his youth he received a good business education, and was a well-informed man. In 1865, he left the State of his nativity and accompanied by his family came to Illinois, locating in Macon County.

For about two years Martin Holman rented land in Hickory Point Township, and then purchased the farm on which our subject now resides, comprising an unimproved tract of eighty acres on section 26. With characteristic energy, he began its development, and continued its cultivation until his death, which occurred October 22, 1886. His remains were interred in Greenwood Cemetery, of Decatur, and many friends mourned his loss. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and in politics was a supporter of the Republican party. A progressive and public-spirited man, his fellow-townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, had called upon him to serve in numerous township offices.

The first ten years of his life, David T. Holman passed on the farm where he was born, and then

came with his parents to Illinois. He began his education in the schools of the Buckeye State, afterwards attended the district schools of this county, and subsequently completed his education by a course in the business college in Decatur. As soon as old enough, he began work on the home farm, and gave his services to his father until the death of the latter, when our subject took charge of the home farm, which he has since managed. The entire place is under a high state of cultivation, and its neat and thrifty appearance indicates the careful supervision of the owner, who in connection with general farming also carries on stock-raising.

On the 24th of September, 1891, an important event in the life of Mr. Holman occurred,—his marriage with Miss Dora Bender, daughter of Frank and Annie (Deitz) Bender, of this county. Their union has been blessed with one child, a daughter, Maud. The young couple are widely known in this community, have a large circle of friends, and are held in high esteem by all.

Mr. Holman follows in the political footsteps of his father and votes with the Republican party. He is recognized as a man of sterling worth, and is numbered among the enterprising and progressive agriculturists of the community, well deserving of a representation in the history of his adopted county.



**W**ILLIAM THOMAS CUSSINS, an attorney-at-law of Decatur, was born in Zanesville, Ohio, on the 21st of September, 1845, and is a son of Samuel A. and Jane M. (Cariens) Cussins, both of whom were natives of the Buckeye State. The mother died in 1855. The father came with his family to this city in the spring of 1861, and here worked as a contractor and builder. He took quite a prominent part in public life in Ohio, and was a highly respected citizen. His death occurred in 1872.

Our subject did not accompany the family to

Macon County when they came in the spring of 1861, but came in the fall of 1862, being at the time of their departure a student of Miller Academy, of New Washington, Ohio, a preparatory school, where he was fitted for college. He then became a student in Eureka College, of Eureka, Ill., a school of the Christian Church, and after completing the classical course was graduated in 1869 with the degree of A. B. While taking his course there, he was Principal of the Bennett Public Schools, and also taught a select school in Haristown, Ill. He was assistant professor of Latin in the college at Eureka for two years. After his graduation he engaged in teaching as Principal of the public schools of Macon, this county, but, desiring to enter the legal profession, he began reading law with A. B. and Lewis R. Bunn. He was admitted to the Bar in 1871 on examination by Judge A. J. Gallagher, and M. B. Thompson, State's Attorney.

Mr. Cussins has since been engaged in law practice in Decatur, and has been the leading counsel in many important cases. He won the suit of Leonard vs. the Niantie Coal and Mining Company, securing \$5,000 for the plaintiff, who had been crushed through the carelessness of an inefficient engineer. He also won \$3,000 damages for the plaintiff in the case of Sysson vs. the Decatur Coal and Mining Company, which had not complied with the State law in regard to the signals for hoisting the cage. When the will of Joseph Robinson was contested he won the suit for Mrs. Brewster, securing for her \$15,000. Mr. Robinson had lived with his daughter, Mrs. Brewster, and on his death the will was produced, reading: "Know all men by these presents that I, Joseph Robinson, for the consideration of \$1, do hereby assign and set over to my daughter, Eliza Jane Brewster, all of my property, both personal and real, to have the same after my death." This will was contested on the grounds of insufficiency, but in the Supreme Court was decided to be valid.

In his political views, Mr. Cussins is a Democrat and has taken quite an active part in forwarding the interests of his party, but has never been a candidate for office or sought political preferment in any way. He always keeps himself well informed

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





JAMES DAVIS

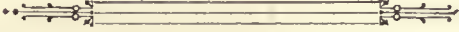


ELIZA A. DAVIS

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



on all questions of the day, both political and otherwise. He is a man of strong convictions, and as a lawyer is logical and his arguments are convincing, his ability being shown in the fact that he has won so many important cases. He has many warm friends throughout the community and is a very popular gentleman among those who know him best.



JAMES DAVIS (deceased), who was numbered among the honored pioneers of Macon County, was born in Kentucky, December 31, 1813, and was a son of James Davis, a native of Bourbon County, Ky. The father also emigrated to Illinois and spent his last days in this State. He was a cripple throughout much of his life, and in his younger days, having obtained a good education, engaged in school teaching. Subsequently he followed farming. His family numbered ten children, five sons and five daughters, of whom James, Jr., was the ninth in order of birth. Four sons and two daughters came to this State.

The gentleman whose name heads this record was a lad when his parents located in Marion County, Ill. At the age of twenty years he came to Macon County, where his older brothers, Joseph and Randall, were living. In Long Creek Township he made his home until his death. On the 5th of December, 1835, he married Eliza A. Campbell, who was born in Caldwell County, Ky., August 29, 1810, and is of Irish descent. She is a daughter of David Campbell, who removed from South Carolina to Kentucky and there spent the remainder of his life. In the former State he wedded Miss Ann Craig, who came with her daughter to Illinois, where her death occurred. Mrs. Davis is the only member of the family now living. She came to this State in 1834, and is therefore numbered among its pioneer settlers. She did trading in Decatur when it contained only one store, and no calico or coffee could be got in the town. The children of the family are Samuel,

mentioned below; and W. M., who married Georgiana Baker, who was born in Montgomery County, Ill., and is a daughter of George Q. Baker. They have three children, Henry W., Rosa E. and Mary E. Mrs. Davis has twenty-eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. For sixty-five years she has been a faithful and consistent member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and her noble life, embellished with many good deeds, is in harmony with her professions.



SAMUEL C. DAVIS, who resides on section 27, Long Creek Township, was born on the old homestead in the same township, March 5, 1844. His parents, James and Eliza A. (Campbell) Davis, were both natives of Kentucky. His father, James Davis, here entered land from the Government, and in Long Creek Township followed farming throughout the remainder of his life. He broke many acres of prairie with ox-teams and bore all the experiences common to frontier life. On the 17th of March, 1893, he passed away, at the age of seventy-nine. The children of the family were David, a member of Company E, Forty-first Illinois Infantry, who was killed during the late war at the battle of Shiloh; Mrs. Ann M. Coehran, who is living on a farm in this county; Mrs. Mary Carmean, of Decatur; Samuel; Mrs. Margaret Jane Sanders, of Long Creek Township; Willis M., who is farming on section 33, Long Creek Township; and Mrs. Eliza A. Stewart, of Decatur.

For about three months during the winter, Samuel C. Davis attended subscription schools, and in the summer he worked in the fields. Upon the home farm he remained until twenty-one years old, and after his brother's death the management and care devolved upon him. In his present home was celebrated his marriage on the 4th of December, 1873, Harriet E. Gabbert becoming his wife. She was born in Indiana and is a daughter of G. W. and Mary M. (Whitehouse) Gabbert, who came to

Illinois in 1851, spending their remaining days in this State. The father was a soldier in the Mexican War. Mrs. Davis has four sisters living in this county. To the union of our subject and his wife were born five children: Birdie, who died at the age of five years; Mabel; Winnie Bell, who died in infancy; Walter and Ruby Ethel.

With the exception of a year and a-half spent in Decatur engaged in the feed and livery business, Mr. Davis has resided continuously upon the farm, and in connection with its cultivation has carried on stock-raising. He now owns one hundred and twenty acres of land, a good home, and is comfortably situated. He and his wife are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Mt. Zion, and Mr. Davis is connected with the Masonic fraternity of Decatur. He is now serving his ninth term as Supervisor, having held the office for seven consecutive years, a fact which indicates his faithfulness to duty. He has also served as School Trustee and filled other local positions. His first Presidential vote, supporting Grant, was cast in 1868, and he has since been an inflexible adherent of the Republican party. He is a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family, and his busy and useful life is one well worthy of emulation.



**C**HARLES M. DENISON, M. D., who resides in Argenta, was born near Westbrook, Conn., September 13, 1836, and is a son of Charles H. and Azuba (Towner) Denison. His father, who was a native of the Nutmeg State, followed farming throughout his entire life. His death occurred in 1887, and his wife passed away June 17, 1855. They held membership with the Congregational Church. Their family numbered four children, the eldest of whom is the Doctor. William T. is a ranchman of California; Joseph W. is a farmer living near Westbrook, Conn.; and Ellen E. died in June, 1890.

Dr. Denison attended the district schools until

fourteen years of age and then entered Westbrook Academy, where he pursued his studies for two years, after which he was for six months a student in the State Normal School of Connecticut. At the age of seventeen he began teaching, and was thus employed until twenty-one years of age, when he emigrated Westward with the hope of bettering his financial condition. It was in 1858 that he cast in his lot with the early settlers of Decatur. For four years he was employed as a teacher in the district schools of Macon County, but in the mean time he was studying medicine, and in the winter of 1859-60 attended the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, from which he was graduated in February, 1861. Returning to Illinois, he located in Cerro Gordo, where he began practice, but after six months he was mustered into the United States service, on the 15th of September, 1861, as Assistant Surgeon of the Eighth Illinois Infantry. He served in that capacity until 1864, when he was commissioned Surgeon of the same regiment, and filled that office until May 20, 1866. He was wounded on the 6th of June, 1863, at the siege of Vicksburg by a minie-ball, which struck him in the left knee, and he was taken to the regiment hospital, where he was confined for about a month. He was with his command in the battle of Jackson and in all the engagements of Grant's campaign to Holly Springs, La Fayette and Memphis, and was under fire all through the siege of Vicksburg. He was mustered out at Baton Rouge June 1, 1866.

When the war was over and the country no longer needed his services, the Doctor returned to his old home in Connecticut, where he spent three months. In September of that year he went to Newburg, Ill., where he again opened an office and successfully carried on practice, and in 1873 he came to Argenta. He continued the prosecution of his profession until 1880, since which time he has lived retired. In 1882, he went to Decatur, where he made his home until 1888. Since that time he has resided continuously in Argenta.

On the 25th of April, 1867, the Doctor wedded Miss Drusilla Ellis, and unto them was born one son, Charles A., who is now taking a literary and law course in the University of Ann Arbor, Mich.



Mrs. Denison died March 10, 1888, and on the 1st of June, 1889, Dr. Denison was united in marriage with Miss Mary McNiel.

Our subject has met with excellent success in his business career, and as his financial resources have increased has made judicious investments in land, until he now owns three hundred and seventy acres on sections 35 and 36, Friends' Creek Township, a large stock farm. He also has between three hundred and four hundred acres in Connecticut, which yields to him a good income. Socially, he is a member of the Masonic fraternity, the Knights of Pythias and the Grand Army of the Republic. In politics, he has been a staunch Republican since the organization of the party. The Doctor is widely and favorably known throughout Macon County, and is a pleasant, genial gentleman, having many friends, who hold him in high regard for his excellencies of character and sterling worth.



**I** SAAC A. HARKRADER, a retired farmer now residing in Decatur, was born in southwest Virginia, in the county of Wythe, February 27, 1832. He is a son of David and Mary N. (Umbarger) Harkrader, both of whom were natives of the Old Dominion. The father served as a soldier in the War of 1812, and was a farmer during the greater part of his life. He died in Wytheville, Va., in 1860, at the age of sixty-four, and his wife died in 1864, at the same age. They were both buried in the cemetery of St. Paul's Church, where were also laid to rest the eldest son and daughter of the family. In religious belief the parents were Lutherans. Their children, numbering six sons and six daughters, are all now deceased, with the exception of our subject; Mrs. Margaret C. Callaway, of Darke County, Ohio; and Benjamin D., of Beatrice, Neb.

Isaac Harkrader comes from an old Virginian family and is descended from one of the Revolutionary heroes, his grandfather, John Harkrader,

having been a Captain in the War for Independence. Our subject was reared in the Old Dominion, and remained with his parents until nineteen years of age, at which time he left home and emigrated to Wisconsin. After six months spent in that State, he retraced his steps until he reached Butler County, Ohio, where he had four uneasy living. He made his home in that locality until February, 1855, when he again sought a home further West, and made a location in Fountain County, Ind. Six months later he came to Illinois, the month of October, 1855, witnessing his arrival. He settled in the town of Austin, Macon County, and for a time worked by the month as a farm hand. He afterward operated a threshing-machine, and later rented some land until he was able to purchase it. When he had acquired a small capital, he bought a piece of railroad land. About this time Mr. Harkrader was appointed the first Tax Collector in Austin Township, the county having just been organized. Having collected the taxes, he placed the money in the railroad bank of Decatur, which failed. In order to make good the amount of taxes, he gave up all his property, and in addition was left with \$200 debt, but two faithful friends, Peter Bennett and James Parker, came to his rescue, and after a short time he managed to get a start again.

On the 6th of September, 1870, Mr. Harkrader was united in marriage with Miss Paulina A. Young, daughter of Adam and Elizabeth (Shull) Young, the former a native of Ireland, and the latter of Pennsylvania. Mr. Young, however, was a son of an Englishman. He came to America in 1822 with his father, two sisters and a brother. They located in Ohio, where Mr. Young was married. By their union were born ten children, but two died in early childhood and two others after attaining to mature years. Those still living are Minerva, Silas, Emma J., Elmira, Jasper and Paulina. The father of this family, who was a farmer, died in 1874, at the age of sixty-nine years. His wife still survives him and is now living in Maroa, in her seventy-first year. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Harkrader were born three children, but Isaac R., the second child, died at the age of thirteen months. James A. and Leona C. are still living.



In 1865, as the result of his hard and indefatigable labor, his economy and good management, Mr. Harkrader had accumulated \$10,000. He sold his farm early in that year and went to Maroa, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land, to which he has since added, until his possessions now aggregate eight hundred and forty-six acres, all improved and worth from \$70 to \$100 per acre. After his marriage he and his wife resided upon their farm near Maroa until 1890, when they came to Decatur. They have an elegant home at No. 252 North Franklin Street.

In politics Mr. Harkrader is a Democrat. Socially, he has been connected with the Odd Fellows' society for many years and his wife has taken the Rebecca degree. The well-merited success of our subject is the result of years of toil and labor. His perseverance and well-directed efforts, by which he has surmounted the difficulties in his path, have brought him prosperity, and from a humble position he has steadily worked his way upwards to one of wealth and affluence.



**C**HARLES A. McCUNE has for fourteen years been continuously with the Shellabarger Mill and Elevator Company, of Decatur, as a millwright and machinist. He has the honor of being a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Sangamon County on the 14th of August, 1845. His father, James McCune, was a native of Nicholas County, Ky., and in 1826, when a lad of ten summers, accompanied his parents to Sangamon County, Ill. There he was reared to manhood and married Nancy Whitford, who was born in Wayne County, Ill. His father bought land from the Government, the deed being signed by Martin Van Buren. James McCune lived upon that farm from the age of ten years until his death, which occurred in 1890, at the age of seventy-four. His wife passed away about ten years previous. The family of this worthy couple num-

bered eight children and all had attained to mature years before a death occurred in the family. Six of the number are still living.

Charles McCune remained at home until after he had passed his twentieth birthday. No event of special importance occurred during his youth, which was quietly passed in his father's home. In 1865, he started for the West, going to Cheyenne, Wyo., with a company of sixty en route for the Deadwood mines. One of their number afterwards became the well-known actor, Harry Meredith, who has become noted in his famous play, "Ranch No. 10." This company reached Ranch No. 10, which is halfway between Cheyenne and Deadwood. It was a stage station and the resort of gamblers. On reaching this place, Mr. McCune decided to abandon the Deadwood trip and instead went to Denver, where he met a contractor who was engaged in building the Union Pacific Railroad, and to whom he hired out by the month as a teamster, working all that summer.

When the season was over, our subject returned to Illinois and served an apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner in Sangamon County, remaining with his employers nearly three years, during which time he received \$1.50 per day and board. In April, 1869, he came to Macon County and began contracting, but desiring to further perfect himself in his business he served for three years with John Beal, a millwright and machinist, now of Chicago. During that time he erected several mills, including the Shellabarger Mill, in Danville, and also the large mill in Wichita, Kan., together with one in Pana, where he had entire charge of both the construction and the men.

On the 29th of February, 1876, Mr. McCune was united in marriage with Miss Barbara Stabler. Their union has been blessed with one daughter, Maud, who was born April 6, 1877, and is now attending school. The parents are members of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church.

In the year of his marriage, Mr. McCune began contracting for himself, his first work being the erection of a big mill in Larned, Kan., for Van Horn Brothers. He also erected one in Dodge City, Kan., for Rainey & Hendricks when it was considered the wildest, hardest town of the West.

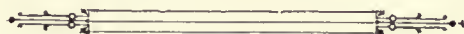
He also built a mill in Bethany, Ill., and put up elevators for the Union Iron Works, and then assisted in erecting the new mill owned by the Shellabarger Mill and Elevator Co., who made a contract with Mr. McCune to work by the year in the mill. Our subject has held the position for fourteen years to the entire satisfaction of his employers. He has charge of all repairing and all new machinery and looks after the elevators in Cerro Gordo and Millmine.

In politics, Mr. McCune is a Republican, but has never sought or desired the honors or emoluments of public office. Socially, he is a member of Cœur de Lion Lodge No. 17, K. P., and of the Uniformed Rank. He owns a fine property on West Eldorado Street, and some valuable real estate on South Grand Avenue, in Springfield, Ill. His long continuation with the Shellabarger Milling Company is the highest testimonial to his faithfulness and efficiency that could be given. He has won the confidence of his employers and the respect of all with whom he has come in contact, and it is with pleasure that we present to our readers this record of his life.



**J**OHAN J. H. YOUNG is the city editor of the *Daily Evening Republican*, a position he has held continuously since the spring of 1879. He was born near Winchester, in Frederick County, Va., July 15, 1853. He came to Decatur with his parents, John J. H. and Margaret A. (Coburn) Young, in 1856. His father was a veteran in the One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Regiment, and died in Decatur in October, 1891. Throughout his life, since the age of twelve years, Mr. Young has been identified with newspaper work. He first began work as a "devil" in the office of the old *State Chronicle*, and has been employed on the *Bement Tribune*, the *Maroa News*, Pike's *Decatur Democrat*, Merrill's *Sunbeam*, Tupper's *Sun*, the *Gazette and Chronicle*, the *Magnet*, the *Decatur Tribune*, the *Times-Magnet*, *Daily Re-*

*view*, and Kimball's *Morning Sun*, embracing nearly all the papers ever printed in Decatur. He has also worked on newspapers in Chicago, St. Louis, Denver, Colo., Jacksonville, Ill., and Peoria, Ill. In politics Mr. Young is a Republican, and is Past-Captain of Col. I. C. Pugh Camp No. 14, S. of V. He is a man of family, having a wife and three children.



**h**ON. GEORGE WESCOTT POWERS, deceased, was born in Charlton, N. Y., on the 17th of January, 1814, and was a son of William and Abigail (Hendricks) Powers, both natives of Connecticut, the former later becoming a prominent farmer of New York. In the family were eight children, as follows: William, Lamira, Chauncey, Orlando, George W., Samuel, Charles and Sarah.

The subject of this sketch remained in the Empire State until 1838, and during this time studied law. When a young man of twenty-four years, he determined to seek a home and fortune elsewhere, so, going to the South, he clerked in Mobile, Ala., where he remained until 1840, when he emigrated to Illinois, locating in this county. Three years later he was elected Assessor and Treasurer of the county, and filled those offices in a prompt and faithful manner that won him the commendation of all concerned. In 1839, he had purchased two hundred acres of land, mostly wild and unimproved, only a small part of it having been broken, but he began its development and placed nearly the entire amount under a high state of cultivation. His farm is now known as the Samuel Powers Stock Farm, and is situated a mile and a-quarter northeast of Decatur. It was purchased by our subject the year before his marriage, with the view to making it his home, and the old house he built thereon is still standing.

On the 30th of April, 1840, Mr. Powers was united in marriage in Tuscaloosa, Ala., with Miss Almira Avery, daughter of Dr. John and Almira



(Avery) Giles. By their union were born three daughters. Emma is the wife of John K. Warren, a resident of Decatur, and unto them has been born a son, Giles R. Sarah A. is the wife of George S. Durfee. They have four daughters living: Emada, wife of Lewis Griswold, Jr.; Mabel A., Giselle and Abbie. Ada P. married E. D. Bartholomew, and with their two children, Earl I. and Bonnie Adele, they reside with Mrs. Powers at No. 437 North Main Street.

In 1844, Mr. Powers whose name heads this sketch was elected to the State Senate of Illinois, and served for four years. He had been urged to become a candidate for Congress, but would not consent, for he said it was a difficult thing to be a successful politician and an honest man. On the 16th of September, 1849, he died after an illness of one week. Our subject was upright and honorable in all things, and was a Washingtonian temperance man, being ever found on the side of right and justice. Those who have heard him say that he was a gifted and eloquent speaker. That he was honored with the office of State Senator would indicate that he was an able man. He had been an intimate friend of Judge David Davis, of Bloomington, and on his death his widow received a letter of condolence from the Judge. He held membership with the Presbyterian Church, and Mrs. Powers is a member of the Episcopal Church. For long years she has resided in Macon County, and throughout the community has many warm friends who esteem her highly.



**W**ILLIAM DODSON, who for thirty years was in the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad, is now occupying the position of transfer clerk at the Union Depot in Decatur. Of English birth, he was born in Swavesey, near Cambridge, England, on the 14th of March, 1831, and in his boyhood came to the United States with his father, William Dodson, Sr. The family made their home in Lockport and Batavia, N. Y., until

1852, when they came West to Decatur. Our subject began driving a team for the Illinois Central Railroad Company and broke on the first construction train going out from this place. He then had charge of the baggage at Sandoval, Ill., occupying that position for six months. In 1855, he became baggage-master at the Union Depot, and served as such for twenty-seven years. Under President Pierce's administration he was appointed mail messenger, carrying the mail from the depots to the postoffice. From that time he served continuously as mail messenger and transfer clerk for the Government until President Cleveland's administration, when he was relieved of his duties as mail messenger, but continued to fill the position of transfer clerk, which he still holds. He now gives his entire attention to the mail and Government service, and is the only transfer clerk ever stationed at this place. As an incumbent of the latter office he has charge of all mails handled at this point, keeping a record of everything connected therewith. There are twenty-six mail trains daily and he is always present at the arrival of each. His duties require his attendance from 7 A. M. to 11 P. M., but for several years he was in attendance from 3:30 A. M. to 12 P. M.

The lady who bears the name of Mrs. Dodson was in her maidenhood Miss Mary E. White, of Decatur. She is a native of Decatur and a daughter of Rola and Anna White. Their union, which was celebrated October 28, 1856, was blessed with three children, a son and two daughters, namely: Cora Ellen, who died September 20, 1858, when a child; George R., who is engaged in the jewelry business in Spokane, Wash.; and Daisy F., a student in Knoxville, Ill. The Dodson family is one widely and favorably known in this community and its members have many friends in the circles of society in which they move.

In his earlier years, Mr. Dodson was a supporter of the Democratic party and cast his first Presidential vote for James Buchanan. In 1860 he supported Abraham Lincoln and has since been an advocate of Republican principles. In his social relations he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Retention in the position



is the highest testimonial that can be given of promptness and fidelity on the part of an employe. The long-continued service of our subject as transfer clerk indicates his faithfulness to duty. He is alike true to every trust reposed in him, and is a valued citizen and a representative man in this community. He is held in high esteem for his sterling worth and strict integrity and it is with much pleasure that we present to our readers the life work of Mr. Dodson.



**G**EORGE PARKER HARDY, a well-known resident of Decatur, resides at No. 954 South Walnut Street. He is serving as County Clerk, and is proving an able and efficient officer. Fifty-six years of his life have been passed in this State, though his birthplace is in Harbor Creek Township, Erie County, Pa., the date of that important event being March 16, 1828. His parents, Luke and Sophrona (Warren) Hardy, were both natives of Massachusetts, the former born in Tewkesbury, and the latter in Andover. After their marriage they removed to Erie County, Pa., where Mr. Hardy later owned two good farms. He was a stone-mason by trade, and followed that pursuit in his early days, but afterward devoted his energies to agriculture. On the 15th of February, 1837, accompanied by his family, he left the East for Illinois, locating in Bloomington, where his death occurred December 12, 1844, at the age of fifty-five. His wife died at the advanced age of eighty-six years, at the home of her daughter in Shelbyville, Ill. Both held membership with the Presbyterian Church.

In the public schools of Bloomington our subject began his literary education, which he completed in the university at Galesburg. He then worked at the carpenter's trade for a few years. On the 15th of February, 1848, he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah A. Surdan, a daughter of Jonathan and Mary (Chamberlain) Surdan. Her parents were natives of Vermont, but came to Illinois

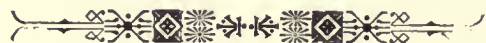
from the Empire State. Their family numbered seven children, three sons and four daughters, of whom Alice, Charlie and Clara, the three eldest, died in early infancy. Lulu is the wife of John T. Ehrhart, a traveling salesman for the firm of Clement, Bain & Co., of Chicago. They reside in Englewood and have two sons, Harry and Arthur. George P. was married and died at the age of twenty-eight years, leaving a wife and two daughters, Bell and Nellie. Mary W. is the wife of Stephen P. Morehouse, who is living in Riverside Addition to Decatur, and who is a clerk in the employ of Morehouse, Wells & Co. They have a daughter, Margaret. Tom C. married Miss Virginia Smith, and unto them has been born a daughter, Hazel.

After his marriage Mr. Hardy carried on a bakery and confectionery establishment in Bloomington until the 6th of July, 1852, when he came to Decatur, but on the 25th of January, 1853, he left for Assumption, having a contract to construct four miles of the Illinois Central Railroad near that place. On the completion of the grading he went to Moweaqua, and on the completion of the road became station agent at that place, serving for two years, when he resigned his position in order to embark in merchandising. After following that pursuit for a short time, he turned his attention to grain dealing, and in December, 1868, came to Decatur, where he has since resided. In the spring of 1872, he was appointed City Clerk, and held that office for ten years. He was then, in 1882, elected County Clerk, and has held the position ever since.

Mr. Hardy and his wife are members of the Presbyterian Church, and he is a prominent Mason, belonging to Ionic Lodge No. 312, A. F. & A. M.; and Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M. Politically, he is a Republican. While in the grain business at Moweaqua, he freighted five carloads of grain to Cairo, and there sold them to a gentleman who put the grain on board a steamer and shipped it South. That was the last shipment of grain that left that port for the South during the war. The vessel steamed into port with the band playing national airs and with the Stars and Stripes floating from her flag pole, but when she left the wharf

with her cargo the officers on board began to haul down the Stars and Stripes and raise the Stars and Bars. This is one of the unpleasant recollections of Mr. Hardy's life, as he has always been a strong Unionist, but he rejoices now in the knowledge that the starry banner floats triumphantly over the united Nation.

Macon County has just completed a magnificent stone court house at the cost of \$99,000. The County Clerk's office is on the second floor, in the northwest corner of the building, and commands a fine view of two of the principal streets of the city. It is handsomely furnished, and the efficient clerk and his assistants are now "at home" to all who have business in their line. The long-continued service of Mr. Hardy in the offices of both City and County Clerk is an evidence not only of his faithful discharge of duty, but of his popularity and the high regard in which he is held by the citizens of Macon County. He is a gentleman of affable manners and is cordial and warm-hearted.



**R**OBERT D. WILSON, one of the boys in blue of the late war, and an honored pioneer settler of the county, is now living a retired life in Riverside Park, Decatur. He is numbered among the native sons of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Sangamon County, fifteen miles from Springfield, October 18, 1830. Mention is made of his parents in the sketch of James A. Wilson on another page of this work. The family is one of the prominent and representative families of Macon County, whither they came in December, 1830, when our subject was only six weeks old. They located in Mt. Zion Township, and spent the first winter in a log cabin, 16x14 feet, the family numbering sixteen members. When nine years old our subject went with his father to Chicago, then a small place. There were no houses on the West Side and they camped amid the blue grass at the west end of the bridge across the river. He also accompanied his

father on trips to the Northwest, where they went with cattle. He attended school at intervals until eighteen years of age and became familiar with all kinds of farm work, being early inured to the arduous labors of developing wild land. On attaining his majority he left home and began farming for himself. His father gave him one hundred and twenty acres of land and he bought eighty acres, to the improvement of which he at once turned his attention, for it was in its primitive condition. To this he has since added until he now owns three hundred and thirty acres, constituting a fine farm, well fenced and highly cultivated and improved.

On the 9th of August, 1862, Mr. Wilson laid aside agricultural pursuits to enter the service of his country and enlisted at Mt. Zion as a member of Company C, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, under Capt. Thomas White and Col. N. W. Tupper. The regiment was organized at Camp Macon and on the 8th of November went to Memphis. He participated in the battles of Vicksburg, Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post and Young's Point. The regiment worked on Grant's Canal all winter, and the troops suffered much from sickness. In the assault on Vicksburg, on the 19th of June, Mr. Wilson was shot through the right arm and for two weeks was in the hospital, but during the remainder of the siege was with his company. After the surrender of the city he returned home on a furlough and then rejoined his regiment at Camp Sherman, near Vicksburg. There were only three men in this company, the others having been taken prisoner at Jackson. Subsequently, Mr. Wilson participated in the battles of Atlanta, Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga and Dallas, where he was slightly wounded in the hand, and went with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea. He was severely injured at Ft. McAllister by the concussion of a torpedo, which he struck with the heel of his boot. After Lee's surrender, he went to Washington and participated in the Grand Review in the Capitol City. He was mustered out in Springfield, June 7, 1865. He had been a faithful soldier and saw much arduous service.

On the 12th of April, 1855, Mr. Wilson was



Wm. J. Chenoweth



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

married in Mt. Zion Township to Mary Outten, daughter of P. S. Outten, and a native of Cass County, Ill. Unto them were born eight children: Mrs. Julia Trangler, of Spokane, Wash.; Robert Purnel, who died when eighteen months old; Mrs. Anna J. Riber, of Blue Mound; James D., a farmer of Waterville, Wash.; Osear W., of Spokane, Wash.; Archie F., a member of the Mueller Gun Company, of Decatur; Alva G. and Ella M. The children have all been liberally educated, and the sons are graduates of business colleges either of Decatur or Jacksonville, Ill.

During his active business career, Mr. Wilson successfully carried on farming and stock-raising, and by his well-directed efforts, his enterprise and industry, he has gained a comfortable competency, and is now well-to-do. Himself and wife are members of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, and she is connected with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Mr. Wilson is connected with Capt. Thomas White Post No. 529, G. A. R., of Mt. Zion, and in politics he is a supporter of Republican principles. For the past seven years he has lived in Decatur, where he is enjoying a well-earned rest after a useful business career. Of the growth and development of the county he has been an eye-witness for sixty-three years, and the prominent part which he has taken in its progress and advancement well entitles him to be mentioned among the founders of the county.



**W**ILLIAM J. CHENOWETH, M. D., is the veteran medical practitioner of Decatur, and also stands at the head of his profession in skill and ability. He reached this city on the 24th of May, 1854, and has since been connected with its interests, professionally and otherwise. Few men are more widely known in Macon County than the Doctor, who well deserves representation in the history of his adopted county.

Dr. Chenoweth was born in Greensburg, Ky.,

and comes of one of the old and prominent families of that State. His paternal great-grandfather, Capt. Richard Chenoweth, went to that State and settled on an island in the Ohio River, later called Corn Island, for it was there that the first corn was raised for the Colonists. He was a carpenter by trade and contracted to build the fort at Louisville for \$3,000. He performed his part of the contract, but never received the money. He cultivated a farm near Middletown, and experienced all the hardships and difficulties of pioneer life. On one occasion he and his family were attacked in the night by Indians, and narrowly escaped death. On hearing the red men, he ran to his gun rack, and while taking down the gun was struck on the arm and so disabled as not to get it. Seeking safety by rushing out at the open door, he escaped and made his way to the fort. One or two of the children were killed. Mrs. Chenoweth was attacked and stabbed seven times, and the scalp torn off her head, which fortunately was not tomahawked. The Indians left her for dead, but she survived the awful treatment. James Chenoweth was asleep in a chair when the Indians broke down the door at his side and buried a tomahawk in his skull as they rushed past him. Slipping out of the house, he hid under a pile of wood until the savages had left, when he attempted to find the fort at Middletown, but, becoming confused, he crouched between the roots of a large peach tree until daylight. John Chenoweth, the first ancestor of the family in this country, came from Wales in 1720, accompanied by his two sons. The family made their home in Berkeley County, Va., until 1778, when a part of the family, Richard, the great-grandfather of our subject among them, went to Kentucky, as above stated.

The grandfather of our subject, James Chenoweth, was a native of that State, and our subject's father, John S. Chenoweth, was born in Shelby County. In Lexington, Ky., the latter married Eliza Ross, and when their son William was about nine months old they removed to Harrisburg, where the father engaged in merchandising. He was a prominent citizen of his native State. His wife died in 1836. In the family were five children, namely: William J., Martha A., Elizabeth,

Margaret and Thomas J. The sisters are all now deceased. Thomas is a druggist of Maysville, Ky.

The Doctor, whose birth occurred December 1, 1823, acquired his education in private schools in Louisville and Harrodsburgh, Ky. When he was about twelve years old, his father had removed to the former city, where he did business as a produce commission merchant and wholesale cotton dealer. Young William worked in his father's office until after his mother's death, which occurred when he was thirteen years of age. He then, in 1836, entered Augusta College, of that State, from which he was graduated in 1841, at the age of seventeen, the youngest member in a class of thirteen. After his graduation he assisted his father in the commission business in Cincinnati, Ohio, but in the mean time studied medicine with Dr. Nick Marshall, of that city.\* Subsequently he entered the Ohio Medical College, at Cincinnati, and remained there one term, after which he engaged in the practice of medicine at Hillsboro, Ky., where he remained for three years. In 1853 he was graduated from the Kentucky University, of Louisville, and soon after went to Texas, where he commenced to build up a good practice, but he remained there for only a few months. He was in favor of colonization, and on expressing his opinions freely, his neighbors, disagreeing with him, made known their desire that he should leave that community, and so he returned to the North. At the urgent request of William Martin, one of Decatur's well-known pioneers, he came to this place and opened an office.

In Fleming County, Ky., Dr. Chenoweth married Miss America Leforgee, a granddaughter of the celebrated Mike Cassidy, of Kentucky, who was a companion of Daniel Boone. Two children have been born unto our subject and his wife, Cassidy and Eliza R. The latter is the widow of Richard Piper, and with her daughter, Alice S., makes her home in Decatur with her father. Cassidy is a graduate of Rush Medical College, of Chicago, and is the junior partner of the firm of Drs. W. J. & C. Chenoweth. He has a high reputation as a physician and enjoys a very large city practice. (See his sketch elsewhere.)

During the war Dr. Chenoweth served as a sol-

dier of the Thirty-fifth Illinois Infantry for fifteen months, and is now a member of the Grand Army post. He is also a member of the Illinois Army and Navy Medical Association, and is Treasurer of that organization. He and his wife hold membership with the First Methodist Episcopal Church of this city. The Doctor is well and favorably known in Decatur and for a radius of twenty miles around the city. He has ever been a close student of his profession, and his application and natural ability have gained for him the enviable position which he occupies in professional circles.



**J**OHN A. DAWSON, Cashier of the Citizens' National Bank of Decatur, has the honor of being a native of Macon County, his birth having occurred on his father's farm, four miles south of the city, July 8, 1853. His paternal grandfather spent the last years of his life in this county, dying at the home of his son Joseph. He was a merchant for some years and did his own teaming, and hauled his merchandise. While thus employed he was crippled by a barrel of salt rolling upon him and the effects of the accident eventually terminated his life. The maternal grandfather of our subject, John Wilson, was a native of East Tennessee and followed the occupation of a farmer. He became one of the pioneer settlers of Macon County of 1827, and is still living on the old homestead, four miles south of Decatur, in Wheatland Township, and is over eighty years of age. For half a century he has been one of the most prominent Methodists in the county. The sixty-six years of his residence here have made him widely known and numbered him among the honored pioneers.

The parents of our subject, Joseph M. and Mary A. (Wilson) Dawson, emigrated to Illinois in 1845, locating in this county, where they still reside. The former was born in Zanesville, Ohio, and the latter is a native of East Tennessee. They hold membership with the Methodist Church, in which



Mr. Dawson has been Trustee and Steward for many years. Their family numbered five sons and a daughter: John A., Thomas M., Luella B., Charles E., Edwin P. and Osear W. Luella is the wife of Homer T. Bailey, of Columbus, Ohio. Thomas and Charles are also married. Our subject is a representative of two of the earliest families of Macon County. He was reared on the old home farm until sixteen years of age, when he started out in pursuit of an education. He attended the Decatur High School and pursued a course in Asbury University, of Greencastle, Ind., when Rev. Thomas Bowman, now the Senior Bishop of the Methodist Church, was its Principal. After leaving that school, Mr. Dawson engaged in teaching for a number of years, and subsequently took up the study of medicine under the direction of Drs. Moore and Barnes, of Decatur, with whom he remained for three years. He was later graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Keokuk, Iowa, and after practicing for four years took a post-graduate course at the Long Island College Hospital, in Brooklyn, N. Y. After spending one summer in the practice of surgery, he engaged in general practice for nine years, which ended his medical career.

In 1883, Mr. Dawson, in company with J. R. Gorin, and Lewis B. Casner, formed the banking firm of Gorin, Dawson & Co., of which he became cashier. That partnership continued until June, 1891, when the Citizens' National Bank was organized as a successor to the former banking establishment. Mr. Gorin became its President and Mr. Dawson its Cashier. In 1891 the capital stock was \$100,000, but on the 1st of January, 1892, it was doubled. This is one of the leading financial institutions of Macon County, and its success is due, in no small degree, to the efforts of our subject.

On the 23d of June, 1880, Mr. Dawson was united in marriage with Miss Idola, daughter of Lewis B. and Mary E. Casner, the former a native of Ohio, and the latter of Indiana. Her great-grandmother died at Decatur, Ill., August 4, 1893, at the advanced age of ninety years, and was buried at Darlington, Ind. Two children bless the union of our subject and his wife, Homer C. and Helen

I. The parents are communicants of the Methodist Church, and Mr. Dawson is a member of the official board. He has served as Superintendent of the Sunday-school and takes an active interest in church work. In politics, he was a Republican for many years, but now supports the Prohibition party.

The Gorin, Dawson & Co.'s Bank was located at the corner of Merchant Street and Prairie Avenue in beautiful quarters. The Citizens' National Bank is now one of the most imposing and elegant in the city, which fact is very largely due to the persistent and business-like efforts of our subject, who made the purchase of the lot and was the prime mover in securing the erection of a beautiful structure. In Macon County, where his entire life has been passed, Mr. Dawson is a prominent and popular citizen, having a large circle of warm friends. He is public-spirited and progressive, and the best interests of the community never solicit his aid in vain. Such a man well deserves representation in the history of his native county as one of its leading citizens.



**C**HRISTIAN H. GARVER, a retired farmer now residing in Oreana, is a native of Pennsylvania, his birthplace being in Lancaster County, and the date of that event November 17, 1841. The Garver family is of German descent, and on the maternal side our subject is also of German lineage. His parents, Jacob and Susan (Heisey) Garver, were both natives of Pennsylvania. The father, who was a farmer, died in 1890, at the age of ninety years, and his wife passed away in 1874. They had a family of eleven children, the eldest of whom is our subject. The other members were Nancy (now deceased), John, Mary, Susan, Barbara, Samuel, Catherine (deceased), Daniel, Abraham, and Jacob, who has also passed away.

In the usual manner of farmer lads, Christian Garver spent the days of his boyhood and youth,

and his education was acquired in the district and subscription schools. His advantages in this direction, however, were rather meagre. For long years he has been a resident of Macon County, whither he emigrated with his parents in 1839. They reached their destination in the month of May, and located in Whitmore Township, the father purchasing land from the Government. Here our subject went through all the experiences of pioneer life, and was early inured to the arduous labor of developing a new farm. He remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority, and then began work in Spangler's flouring-mill, on the Sangamon River, between Decatur and Long Creek, where he was employed two years.

On the 23d of November, 1843, Mr. Garver married Miss Margaret Geppord, daughter of George and Elizabeth Geppord. The lady was born near Harrisburg, Pa., May 2, 1821, and by her marriage became the mother of eight children, namely: Elizabeth, wife of George W. Heiser, a retired farmer of Decatur; Susan, wife of Abraham Heiser, an agriculturist of Oakley Township; Mary A., wife of Charles Hirsch, a resident farmer of Whitmore Township; William, who died October 2, 1855; John J., who is living in Cerro Gordo; Priscilla, wife of William F. Jacobs, a general merchant of Decatur; Leah, wife of H. B. Kuhns, a general merchant and grain buyer of Oreana; and Amanda, who died January 18, 1864.

On leaving the mill, Mr. Garver turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, securing a forty-acre tract of unimproved land on section 29, Whitmore Township. There, in connection with general farming, he engaged in the manufacture of grain cradles. In the spring of 1850, attracted by the discovery of gold, he started from Decatur to California, going by the overland route with a mule-team. There were about forty persons in the train, which went by the way of St. Jo, Ft. Laramie and Ft. Kearney. They experienced some little trouble on the trip, and after about five months' travel arrived at Sacramento, on the 16th of August. The same year, Mr. Garver went to Nevada City, where he engaged in mining for about twelve months. He remained on the Pacific Slope for

three years, and his trip proved quite a successful one. He then returned by water to Macon County, and went back to the old farm where he had left his wife and family, and where he made his home from 1843 until 1890. He still owns the old home place, although in 1890 he built his present residence in Oreana and has since resided there. His landed possessions aggregate three hundred and ten acres of land, all in Whitmore Township, and the highly cultivated and fertile tract yields him a good income.

Mr. Garver voted for Gen. Fremont, the first candidate of the Republican party, and has since been a staunch supporter of the principles of that organization. He has been honored with a number of local offices of public trust, the first office in which he was called upon to serve being that of Justice of the Peace. He was elected in 1856, and has since filled the position, and his long-continued service in that office is an honor of which he may well be proud. He has also served as Supervisor for twelve years, was Assessor for three terms, and for more than a-quarter of a century has been School Trustee. No higher testimonial to his fidelity and promptness in the discharge of public duties can be given than his oft-repeated elections. True to every trust reposed in him, he is regarded as an honorable, upright man, and one of Macon County's best citizens. Himself and wife are members of the United Brethren Church, and well deserve representation in this volume among the honored pioneers to whom the county owes her prosperity and progress.



**J**AMES A. WILSON, one of the prominent and honored pioneers of Macon County, now living a retired life in Decatur, was born September 5, 1835, in a log cabin in Mt. Zion Township, and from the days when the county was on the frontier he has been identified with its upbuilding. His grandfather, Joseph Wilson, was born in North Carolina, and he and his father were



Revolutionary soldiers, as were five other sons of the family. Joseph Wilson and his father were both taken prisoners at Charleston, but were afterward paroled. During the struggle Cornwallis stopped at the house of our subject's great-grandmother all night, and paid her in gold for cows taken from her by the British soldiers.

Joseph Wilson removed to Tennessee, and was buried in Wilson County, which was named for his relative, Maj. David Wilson, who brought the first wagon across the mountains, and on reaching what was afterward Wilson County carved his name on a rock there. Robert Wilson, the father of our subject, was born in Mecklenburg County, N. C., on the 4th of October, 1779, and when eighteen years old went to Maury County, Tenn. In Wilson County he married Miss Jane Donnell, who died in 1829. Her brother, Rev. Robert Donnell, was one of the early leaders and a prominent member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The two sons of the family, Thomas F. and William, died in this county. The daughters were Nancy E., Mary B., Sarah Martha and Cynthia E., all deceased. After his mother's death, when but a boy, Robert Wilson lived with a bachelor uncle named Moses until his father's second marriage. His own wife died while arrangements were being made to come to Illinois, for he had made a prospecting tour in this State in 1828. Going to a widow, Mrs. Sarah Hodge, he asked her to unite her family and fortunes with his and go to Illinois. They were married a few weeks after his first wife's death, in 1829, and after renting a farm in Sangamon County he entered land and broke prairie in Mt. Zion Township, in the spring of 1830. He brought his family to this place in December, the winter of the big snow. The house was not then completed, and the family of sixteen lived in a cabin fourteen feet square. Mr. Wilson engaged in farming and stock-dealing, in the spring driving cattle to the Northwest, to northern Illinois and Wisconsin, selling them there to emigrants. On several of these journeys he was accompanied by our subject. He was the first man to drive stock outside of the State as a business. There were many hardships to be endured, but perseverance and enterprise overcame the difficul-

ties, and Mr. Wilson became a prosperous man. He furnished all the children with homes, and had a competency left for himself. He spent his closing days with our subject, and died March 4, 1873, at the age of eighty-four, his wife having died on the 20th of January previous. He was a man who never used any slang or profane language, never had a law suit, and his friends were many. He was an old-line Whig and opposed to slavery, and later was an ardent Republican.

Mrs. Robert Wilson was born April 26, 1792, in Orange County, N. C., her maiden name being Sarah Lindsay. She first married Joseph Hodge, who died in Tennessee. Henry J., an honored pioneer, who married Miss Penelope Trauber, and died August 30, 1838, was their eldest child. The other children are Mrs. Talitha J. Baker, who is living with her daughter, Mrs. S. Davis, of Long Creek Township; Amzi, ticket-agent at the Union Depot, Decatur; Joseph N., who is in the Citizens' National Bank; Arraanna H., the widow of J. M. Baker, and who resides in Rogers, Ark.; Margaret C., deceased, who was the wife of John Hanson, of Winnebago County, Ill.; Joseph J. and Eli L., deceased. Of the children born unto Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Robert, who was born in Sangamon County October 18, 1830, and when six weeks old was brought by his parents to this county, served in the One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, and was wounded in the arm at Vicksburg. He is living retired in Riverside, a suburb of Decatur. Sarah E., born January 5, 1833, is the widow of John H. Davidson, and lives in Mt. Zion. James A., whose sketch is found on another page, is the youngest. The father of this family was a member and officer of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and made liberal contributions to it and the American Bible Society. He was an Abolitionist, and for that reason came to a free State. He has aided many a poor colored man in time of trouble, and the needy were never turned from his door empty-handed. In politics, he was a Whig and afterward a Republican. "Uncle Robbin," as he was familiarly known, was loved and esteemed throughout the entire community.

The subject of this sketch was reared amid the wild scenes of frontier life and received only such



educational privileges as the early subscription schools afforded until nineteen years of age, when he went to an academy in Sullivan, but after two months, on account of his eye-sight, he had to return home, and for three years was nearly blind. In his early years he enjoyed hunting sports, for his father also enjoyed hunting and kept a number of hounds. At the age of twenty-five Mr. Wilson enlisted at Decatur, August 5, 1861, as a member of Company E, Forty-first Illinois Infantry, and was elected Sergeant. He participated in all the engagements of his regiment, including the battles of Ft. Donelson, Ft. Henry, Pittsburg Landing, Corinth and the siege of Vicksburg. At Pittsburg Landing he was promoted to be First Lieutenant for meritorious conduct, and from the 22d of June, 1863, had command of his company, Capt. Strait having been severely wounded before Vicksburg. He saw the surrender of Vicksburg on the 4th of July, from the heights of Horse Shoe Bend, and witnessed the display of the white flag. Right in front of his troops was the Tenth rebel regiment from Georgia, and after the surrender the boys in gray ate supper with those in blue. Lieut. Wilson also took part in the battle of Jackson, and out of sixteen men in his company, eight were lost in the fight, four being killed. On the 7th of March, 1864, some of the regiment re-enlisted and returned home on furloughs. The non-veterans, with Lieut. Wilson, were then sent under Lieut.-Col. John H. Nail up the Red River on the Banks expedition and were sent to the rear of Ft. De Russier, which they charged and captured. Going on to Alexandria, Lieut. Wilson's regiment was sent as a guard on the transports. When within sixty miles of Shreveport the news of Banks' defeat at Pleasant Hill reached them, and in consequence they were ordered back to the fleet. Our subject was taken sick at Memphis, but afterward took part in the Tupelo, Miss., expedition under Gen. A. J. Smith, in July, 1864. He was mustered out in Springfield, August 20, 1864, after three years of faithful and meritorious service, in which he endured all the perils and hardships of war. He was constantly with his regiment, was never absent when duty called, and is the only officer the Forty-first ever had who was with it

under all circumstance, in all marches and battles.

In 1864 Lieut. Wilson returned home, built a house and began farming for himself. He married Miss Sarah E. Jones October 29, 1867, and unto them were born the following children: Charles C., who was born October 11, 1868, and is pursuing his third year of study in the Collegiate University of New York, and during the summer vacation is serving as a Columbian Guard at the World's Fair in Chicago; Mabel E., who was educated in Decatur and in Normal, Ill., and is now a teacher in the Jasper Street School; Sarah M., a graduate of the High School; Robert Roy, attending High School; Bessie B. and James Victor.

Mr. Wilson still owns a good farm of eighty acres in Mt. Zion Township, but in February, 1887, came to Decatur, where he is now living a retired life. His wife is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He cast his first Presidential ballot for Fremont, was a Republican for a number of years, but is now a Prohibitionist and is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. The history of Macon County is familiar to him, and the story of its pioneer days forms part of his life. In the long years of his residence here he has been known to his fellow-townsmen as an honorable, upright man, and his worth has won recognition in the high esteem in which he is held by all.



**G**OOLDY FORT, who carries on general farming on section 24, Austin Township, has been a lifelong agriculturist, and is now the owner of a tract of eighty acres of valuable land, which yields to him a golden tribute in return for the care and labor he bestows upon it. A native of New Jersey, he was born in Burlington County July 20, 1835. His father, Stephen L. Fort, was born in the same county in 1808, and there married Miss Thirza Lamb, of Burlington County, by whom he had five children namely: Gooldy; John, who makes his home in Mattoon,

Ill.; Jacob L., who died in 1875, and was buried in DeWitt County; Samuel, who died in the army, and was buried in Corinth, Miss.; and Mary Ann, whose death occurred in Darke County, Ohio.

The family having removed to the Buckeye State, our subject acquired his education in its common schools. During his youth he worked upon a farm and learned the woodturners' trade, but he followed that occupation for only one year. During the late war we find him among the boys in blue, who so valiantly aided their country and thus preserved the Union. He enlisted in 1861 as a member of Company C, Thirty-fifth Ohio Infantry, and participated in the siege of Corinth, and was with his command at the battles of Perryville, Chickamauga and Mission Ridge. His regiment was with the Army of the Cumberland and was also under fire at the battles of Resaca and Peach Tree Creek. Our subject was honorably discharged at Chattanooga, Tenn., in 1864, at the close of a three-years term. He was a faithful soldier, always found at his post.

Mr. Fort returned to Ohio, and on the 30th of July, 1865, was united in marriage with Miss Christiana C. Thomas, a daughter of Michael Thomas, of Montgomery County, Ohio, and the eldest of six children. Her father is still living in the Buckeye State, but her mother was called to her final rest in 1872. By the union of our subject and his wife were born nine children: Mary, now the wife of Frank J. Braden, a resident of Maroa; Nelson, who died at the age of five years and was buried in Ridge Cemetery, Maroa Township; Ord, who was married August 9, 1893, to Miss Mary Mendenhall; Myrtle E., at home; Lydia Ann, who died in January, 1883, aged seven years; Thirza O. G., John G. T. and Luey J. M., at home; and one who died in infancy.

In his social relations, Mr. Fort is connected with the Odd Fellows' society and the Grand Army of the Republic. In politics, he is identified with the Republican party, and has been honored with a number of official positions of public trust. His wife is a worthy member and active worker in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Our subject and his wife have an attractive home, situated in the midst of a beautiful farm of eighty

acres, and are numbered among the worthy citizens of the community, being held in high regard by all with whom they have been brought in contact. They came to this county in 1870, and have therefore been numbered among its residents for a-quarter of a century. Mr. Fort faithfully discharges his duties of citizenship with the same fidelity that characterized his course during the late war.



**J**EREMIAH P. NICHOLSON, dealer in agricultural implements, buggies and carriages of Decatur, is numbered among the early settlers of this county. He was born in Garrard County, Ky., March 10, 1840, and is descended from one of the Revolutionary heroes, his grandfather, James Nicholson, having aided the Colonies in their struggle for independence. After the war, he removed from Virginia to Kentucky, locating in Garrard County, when there were but few white settlers. The Indians were very troublesome at that time, and on several occasions he had to hide to save his life. His death occurred upon the farm which he developed and improved, at the advanced age of ninety years. His family numbered the following children: John, James, William and Jeremiah, all deceased; and Robert, of Caldwell County, Kan.

The first-named of these sons was the father of our subject. He acquired a good education and taught school in Kentucky, and also after coming to Illinois. He was an Abolitionist in political faith, although he owned one negro, that he had inherited. He was married in his native State to Miss Elizabeth Henry, who died when Mary Jane, her only child, was two years old. Later he married Miss Julia Ann Underwood, who was born and reared in Kentucky. Seven years before his death he went to live with his son Jeremiah, and at his home in Long Creek Township died September 9, 1870, at the age of seventy-seven. He was laid to



rest in Mt. Zion Cemetery. His wife died when our subject was eighteen years of age. In his younger years, John Nicholson was a great admirer of Clay. He cast the only vote cast for Fremont in South Wheatland Township, and from that time was a staunch Republican. He was a charter member of the Presbyterian Church of Decatur, and was a zealous worker in its interest. The cause of temperance also found in him a stalwart adherent, even in the days when it was considered the proper thing to partake of liquors. His life was ever honorable and upright, and he left to his children the priceless heritage of a good name.

John Nicholson's eldest child is Mrs. Mary Jane Dunning, of Mt. Zion, and she was followed by William H., who was a member of Company C, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, and died of measles at Young's Point, La.; Martha, who died at the age of nineteen; J. P., of this sketch; Mrs. Rachel Armstrong, who died in Mt. Zion Township; Sarah Margaret, widow of Thomas Garrison, of New Paris, Ohio; James, who died at the age of three years; Charles, of Bedford, Iowa; John, of Chillicothe, Mo.; and Robert, a farmer of Mt. Zion Township.

Our subject spent his early years in a log cabin home and attended the subscription schools, his father being the teacher part of the time. In 1851, at the age of eleven, he accompanied his parents and their family of nine children to Macon County, the journey being made in wagons drawn by two teams. After the first winter, which was spent in a log cabin, they removed to South Wheatland Township, and ten years later went to Moultrie County. In 1861, Mr. Nicholson of this sketch began working as a farm hand, and in August of that year he enlisted in Company A, Eighth Illinois Infantry, under Col. Oglesby and Capt. Bruce, the latter being succeeded by Capt. Leeper, who was killed at Raymond, when G. F. Durfee, of Decatur, was placed in command. The first important battle in which our subject took part was that of Shiloh. After his year's term of service had expired, he was mustered out and returned home.

Mr. Nicholson was married January 26, 1865, to Catherine A., daughter of Robert Wallace, of Long

Creek Township, where the lady was born. They began their domestic life upon a farm in Moultrie County, but after two years removed to Long Creek Township, where they lived until 1887. Mr. Nicholson devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits, and was quite successful. On coming to Decatur, he carried on a feed store for a year, and then began working for the firm of E. G. Allen & Bro., dealers in agricultural implements, buggies and carriages. In their employ he remained until 1892, when he bought out the business, which he has since conducted successfully. He carries a full line of everything found in a first-class establishment of the kind, and has a fine trade, which is constantly increasing.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson have been born the following children: Mina; William H., who married Miss Lottie Cressy, and is now bookkeeper in Milliken's Bank; Julia Ann; Cass, who aids his father in the store; Robert B.; Carrie; and Lester. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are highly respected citizens. Mr. Nicholson is a Knight-Templar Mason, and is a member of Dunham Post, G. A. R. He is now serving on the Board of Supervisors of his township. Whatever our subject undertakes he carries forward to successful completion. He is a man of good business ability, persevering and industrious, and by his own efforts he has gained prosperity, which is well deserved.



**D**ANIEL SCHENCK, who is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and fifty-five acres of arable land on section 23, Austin Township, has here resided for the past thirty years. He first visited the county in 1843, but it was not until some time later that he made a permanent location. He was born in eastern Pennsylvania, August 2, 1811, and his parents, Garrett and Rachel (Richards) Schenck, were also natives of the Keystone State. They were married



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*M. Troutman*



*Sophia Frontman*



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

when quite young, and in an early day emigrated to Hamilton County, Ohio, where they remained for a few years, and then removed to Butler County, in the same State, where they spent their last days. Their family numbered five children: Daniel; Rudolph, who died in Crawfordsville, Ind.; Jacob, who is also deceased; Polly, who was the wife of P. R. Foster, and died in Hamilton County, Pa.; and Mrs. Becky Ann Emerson, who is living in Kansas.

The subject of this sketch has made his own way in life from a very early age. When a lad of eleven years he was bound out to a farmer and served until a youth of fifteen, at which time he sought a home in Butler County, Ohio. There he learned the trade of a shoemaker, and followed that occupation for some three years, after which he embarked in farming in Butler County.

Mr. Schenek was married January 15, 1834, the lady of his choice being Miss Sarah Ann De Nise, who is also of German descent. They began their domestic life upon a rented farm in Warren County, Ohio, and Mr. Schenck there carried on agricultural pursuits until 1837, when he went with his family to Butler County, Ohio, where he remained until 1854. He came to Illinois in that year, locating in De Witt County, where he made his home until 1861, when he came to Macon County, where he has since resided. He first came to this State to see the country in 1843, and determined to own a farm upon its broad prairies, but circumstances did not allow him to purchase immediately, and he returned to Ohio, where he worked for eleven years before his hopes of coming to this State could be realized.

Six children have been born unto Mr. and Mrs. Schenek: Benjamin W., who is now married and lives in Decatur; William, who resides on section 24, Austin Township; Garrett, also a resident of Decatur; Frank, who is living at home; Margaret Ann, wife of George Reed, a resident of Arnold, Neb.; and Sara V., wife of Ed Reed, of Chicago. His two sons, William and Benjamin, were soldiers of the late war. They enlisted, in 1862, in the One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, and remained in the service until the close of the struggle. They took part in many important engage-

ments, participating in the siege of Vicksburg, and marching with Sherman from Atlanta to the sea. The blood of a Revolutionary hero flows in their veins, for the grandfather of our subject, Rulof R. Schenek, who lived until 1796, aided the Colonies in their struggle for independence. He served under Washington in the famous battle of Monmouth, and in other notable engagements.

Mr. Schenek has always been a supporter of the Republican party. He is a man of broad views, public spirited and progressive, and the community numbers him among its valued citizens. His life has been a busy and useful one, for idleness is utterly foreign to his nature, but now, having acquired a handsome competency as the result of his labors, he expects soon to remove to Decatur and spend his declining years in the enjoyment of the rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves.



**M**ICHAEL TROUTMAN, who was one of the leading contractors and a prominent citizen of Decatur, was born May 3, 1835, in Bavaria, Germany, and at the age of four years came to the United States with his parents, Andrew and Dorothy Troutman. The family located in Franklin County, Ohio, where he grew to manhood. Early in life he learned the brick-maker's trade, serving a two-years apprenticeship in Columbus, Ohio. In 1857, he came to Decatur, Ill., and worked at his trade for one year, but as brick work was scarce he accepted a position as conductor on a construction train on the Illinois Central Railroad, being thus employed until he was seriously injured on the 20th of March, 1860, the injury resulting in the loss of his right leg below the knee. His sickness exhausted all the means which he had saved, and he went to Chicago to see if he could get aid from the railroad company, but all help was refused him and he returned to Decatur.

Being unable to work at his trade on account of

weakness caused by his injury, for the next two and a-half years Mr. Troutman engaged in making brooms, but in this way he did little more than pay expenses. However, after a time he was elected Street Commissioner, and for two years faithfully served in that capacity, and it is said that no one ever filled the office better. He was elected Constable, but as grasping landlords frequently wanted him to turn the wives and widows of soldiers out of their homes, and he could not bear to do this, he resigned the position. At the close of the war business improved and he again resumed work at his trade, being employed by the day for two years. He then began contracting, and became one of the most prominent of the city's builders, many of the fine buildings of Decatur standing as monuments to his handiwork and enterprise. He erected the Brenneman Block, the Haworth Block, Judge Race's fine residence, the Stoner and Armstrong buildings, the Haworth home, the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, the new Shellabarger mills, the furniture factory, the oil mill, the coffin factory, the Hatfield mill, the Busher buildings, and many others. He employed from twenty to thirty men, and was numbered among the leading contractors of Decatur, his liberal patronage being secured by his devotion to business, his excellent workmanship and his fair and honest dealings. He also dealt considerably in real estate, buying property, improving it by building upon it, and then selling it.

In all the dark days of adversity and in the brighter ones of prosperity his troubles and pleasures were shared by his faithful wife. On the 13th of August, 1860, he wedded Miss Sophia Volk, a young lady of twenty-four years, whose home was in Columbus, Ohio. On coming to the West, Mr. Troutman left his betrothed in the Buckeye State, but when he was injured his mother wrote to the young lady, who came and aided in caring for him during his illness. Mr. Troutman offered to release her from the engagement, saying that he could not make a living for her, but, with a spirit of generosity equaling his own, she replied that if he could not make the living she could, and in the early days of hardship she was true and steadfast in her devotion. Four children graced their union. Elmer

E., who was born on the day when Col. Elmer Ellis was killed, is a brick contractor of Decatur; Regina is the wife of P. K. Albert, of Guthrie, Okla.; Elinor and Clara, the two youngest children, are still living at home. In 1868, Mr. Troutman built the present commodious residence, which is famous as being the first brick residence on West Main Street.

In politics our subject was a staunch Republican, and took quite an active part in his party's service. In religious belief he was a Universalist and in his early days took a lively interest in the church. His generosity and benevolence were well known and his honesty was proverbial. The poor and needy ever found in him a warm friend, and a suffering one was never turned from his door empty-handed. He left to his family the priceless heritage of an honest name. He passed away January 22, 1892, after an illness of three months, and his death was mourned by many friends. His widow, a most estimable lady, occupies the old home with her two youngest daughters.



**H**ORACE E. PEVERLY, who deserves mention among the leading agriculturists of Macon County, resides on section 36, Austin Township, where he has a highly improved farm. As he is widely and favorably known in this community we feel assured that this record of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers. He comes from an old New England family of Welsh origin, which was probably founded in America in early Colonial days. His father, Thomas Peverly, was born in Merrimac County, N. H., in 1804, and in 1839 he wedded Miss Mary Emery, a native of the same county. In 1855, they determined to seek a home in the West, and, emigrating to Illinois, located in De Witt County, and after two years there spent they came to Macon County. In 1868, the mother's death occurred and her remains were interred in Ridge Cemetery, of Macon Township. Three children of the family are yet living. Freeman W., the



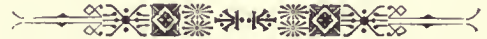
brother of our subject, makes his home in Henry County, Mo.; Fanny is the widow of John C. Tickner and is living in Macon County, Ill. May, the other child of the family, died in early life.

The subject of this sketch was born in Merrimac County, N. H., May 13, 1843, and when a lad of sixteen years began earning his own livelihood. We see in him a self-made man who through his own exertions has achieved the success which now crowns his efforts. On the 16th of September, 1866, he married Miss Emily B. Dudley, who died September 28, 1875. Four children were born of that union: Edith, who married Charles Conley and lives near Warrensburg; Flora, who died in Kansas in October, 1875; Minnie, who makes her home with her aunt in Warrensburg, and is being educated at Findlay College, of Ohio; and Raymond, who completes the family.

In 1870, Mr. Peverly removed from Macon County to Greenwood County, Kan., where he remained for about eight years, but in 1878 he returned to Illinois, and has since here made his home. In the year 1875 a great misfortune overtook him in the loss of his wife and daughter and of his father, the latter of whom died in Greenwood County, Kan., while living with him, and all their deaths occurring between May and October of that year. On the 1st of January, 1877, Mr. Peverly was again married, his union being with Miss Eliza M. Brown, daughter of John A. and Mary Brown, of Austin Township. She is a lady of English descent, who was born and reared in Auburn, N. Y. They have one child, Howard, who lives with his parents on section 36, Austin Township, which was the home of his mother before her marriage, her parents settling here about 1860. This attractive and beautiful farm comprises one hundred and sixty acres of rich land, and was formerly the property of Mrs. Peverly's father, John A. Brown. Her parents were prominent citizens of this county, but the father is now deceased, as are her two brothers, who met death by accident, one in a railroad disaster, and the other by the accidental discharge of a gun. Her mother resides in Warrensburg.

Mr. Peverly exercises his right of franchise in support of the Democratic party. He has been

elected to fill various official positions and has served in the offices of School Director, Road Commissioner and Supervisor, in all of which he has discharged his duties with a promptness and fidelity that have won him high commendation. The best interests of the community ever find in him a friend, and his aid is never withheld from any enterprise calculated to promote the general welfare. In his business he has manifested good judgment, and his fair dealing and honesty of purpose have made his word as good as his bond. Socially, he is a member of Warrensburg Lodge No. 600, I. O. O. F., and his wife belongs to Olive Leaf Rebecca Lodge, of Warrensburg.



**D**ANIEL W. CRAIG, a contractor, carpenter and builder of Maroa, has made his home in this city since 1879, and his handiwork is seen on all sides, many of the buildings of this place standing as monuments to his thrift and enterprise. Mr. Craig was born in Allegheny County, Pa., in the city of Pittsburg, August 25, 1821, but though he has now reached the age of seventy-two his years rest lightly upon him and he possesses the vigor and activity of many a man in his prime. We join with his many friends in wishing that he may yet long continue to be a resident of Maroa.

The Craig family is of Scotch origin and was founded in America by the grandfather of our subject, Samuel Craig, who became a Virginian farmer. One of his eleven children, William Craig, became the father of our subject. He was born in Rockbridge County, Va., and followed the trade of a carpenter and farmer in the Old Dominion and Pennsylvania. He wedded Miss Mary Weddle, a native of the Keystone State and a daughter of Daniel Weddle, a native of Germany, who after his marriage crossed the Atlantic and became a farmer of Allegheny County, Pa. In 1834 Mr. Craig removed with his family to Ohio and made his home in Ashland County until his death, in

1875, at the advanced age of ninety-four. He was a soldier in the War of 1812 and drew a pension until his death. His wife passed away at the age of sixty-three. Both were members of the Hard-shell Baptist Church. Of their family of seven sons and four daughters only four are now living: Eleanor, widow of Moses Martin; Daniel W.; John and James.

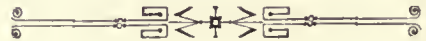
Mr. Craig whose name heads this record was a youth of sixteen summers when with his parents he went to Ohio. At the age of fourteen he began learning the carpenter's trade, serving a five-years apprenticeship. At the age of twenty-two he went to Ft. Wayne, Ind., and a few months later enlisted for the Mexican War under Joe Lane, as a member of Company C, Third Indiana Infantry. At Monterey the next morning after his arrival he was detailed to the commissary department and became messenger for Gen. Zachary Taylor. He served for eighteen months, during which time he was badly wounded at the battle of Buena Vista.

Returning to Ashland County, Ohio, Mr. Craig was united in marriage with Mary, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Spielman) Conn, natives of Maryland. Eleven children were born of their union. Samuel married Miss Isabel Kemp, and lives in Clinton, Ill. Luke wedded Miss Cad Rasbach, by whom he has three children and resides on a farm in De Witt County. Elisha married Miss Sallie Pritchett, and they have a son, Robert. John, who resides in Los Angeles, Cal., wedded Miss Emma Hunter, by whom he has three children. Elizabeth is now deceased. William, of Kinney, Ill., married Miss Annie Davenport, and after her death chose for his second wife Miss Sallie Turner. Curtis has passed away. Mary is the wife of Edgar Ferris, of Carthage, Mo., by whom she has two sons, William and Kile. Ida and Vallandigham are both deceased; and Estelle completes the family. The mother died June 23, 1892, at the age of sixty-seven years, and her loss was widely and deeply mourned. In early life she was a member of the Lutheran Church, but about eight years before her death had joined the Christian Church.

It was in 1854 that Mr. Craig came with his family to Illinois, locating in De Witt County, near what is now Lane Station, where he lived for nine

years, during four years of which time he was Sheriff of the county. He then removed to a farm three miles north of Maroa, where for seventeen years he carried on agricultural pursuits in connection with carpentering and contracting. As before stated, he came to Maroa in 1879. Although well advanced in life, he still works at his trade and built his own residence unaided, has now a good home and other city property. He has not only built for others but has been the architect of his own fortune, and the structure which he has raised is a worthy one.

Mr. Craig frequently acted as attorney before the justice courts and even before the Circuit Court, but was never admitted to the Bar. He is a strong pleader and is found in almost every case tried before the local courts. He does collecting, etc. Our subject is a member of the Christian Church, and exercises his right of franchise in support of the Democratic party. He is a natural politician and is frequently found discussing the political issue. Possessing the sturdy independence of his Scotch ancestors and the perseverance of his German forefathers, as the result he has won success in life.



**E**LIJAH A. MORGAN, M.D., is engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Maroa. Native skill and ability and thorough preparation have well-fitted him for his life work, and he holds an enviable position in the foremost rank among his professional brethren in Macon County. He has the honor of being a native of this county, his birth having occurred near Niantie October 10, 1854. He is a son of Charles W. and Elizabeth (Derry) Morgan, who were natives of Ohio and West Virginia, respectively, and he comes of Scotch and German parentage. His paternal great-grandfather was a native of Scotland, and on coming to America located in the Buckeye State. The maternal great-grandfather was born in Germany, and on leaving the Fatherland loca-



ted in Pennsylvania. The grandfather, Charles W. Morgan, was born in Ohio, and with his family came to Illinois when the country was new and wild. He once owned the land on which the state house in Springfield now stands, and at his death his landed possessions aggregated more than one thousand acres. When he went to the capital city it contained only one house, and that was a log cabin. He held various township offices and was a prominent man among his neighbors. His death occurred when he was more than four-score years of age.

Charles W. Morgan came with his father to Illinois, and for many years has lived in Sangamon County. He is now a retired farmer residing in Illiopolis. By well-directed efforts he has accumulated a considerable property, and now owns a valuable tract of two hundred acres of rich land. Himself and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he has been an officer for many years. Twelve children were born unto them, of whom six grew to mature years. Those living are: Minerva, wife of Benjamin Cox; James R.; Elijah A.; Laura, wife of J. M. Oakes, a merchant of Maroa; Luella, wife of James Bradley, of Illiopolis; and Charles A., a druggist of Maroa.

The Doctor received a common-school education in this county, and afterward pursued a course of study in the Illinois Wesleyan University, of Bloomington, which completed his literary education. Afterward he entered upon a course of medical study in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, of New York City, from which institution he was graduated in 1883, when he located in Maroa, where he has since made his home. In the years which have since passed, he has built up a fine practice, which has constantly increased. In March, 1890, he formed a partnership with Dr. W. T. McLean, and they now carry on operations under the firm name of Morgan & McLean.

Dr. Morgan was married August 11, 1885, to Miss Marguerite Happer, of Springfield, Ill., and their union has been blessed with a son and two daughters, but the former died in infancy. Marie H. and Helen G. are still with their parents. The Doctor and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he serves as Steward

and Trustee. He also belongs to Maroa Lodge No. 454, A. F. & A. M., and Maroa Chapter No. 192, R. A. M. He is also connected with Beaumanoir Commandery, of Decatur, and the Mystic Shrine of Chicago. He is a member of the Uniformed Rank of Knights of Pythias, is Surgeon of the Fourth Regiment, belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, and to the Knights of the Globe. In politics, he is a supporter of Republican principles, and for two terms was President of the Board of Education in Maroa. He owns a good farm of two hundred and forty acres, besides his home and other property in the city. His career has been a successful one, his life has been well and worthily passed, and his sterling worth and genial, pleasant manner have won him many warm friends.



**H**IRAM WARD, one of the earliest settlers, and certainly one of the oldest native sons, of Macon County, as well as a representative of an honored pioneer family, was born upon the farm which is still his home January 28, 1837. His grandfather, John Ward, was a native of England, born in 1769. His wife, Mary Ward, was born in Ireland in 1768, and their marriage was celebrated in South Carolina. They afterwards removed to Tennessee, and after spending a few years near Nashville went to Logan County, Ky., where Mr. Ward died in 1811. In 1819, Mrs. Ward came with her children to Illinois, arriving in Fayette County on the 11th of November. In 1824, they came to Macon County, where the Ward settlement was established. The children were: Jerry, who died in Texas; John, who died in Walnut Grove; James and Sarah, who died in Texas; Margaret, who died in Macon County; Polly and Lucy, who died in Missouri; William, the father of our subject; Thomas, who died in Christian County; Nancy and Lewis B., who died in Missouri.

William Ward was born in South Carolina in



1802, and removed with his parents to Kentucky and Tennessee, and later came with his mother to Illinois. He married Miss Elizabeth Wheeler, a native of Tennessee, and a sister of one of the prominent pioneers of the county. She died in June, 1841, when our subject was only four years of age. The children of the family were: Larkin, who died some years ago in this county; Franklin, of Blue Mound, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work; Mary, who became the wife of John Morris, and with all her family is deceased; Hiram, who is the next younger; and Rial, who is living near Hampton Station, Moultrie County. Mr. Ward was a second time married, this union being with Mrs. Sarah Ann Abbott, widow of Josiah Abbott, and a daughter of Thomas Morris, of Ohio. The following children were born of this marriage: John; Mrs. Nancy Jane Logan, of South Wheatland Township; Mrs. Margaret E. Elder, of Elwin; William J., of Illinois; and George W., of Colorado. The father died in January, 1852, at the age of fifty-four years, but the mother of this family is still living in Elwin. Mr. Ward entered the land on which our subject now resides from the Government, and at the time of his death owned between four and five hundred acres, becoming a successful farmer and stock-raiser. He was a ranger in the service of the Government against the Indians under Gen. Warwick, for the red man still lived in this locality. In early days he was obliged to haul goods from Springfield, Peoria and Beardstown, and experienced all the hardships and privations of pioneer life. In politics he was a Democrat.

The earliest recollections of our subject date back to the pioneer home, a log cabin on a wild prairie. His school privileges were very limited, but through business experience and contact with the world he has gained a practical knowledge. From an early age he engaged in farm work, and during the two years' illness of his father the management of the homestead fell upon his sons. His father dying when Hiram was sixteen years of age, our subject ever after was dependent upon his own resources. He began splitting rails at seventy-five cents per hundred, and afterwards secured a position as a farm hand at \$15 per month. After two years

spent in that way, in connection with his brothers he operated the old home farm, upon which he has since resided. From the other heirs he bought one hundred and fifty acres of the estate, and he now has the entire amount under a high state of cultivation. Upon the greater part of the place he first turned the sod, and its improvements stand as monuments to his enterprise. He now has a good home and other farm buildings, and his fields are well tilled. Besides farming he buys and ships stock, and for some years has also engaged in breeding Poland-China hogs.

On the 11th of March, 1858, Mr. Ward married Miss Clara E. Odor, who was born in Kentucky January 7, 1843, and with her father, George Odor, came to Illinois in 1853. She attended the same school as her husband and they were reared in the same neighborhood. The following children have been born of their union: Luvena E. and Mattie B., who died in childhood; Laura A., wife of W. L. Phillips, a farmer of South Wheatland Township; Eva May, wife of Frank Faleoner, an agriculturist of the same township; Frank N., who was educated at Brown's Business College in Decatur and carries on the home farm; Myrtie Luella, who died at the age of two years; Bettie, a graduate of Brown's Business College; Cora Edith and Clyde. The children have all been well educated and thus fitted for the practical duties of life.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and take a prominent part in its work, our subject serving as Elder. The cause of education also finds in him a friend, and in fact no worthy enterprise solicits his aid in vain. For sixteen consecutive years he has served as Supervisor of his township, and during six years of that time was unanimously elected. He has also served as Collector, Assessor and Township Clerk. In the various offices that he has been called upon to fill he has proved an able and conscientious official, and the promptness and fidelity with which he has discharged his duties have won him high commendation. He cast his first Presidential vote for Douglas in 1860, and has since been a supporter of the Democratic party and one of its leaders in this community. He takes an active

part in campaign work, and has been Chairman of the Central Committee. He was a candidate for Sheriff in 1878, and reduced the Republican majority from six hundred to thirty-two. His high moral worth and upright life have made him one of the leading citizens of the community, and he is one of its honored pioneers who well deserve representation in this volume.



**M**RS. MARY SPENCER, who is living on section 2, Oakley Township, was born in Gallia County, Ohio, March 12, 1811, and has been a resident of Macon County since 1834. She is therefore numbered among its honored pioneers, and well deserves representation in its history. Her parents, Matthew and Isabel (Coughborn) Patton, were both natives of Virginia, and unto them were born nine children: Agnes, Robert, John, Hannah, Mary, Elizabeth, Francis, George and Samuel. All are now deceased with the exception of Elizabeth, wife of Charles Day, a resident of Kansas; George, who is living in Missouri; and Mrs. Spencer.

In 1830, when nineteen years of age, Mary Patton became the wife of Archibald Walton, the marriage ceremony being performed at the home of her parents in Ohio. During that year, Mr. and Mrs. Walton removed to Indiana, where they remained about three years, and in 1834 came to Macon County. They became the parents of ten children: William F., Margaret A., James, Rachel, Elizabeth, Charles, Samuel, Archibald, Louisa and Thomas J. Of this number, only James and Charles are now living. The father of this family died of cholera in St. Louis in 1852, and was buried in Missouri. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was a devout Christian.

In 1867, Mrs. Walton was united in marriage with John Spencer, who was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1806. His death occurred on the 10th of January, 1891, and he was laid to rest in Spangler Cemetery. He held membership with

the Baptist Church. James Walton is now living with his mother. He married Miss Susan McConkie in 1868, and their union was blessed with a son, Charles A., who is now living in Farmer City, De Witt County, Ill.

Mrs. Spencer is a well-preserved old lady of eighty-two years, and is yet enjoying good health. She is a devoted member of the Universalist Church, and now in her declining days she can look back over the years of her life as having been spent in usefulness. Many acts of kindness and deeds of charity have made her loved and respected by all. She has a pleasant home and one hundred and thirty-six acres of fine land under a high state of cultivation. She can well remember when this part of Illinois was an almost unbroken wilderness. For sixty years she has lived in this community, and has passed through all the hardships and trials incident to life in a new county, and experienced all the happy changes that have taken place in the community, until Macon County has become a veritable garden of grains, fruits and flowers. Mrs. Spencer has the esteem of all who know her, and it is with pleasure that we present this record of her life to our readers.



**B**ENEDICT ALEXANDER MCGORRAY, who is Superintendent of the Decatur Ice and Cold Storage Company of this city, has the honor of being a native of Decatur. He was born on the 25th of March, 1858, and is a son of Benedict and Catherine (O'Brien) McGorray, both of whom are still living in this city, where the father follows the real-estate business.

Our subject spent the days of his boyhood under the parental roof and acquired his education in the public schools. At the age of nineteen he began to learn the engineer's trade in the oil regions of Pennsylvania, where his uncle, B. McGorray, who owned some oil wells in that locality, was living. There our subject began to run an engine, which he operated for about four years. On the



expiration of that period he returned to Decatur, and for a few months served as engineer with the Decatur Coffee Company. In the spring of 1880 he went to Texas, and, locating in Dallas, became agent for the engines and boilers of the Russell Company, of Ohio. The succeeding two years of his life were passed in that way, and on the expiration of that time he returned to his native city, in 1882. Here Mr. McGorray became Overseer of Highways for Decatur Township, to which position he was appointed by the Highway Commissioners. For a number of years he filled that position, serving in that capacity, with the exception of the year 1890, until the latter part of 1892, when he embarked in business for himself, forming a partnership with D. A. Maffitt, who began dealing in natural ice. In October, 1891, Mr. McGorray was made Superintendent of the plant of the Decatur Ice and Cold Storage Company, and has since filled the position.

This company was incorporated on the 10th of March, 1890, with a capital stock of \$40,000, and its officers are H. Shlaudeman, President; Frank Shlaudeman, Vice-President; and Harry Shlaudeman, Secretary and Treasurer. The factory manufactures artificial ice, having a capacity of twenty tons in twenty-four hours. It requires about thirty-five hundred pounds of aqua ammonia to charge the machinery. The absorption system is used, with the Blimeyer machinery. It requires two hundred and sixty horse power to run the pumps. Under the able management of our subject the business has steadily increased, until employment is now furnished to nine men, and the stockholders of the company are receiving a liberal patronage. John Mildenerger, who is a practical ice manufacturer of several years' experience, has charge of the technical features of the plant.

On the 30th of June, 1890, Mr. McGorray was joined in marriage with Miss Lillie Shlaudeman, the eldest daughter of Henry Shlaudeman, and a native of Decatur. The union has been blessed with one son, Charles Henry. The parents are both widely and favorably known in this community and hold a high position in social circles. Our subject is a self-made man. During his boyhood he learned the trade of brick manufacturing

with his father, which he followed until his removal to Pennsylvania. From that time on he has made his own way in the world, and whatever success he has achieved in life has been the result of his own efforts.



JOHN T. STUART, a worthy representative of one of the early pioneer families of this county, who owns and operates one hundred and twenty acres of land on sections 13 and 18, Whitmore Township, was born on the farm which is still his home, July 23, 1836. His father, David Stuart, was a native of Virginia, and was of German and Scotch descent. After arriving at man's estate, he married Sarah Florrey, who was also born in the Old Dominion. About 1834, they removed from Virginia to Tennessee, and in 1836 joined a party of eight or ten families en route for Illinois. Railroad transportation was then unknown in this locality, and with team and wagon the journey was made. Mr. Stuart made his first location in Decatur Township, Macon County, and after a short time he entered from the Government eighty acres of land on what is now section 13, Whitmore Township, but which at that time was not organized. Indians still lived in the neighborhood, and the county seemed just wakening to civilization. For a number of years, he had to haul his grain to Springfield, and he and his family experienced all the difficulties and trials of pioneer life. His farm comprised forty acres of timber land and forty acres of prairie, and upon it a small log cabin had been previously erected. Mr. Stuart at once began its development and there carried on agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred June 23, 1857. He was one of Nature's noblemen and he left to his family a priceless heritage of a good name. He was a faithful member of the Methodist Church, and through his connection with the Good-Templar Lodge he did effective service in the cause of temperance. He always took an active part in politics, and in



early life was a supporter of Whig principles, but on the organization of the Republican party he joined its ranks. In an early day, he served as Constable of the county for a number of years. The cause of education found in him a warm friend and he helped to organize the schools and lay out the roads in this locality. His wife, who was also a member of the Methodist Church, passed away January 1, 1874.

In the Stuart family were three children, two sons and a daughter: Oliver L., a farmer of this township; John T., whose name heads this sketch; and Mary, wife of Edward Kile, a farmer residing in Friends' Creek Township, Macon County.

Our subject has no other home than Macon County, and is familiar with the history of its progress and upbuilding for a period of fifty-six years. In his early days there were no public schools and he attended the subscription schools, which were held in a log house on section 13, Whitmore Township. School was in session for only three months during the year and during the remainder of the time, as soon as he was old enough, Mr. Stuart worked upon a farm. He remained upon the old homestead until after his father's death and then took charge of the farm, caring for his mother until she was called to the home beyond. He now owns one hundred and twenty acres of good land, and has a neat and valuable farm, upon which he carries on stock-raising in connection with the cultivation of cereals adapted to this climate.

On the 19th of July, 1860, Mr. Stuart was married to Miss Minerva A. Young, a daughter of Adam and Elizabeth (Shaw) Young. The lady was born in Crawford County, Ohio, April 2, 1841, and came to this county with her parents in 1849. By her marriage, she became the mother of ten children, namely: Adda, wife of Charley Hedges, a farmer residing in Nebraska; Sadie, a successful school teacher of the county; William, a farmer of Maroa Township; Emma, who is also teaching school; Amanda, at home; Samuel, Frank, Robert, James, and David, who died October 26, 1864.

Mr. Stuart is a public-spirited and progressive citizen and one that has taken an active interest

in all that pertains to the upbuilding of the community and the promotion of the general welfare. His fellow-citizens, recognizing his worth and ability, have called upon him to serve in public office, and for twelve years he has filled the position of Constable and for fifteen years served as School Director. In politics, he is a Republican and always votes with that party, for, according to his judgment, its principles are those best calculated to promote the interests of the majority. Himself and wife are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and are active workers in the Master's vineyard.



THOMAS B. STROPE, who carries on blacksmithing and is proprietor of a feed stable in Argenta, was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, on the 1st of January, 1841, and is one of eight children born to the union of Perry and Jane (Wells) Strobe. The family is of English descent. In 1853, the parents emigrated Westward and became residents of Whitmore Township, Macon County. Of their children, Elizabeth is now deceased; Thomas is the second in order of birth; Sarah is the wife of Isaiah Queeney, a farmer of Whitmore Township; John, Othey and Finney are the next younger; and Katie is the wife of Isaac Dunlap, a resident of Missouri.

Our subject was a lad of only ten summers when with the family he came to Illinois. Here he was reared to manhood, spending the days of his boyhood and youth in the usual manner of farmer lads. At the breaking out of the late war, prompted by patriotic impulses, he responded to the country's call for troops, and on the 5th of August, 1861, enlisted as a private of Company A, Forty-first Illinois Infantry. He was mustered into service at Decatur, and the first active engagement in which he participated was at Ft. Donelson, where he was wounded in the right leg, below the knee, by a minie-ball. He also took part in the

battle of Shiloh, but on the 27th of April, 1862, he was honorably discharged on account of sickness. He then returned to his home in Whitmore Township, where he remained for three years. When he had sufficiently recovered his health, he began working on the farm by the month, and was thus employed for about five years. In 1884, he removed to Argenta, where he erected three dwelling houses, which he afterwards sold. He now owns a blacksmith shop, where he does a good business, receiving a liberal share of the public patronage. He also carries on a feed stable.

In the year 1867 Mr. Strobe was united in marriage with Miss Katherine Shutter, and unto them were born three children, all of whom are yet living, namely: Annie, wife of Frank Hanks, a resident farmer of this county; Willie, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Kansas; and Hattie, wife of John Parrs, of Argenta. The mother of this family was called to her final rest in September, 1875 and her remains were interred in the Garver Cemetery. She was an estimable lady, and many friends mourned her loss. Mr. Strobe is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and exercises his right of franchise in support of the Republican party, with which he has affiliated since attaining his majority. He was a faithful soldier to his country during the late war, and is equally true as a citizen in times of peace.



**W**ILLIAM T. LYONS is engaged in general farming and stock-raising on section 24, Maroa Township. The farming people form a solid foundation upon which the prosperity and progress of a county is based, and as one of the leading agriculturists of the community we present Mr. Lyons to our readers. He now owns and operates one hundred and sixty acres of land, constituting a good farm under a high state of cultivation and well improved.

Our subject was born in Coshocton County,

Ohio, January 4, 1847, and is one of five children whose parents were John Y. and Matilda (Crawford) Lyons. The father was a native of Ohio, and was twice married. The children of the first union were George, Matthew, Nancy, William and Edward. Those born of the second union were Ada, Samuel, Arburthnet, Thomas, Charles and Bell. John Lyons was a farmer by occupation and followed that business through life. He was reared upon a farm, and the district schools of the neighborhood afforded him his educational privileges. At the age of twenty he began earning his own livelihood and devoted his time and attention to agriculture. He cleared and improved a farm in Ohio, where he lived until 1863, when he sold out and came to Macon County, locating in Maroa Township, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 24. This tract was but partially improved, and he devoted his energies to its further development and cultivation until 1887, when he removed to Piatt County, where he resided until his death, which occurred January 24, 1889, at the age of seventy-two years. In politics, he was a Democrat and had served his township as Supervisor and Justice of the Peace. The Presbyterian Church found in him a consistent and faithful member and one who labored untiringly in its interests.

We now take up the personal history of our subject, who when sixteen years of age came with his parents to this county, where the greater part of his education was acquired. To his father he gave the benefit of his services until he had attained his majority, when he began to earn his own livelihood by working as a farm hand by the month. He also performed general labor for ten years and afterward rented land. At length he purchased his present farm, and has since with good success devoted his time and attention to agricultural pursuits.

The lady who now bears the title of Mrs. Lyons was in her maidenhood Miss Sarah Baird. She is an estimable lady, who has the high regard of many friends. Three children have graced the union of our subject and his wife, daughters, Amy, Nellie and Edna, who are still with their parents. Mr. Lyons exercises his right of franchise in sup-



port of the Democratic party, and has been elected to the offices of Road Commissioner and School Director, the duties of which he discharged in a prompt and faithful manner.



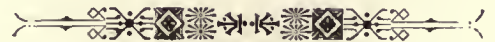
**T**HEODORE SCHAFER, a merchant tailor doing business in Maroa, claims Germany as the land of his birth. He was born in Helsa, in the district of Cassel, January 11, 1844, and his parents, Peter and Margaret (Rosenthal) Schafer, were also natives of the same country. The paternal grandfather, Peter Schafer, held the position of overseer of timber lands under the Governor, and in the general army served as a soldier. He reached the advanced age of eighty-eight years. Peter Schafer, Jr., like his father, served in the German army, and was overseer of timber lands for twenty-seven years. He died in April, 1865, at the age of sixty-seven, having survived his wife for two years. They were members of the Lutheran Church, and had a family of three children, two sons and a daughter: Henry, Mrs. Eliza Selhoff and Theodore.

Our subject attended school in his native land until fourteen years of age, when he left home and began learning the tailor's trade, serving a five-years apprenticeship. After the expiration of that period he remained with his employer for a year, and then went to Hamburg, and in 1865 he joined the army in Cassel, and served with the Austrians against Prussia in 1866. In 1870 and 1871, he participated in the Franco-Prussian War, and was slightly wounded at the battle of Metz, on the 1st of October, 1870. After receiving his discharge he returned to Hamburg and worked at his trade until 1873, which year witnessed his emigration to America. On the 1st of May of that year, he landed in New York City, and immediately boarded a train for Chicago, but on account of the panic he could find no employment in that city and went to Ligonier, Ind., where he remained ten months. He then returned to Chicago, but

after a short time he came to Maroa, April 16, 1874, and opened a merchant-tailoring establishment which he has since carried on.

On the 22d of February, 1879, Mr. Schafer wedded Henrietta, daughter of Andrias and Helena (Nofsicher) Otto. Her parents are natives of Germany, and came to America in 1873. The father makes his home in Maroa during the winter, and in the summer lives with his daughter on a farm in Benson, near Bloomington. He has six children living: Albert, of Chicago; Mrs. Henrietta Schafer; Caroline; Christian; Herman and Helen. Six children have been born unto our subject and his wife, three sons and three daughters, of whom five are living, namely: Emma H., Laura Paulina, Tony T., Albiene Helene and Harry. Carl Arthur, the second child, died at the age of seven years.

Mr. and Mrs. Schafer are members of the Lutheran Church, and, socially, he is connected with the Knights of Pythias. In politics he supports Republican principles and for three terms he efficiently served as Alderman, and for two years has been a member of the Board of Education. His business career has been a prosperous one. He now owns two hundred and seventy-seven acres of well-improved land five miles west of Olney, Ill., besides his home and other city property in Maroa, and five lots in the southern part of Chicago. In his early years he had many hardships and obstacles to overcome, but he surmounted the difficulties and thereby gained strength for other efforts. Steadily he has worked his way upward to a position of affluence. He is truly a self-made man and his possessions are as monuments to his thrift and enterprise.



**h**ON. WILLIAM T. MOFFETT, one of the most prominent and influential citizens of Macon County, and a representative farmer and early settler of Blue Mound Township, now residing on section 32, is a native of Sangamon County, Ill. He was born February 19, 1826,



and is the youngest and only survivor in a family of three children. His parents, John B. and Patsy A. (Morgan) Moffett, were pioneer settlers of Sangamon County. The father was a native of Bath County, Ky., born in October, 1800, and was the ninth in a family of ten children. He went to Sangamon County in 1821, locating seven miles southwest of Springfield, upon a farm which he made his home until after the death of his wife. He then removed to the capital city, where he worked at his trade, that of a wheelwright. He was a natural mechanic and could do anything in that line. He adapted himself to almost any circumstances, and in an early day he acted as physician to the people of the settlement in which he resided. He had never studied medicine, but had read such books as he could obtain on the subject, and his neighbors, thinking that he possessed much skill as a physician, would insist on his treating them when there was any illness in the neighborhood.

In 1831 John Moffett went to Rushville, Ill., and there erected the first steam mill ever built west of the Illinois River. He also built the first court house in Springfield. For ten years he engaged in the milling business in Rushville, and then came to Macon County, locating on land in Blue Mound Township which he had entered from the Government. Here he opened up a farm, upon which he made his home until his death, in the fall of 1862. About 1828 he was married to Miss Polly A. Taylor, daughter of Judge Taylor, of Springfield, Ill. She died in 1849, and for his third wife he wedded Mrs. Nancy McDowell, widow of Rev. Abner McDowell, of Rushville, Ill. Mr. Moffett was one of the representative and prominent citizens of central Illinois, as well as one of its earliest settlers. Only four of his children are now living: William, of this sketch; John M., a prosperous farmer of Blue Mound Township; Joseph M., who is City Marshal of Clinton, Ill.; and Laura A., wife of William Evans, of Louisville, Ky.

We now take up the personal history of our subject, who began his education in Springfield, Ill., and afterward attended school in Rushville until sixteen years of age. He taught the first school

ever held in this neighborhood when a youth of seventeen summers. In 1847 he returned to Springfield with his father, and there again entered school, but at the expiration of six months he was stricken with the gold fever and went to California with some overland emigrants, remaining on the Pacific Slope for some eighteen months. For a short time he engaged in mining, and then with a partner embarked in mercantile business. He was doing nicely when he was called home on account of his father's failing health. He aided in placing his father's estate in a good condition, and also helped his father in improving his land in Blue Mound Township, and then turned his attention to his own private business.

In 1856 Mr. Moffett was united in marriage with Miss Helen L. Barrows, a native of Bridport, Addison County, Vt., and a daughter of Josiah and Susan (Walker) Barrows, the latter of whom is still living. By their union were born eight children, two of whom died in early childhood. Edward R., the eldest, now owns his grandfather's old homestead in this county, and is one of the representative citizens of Blue Mound Township. He is engaged as his father's partner in the stock business. John B. is engaged in the practice of law in Kingfisher, Okla. William D., a graduate of the Illinois State University, is a civil engineer by profession, but is now at home with his parents. Lenora is the wife of Edward Hall, a farmer of Sangamon County. Mary is the wife of E. W. Allen, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in this county. Elizabeth A., who completes the family, is still under the parental roof.

Mr. Moffett is numbered among the pioneer settlers of Sangamon and Macon Counties, Ill. When a young man he was personally acquainted with Abraham Lincoln, who was employed as his father's lawyer for a number of years. He used to ride on horseback to Springfield to consult him before there were any railroads in the county. Both Mr. and Mrs. Moffett hold membership with the Presbyterian Church. In social circles they hold an enviable position, and their friends are many. In politics Mr. Moffett is a stalwart Republican. The first office which he held was that of Supervisor of his township, he serving in that

position for nine years. In 1870 he was elected to the State Legislature, and his term of service having expired he was re-elected in 1872. He was elected to the State Board of Equalization in 1876, and after serving for two years resigned to take his seat in the State Senate, where he served for one term. In positions of honor which he has been called upon to fill he has been found an able and efficient incumbent, who discharged his duties with promptness and fidelity and to the best interests of the people whom he represented. In his business career Mr. Moffett has met with excellent success and now owns over a section of valuable land, comprising one of the finest farms in Macon County. Energy, enterprise and faithfulness to duty have characterized both his business and official life. He has been alike true to public and private trusts, and therefore has won the confidence and esteem of all with whom he has been brought in contact.



**J**AMES S. SHASTID, who is engaged in general farming on section 4, Whitmore Township, is a native of Tennessee, born in Overton County on the 8th of November, 1818. His parents were John G. and Elizabeth (Edwards) Shastid, the former of whom was a native of Kentucky, who in early life removed to Tennessee. Their family numbered seven children, of whom the following are yet living: James S., who is the eldest; Sarah, John and Thomas. Elsie and Armstead are both deceased.

Our subject was born and reared upon a farm, his days being passed midst play and work, while in the subscription schools, held in a log schoolhouse, he acquired his education, or rather improved the opportunities afforded him. He is practically self-educated, however, and through experience, reading and observation has become a well-informed man. He came to Illinois with his parents in 1828, being then a lad of ten summers. The journey Westward was made by team in a

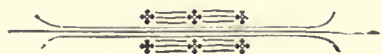
company of three families, and after several weeks of travel they landed in Springfield on the 4th of July. A location was made near where Petersburg now stands, but a few years after the father took up a Government claim in Menard County, which was then a portion of Sangamon County, and thereon James Shastid was reared, remaining under the parental roof until seventeen years of age. He began to earn his own livelihood by working on a farm at \$10 per month. In addition to this labor, he also engaged at carpenter work for about eleven years. He continued to make Menard County his place of residence until 1835, when he went to Pike County, where he remained until 1857. In the mean time he made his first purchase of land, and to the cultivation of the farm he devoted his time and attention until his removal to Fayette County. There he again bought land, on which he made his home until 1859, which year witnessed his arrival in Macon County.

A marriage ceremony performed in 1845 united the destinies of Mr. Shastid and Miss Susan Anderson. By their union were born six children: Elizabeth, wife of H. C. Bowers, a resident farmer of Whitmore Township; George, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Kansas; Margaret, at home; James T., who died August 18, 1857; Sarah J., whose death occurred August 2, 1861; and Lydia E., at home.

On coming to Macon County in 1859, Mr. Shastid located upon a rented farm near Maroa, where he remained for a year and a-half, when he purchased a farm in Whitmore Township, making it his home until 1869. In that year he bought eighty acres of land on section 4, his present home. All of the improvements thereon have been made by himself, and the neat and thrifty appearance of the place, with its good buildings, improved machinery and well-tilled fields, indicates the careful supervision of the owner. The farm is considered one of the best in the township. For many years Mr. Shastid carried on general farming and stock-raising and won a competence by his well-directed efforts, but he is now living a retired life, enjoying a well-earned rest. The Republican party finds in him a staunch sup-



porter. He has given his support to its men and measures since its organization, and has never wished to sever his allegiance to the party of reform. He has served his township as Roadmaster and School Director. A member of the United Brethren Church, he takes an active part in all church work, being in hearty sympathy with all its benefactions. His aid is also given to other worthy enterprises, and the community recognizes in him a valued citizen, who during his long residence in the community has won the esteem of all by an upright life.



**J**OSHUA GREEN, who resides on section 31, is one of the extensive land-owners of Whitmore Township, and an enterprising and progressive farmer. His home farm comprises two hundred acres, and is one of the best places in the neighborhood. The many improvements upon it stand as monuments to his thrift and industry, and the trees which cast their grateful shade over the place were planted by his hands. He formerly engaged extensively in farming and stock-raising, but is now practically living a retired life, having laid aside the more arduous duties connected with agriculture.

Mr. Green was born in Yorkshire, England, October 3, 1826, and is one of eight children born unto Thomas and Sallie (Wilson) Green. Three of the children are now deceased, William, Charles and George. Those still living are Mary, Sarah, Joshua, Ann and Emma. The father of this family spent his entire life in England, and followed farming in pursuit of fortune. Upon the old home farm the subject of this sketch was born and reared, and in the schools near his home his education was acquired. He remained with his parents until eighteen years of age, when he became Superintendent of a large farm in England, and continued to fill that important position until his emigration to the New World, in 1850.

Mr. Green crossed the Atlantic in a sailing-vessel, which after a voyage of seven weeks dropped anchor in the harbor of New York City. He first located in Montgomery County, Pa., where he began work as a farm hand, being thus employed for three months. He then resolved to seek a home in the West, and the same year removed to Greene County, Ill., locating near Carrollton. In that neighborhood he secured work on a farm at \$10 per month, and served in that capacity for the two succeeding years. It was in 1852 that he made his first purchase of land, becoming the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land in Greene County. Only a very small portion of this was under cultivation, and he carried on the work of its development for two years, and then sold out, removing to Christian County, where he entered three hundred and twenty acres of Government land, paying the usual price of \$1.25 per acre. That farm he sold in 1864, and came to Macon County, locating in Whitmore Township. On purchasing the farm which is still his home, he secured two hundred acres of land, the greater part of which was still in its primitive condition. His untiring efforts and enterprise soon wrought a great transformation and the place became a tract of rich fertility. It has also been enlarged by additional purchase until it now comprises between three and four hundred acres of valuable land.

Mr. Green was married on the 10th of October, 1854, to Miss Hannah Dodson, a daughter of Thomas and Prudence (Robins) Dodson, and a native of Greene County, Ill., born June 19, 1837. Their union was blessed with two children, Edward W. and Charles W., both of whom are engaged in farming in Whitmore Township. The parents are both faithful and consistent members of the Methodist Church and contribute liberally to its support. In fact, no enterprise of worth calls for their aid in vain.

In politics Mr. Green is a supporter of the People's party. His wife, who is a warm advocate of Prohibition principles, was the first woman to cast a vote in Whitmore Township. Our subject has filled a number of positions of honor and trust. He has been Highway Commissioner, was Superintendent of the County Farm for six years, was



Assessor for a number of years, served as Township Supervisor four terms, and has been Trustee of the schools and School Treasurer of Whitmore Township for twenty-four years. His faithful service and promptness in the discharge of duty were attested by his frequent re-elections. In all the offices he has been called upon to fill he has proved himself a capable incumbent, and he has won the commendation of all concerned. He is now resting in the enjoyment of a competence that his toil in former years has brought to him.



JACOB W. DILL is the editor of the *Maroa News*, published in Maroa, and in that capacity does much toward molding public opinion. His influence is ever used for the best interests of the community, which recognizes in him a valued citizen. The record of his life is as follows: He was born in De Witt County, Ill., June 20, 1857, and is one of a family of three sons and four daughters whose parents were Isaac and Mary Ann (Bruss) Dill, natives of Philadelphia, Pa. The father, having emigrated with his family to the West, located in De Witt County, Ill., where he followed farming until his death, which occurred in 1860. He was a member of the Protestant Methodist Church, to which his wife also belongs. She is still living and is now the widow of Thomas Hackney. By her first marriage she had seven children, namely: Catherine, deceased; Elizabeth, wife of J. J. Leach, of Maroa; Mary Ann, wife of Clinton Ray, of Clinton, Ill.; Ella, wife of F. M. Smith, of Maroa; John W., now deceased; William F., who married Miss Ida Taylor, and lives in Maroa; and Jacob, who completes the family. By her marriage with Mr. Hackney one daughter was born, Clara Belle, now the wife of Joseph Swift, of Maroa. Mr. Hackney was a soldier of the late war, serving for three years in defense of the Old Flag as a member of Company A, Fifty-first Illinois Infantry. He died January 1, 1890, at the age of sixty-six years.

The subject of this sketch spent the first ten years of his life in the county of his nativity, and then with his mother and her family came to Maroa, where he has since made his home. He lived upon a farm until ill-health caused him to abandon agricultural pursuits, and in 1871 he began to learn the printer's trade, which he has followed during the greater part of the time since, although in the mean time he learned the baker's trade, and carried on business along that line for three years.

On the 20th of March, 1890, Mr. Dill was united in marriage with Miss Carrie Ritter, a daughter of Jacob and Mary (Berger) Ritter, of Springfield, Ill. The young couple are widely and favorably known in this locality and their circle of friends is indeed large. The lady is a member of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Dill takes some interest in civic societies and holds membership with the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Daughters of Rebecca. In politics he is a Republican, but has never sought public office, never caring for such reward for party fealty. In 1889, he began publishing the *Maroa News* and has since been its editor. The paper was established in 1871 by H. B. Funk, who was succeeded by A. N. Corman, after whom came Arbuckle & Axton, who conducted it till succeeded by Turner O'Banion and he by W. A. Steidley, followed by Mr. Dill. The office is well equipped with a full outfit for general commercial printing. It takes a neutral position on politics, and is well worthy of public patronage, for it is ably edited and the subscription list is being constantly increased.



WILLIAM T. SCHENCK, who resides on section 24, Austin Township, was born on the 9th of December, 1842, in Butler County, Ohio, and is a son of Daniel and Rachel Schenck, who are mentioned elsewhere in this volume. He came to the West with his parents in 1854, the family locating in De Witt County. In his youth he worked on his father's farm, and oc-

asionally went to school for a few weeks during the year up to the time when he was eighteen years of age. In 1862, feeling that his country needed his services, he could no longer remain contentedly at home, and so joined the boys in blue.

Going at once to the South, Mr. Schenck saw much arduous service. He participated in the siege and battle of Vicksburg, the siege of Atlanta, the battles of Black River and Missionary Ridge, and went with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea. He was never wounded by rebel lead, but was quite seriously injured by heavy lifting in making breastworks at Marietta, Ga. He was a member of the One Hundred and Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, and remained continuously in the service from 1862 until after the close of the war, when he was mustered out in Washington, D. C. He received an honorable discharge in Springfield, June 8, 1865.

Mr. Schenck was married in 1869 to Miss Isabel Brown, daughter of John A. and Mary Brown, of Macon County, and unto them were born four children: De Witt, who is now living in De Witt County; Laura, wife of William Mendenhall, a resident of De Witt County; Araminta wife of George Hieserman, who is living in Colorado; and Grace at home. Mr. Schenck was again married, April 8, 1886, his second union being with Miss Hannah Mariah Shafer, who was born in Butler County, Ohio. They had four children, but Lee and Harvey, twins, and Lydia all died in infancy. Daniel is the only surviving child.

Mr. Schenck has always been a supporter of the Republican party, but has never aspired to official preferment, preferring to give his time and attention to his business. He is an inventor of considerable note, and has secured patents on some valuable inventions, including a combined insole and heel protector, patented July 24, 1882; wagon bed staple, October 7, 1884; tram buckle, August 25, 1891; and a check hook for harness, December 7, 1892. A patent has also been applied for on his halter fixture. Mr. Schenck has also invented a shield for a grain binder, which will undoubtedly prove to be very valuable, as with this appliance the binder is kept from being clogged

every bundle of grain being in consequence bound securely. Hitherto the unsecured binding has been a constant source of annoyance. This appliance is very simple and can be easily attached to any binding machine. Mr. Schenck at present resides on his farm of eighty acres on section 24, but expects soon to remove to Decatur, where he will engage in the manufacture of his patented articles. He certainly possesses more than ordinary genius, and some of his inventions will no doubt meet with a ready sale.



GEORGE VEECH, who resides on section 2, Oakley Township, claims Kentucky as the State of his birth, which occurred in Shelby County in 1829. In 1831 his parents removed with their family to Macon County, Ill., locating on a farm on section 11, Oakley Township. The parents, Isaac and Elizabeth (Boyd) Veech, were both born and reared in Shelby County, and their marriage was there celebrated in 1823. They became the parents of six children, namely: John; George, of this sketch; Mary Jane; Martha; Alexander, who died at the age of eighteen years; and Andrew J., whose life record appears on another page of this volume. The parents and their son lie buried in North Fork's Churchyard, near the Sangamon River. The father passed away in 1864, at the age of sixty-six years, and his wife, who long survived him, was called to the home beyond in 1883, at the age of seventy-nine.

George Veech received but limited opportunities for securing an education in his youth, for the pioneer schools did not afford the best advantages; however, by experience, reading and observation in later years he has made himself a well-informed man. He was reared in the usual manner of farmer lads, no event of special importance occurring in his youth. He is familiar with all the experiences of pioneer life, and has been an eye-witness of the growth and development of the county for more than sixty years. To farm work he has al-

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





*A. B. Camp*



Mary Camp

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



ways devoted his energies, and that he has been successful in an eminent degree will appear from the fact that he is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of rich and arable land, comprising one of the best farms of the county. It is well fenced, supplied with good buildings, and is under a high state of cultivation. Its neat and attractive appearance indicates the supervision of a careful owner.

In the spring of 1860 was celebrated the marriage of our subject and Miss Louisa Heekle, whose mother was a distant relative and playmate of Abraham Lincoln, a relationship of which the family may well be proud. Unto our subject and his wife were born eight children: Belle, now the wife of M. Clarkson, of Piatt County; John L., at home; Clement, who is married and resides in Long Creek Township; Hayden, Otis, Augustus and George, who are still under the parental roof; and Graeie, the youngest, who died in the fall of 1892, at the age of eight years, and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, of Decatur.

Mr. Veech votes with the Democratic party, but has never been an aspirant for public office. He is a worthy citizen of the community and one who for many long years has been identified with the history of the county. He has seen its wild lands transformed into beautiful homes and farms, has seen the introduction of the railroad, telegraph and telephone, and of all other modern discoveries, and has watched the rapid march of progress which has placed Macon County in the front rank in Illinois.



**A**BEL B. CAMP, a farmer residing on section 23, Long Creek Township, was born in what was then Morgan County, but is now Scott County, Ill., July 29, 1828. He comes from one of the old New England families. His father, George Camp, was born in Connecticut, and at the age of twelve removed to Vermont,

where he married. He walked from the Green Mountain State to Illinois on a prospecting tour, and about 1820 brought his wife and four children to the West. He loaded his goods in a wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen and went to the Alleghany River, where he bought two flatboats and floated down the Ohio to Shawneetown, Ill. The trip consumed more than three months. After a year spent near St. Louis, he removed to a farm twelve miles west of Jacksonville, Ill., entering land from the Government. His efforts, however, made him successful, and at his death he owned a valuable tract of more than three hundred acres. He also owned a sawmill, ran a carding-mill, and carried on a store for a time. He became a prominent and influential citizen and held several local offices. He died of paralysis at the home of his daughter in Jacksonville, October 9, 1886, at the age of eighty years. He was married April 7, 1814, to Naney Felton, a native of Vermont, who died April 7, 1849, when fifty-nine years of age. Their children were Mrs. Sarah Kennedy, who died in Springfield, Ill.; Mrs. Annie M. Barber, of Jacksonville; Mrs. Harriet A. Bent, of California; Mrs. Luey V. Mosber, of Canton, Mo.; George W., who was born in Illinois in 1823, and is living on the old homestead near Jacksonville; Mrs. Mary A. Rice, of Jacksonville; Abel B., of this sketch; Warren P., who was a member of Company C, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, and died February 23, 1863, at Young's Point, Miss; Mrs. Laura S. Brassfield, deceased; and Emily J., now Mrs. McCullough, of Scott County.

The subject of this sketch, who was the seventh in order of birth, spent his boyhood days upon the old farm in Scott County, and in the summer months aided in the labors of the field, while in the winter season he coned his lessons in the old subscription schools. His youth was not one of the utmost freedom, for his services were needed at home and hard work occupied much of his time, but he thereby became a self-reliant and sturdy young man, well fitted for the battles of life. He early learned to swing the axe and eradle and to make rails, and between the ages of five and six years he was a general chore boy about

the carding-machine for his father, having charge of the carding department from the age of eight until he was twenty-one.

On attaining his majority, Mr. Camp started out in life for himself, and after working as a farm hand for a time rented land and engaged in its cultivation. In the spring of 1852 he came with his younger brother to Macon County and began farming and breaking prairie. In that year he bought a pre-emption right on the lake fork of Salt Creek, about four miles west of where Maroa is now situated. He never occupied this land and later sold the claim. After his marriage he located on a tract of raw, unimproved prairie land on section 17, town 16, range 4, developing and improving it until 1857, when he purchased a part of his present farm, which has since been his home. The boundaries of his farm have been extended until it now comprises four hundred and twenty-six acres of valuable land, and the owner is ranked among the substantial agriculturists of the community.

On the 20th of February, 1853, Mr. Camp wedded Mary Davis, daughter of Joseph Davis, a pioneer of Macon County. She proved to him a faithful wife and helpmate and her death, which occurred March 24, 1891, was deeply mourned. The children born of that union are Electa P., who keeps house for her father; Laura, wife of A. W. Heaton, of Decatur; William P., at home; Heber F., who married Lois Spangler and is a farmer of Long Creek Township; and Ernest D., a well-educated young man, who has engaged in teaching but now has charge of the home farm.

Mr. Camp is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Long Creek, to which his wife also belonged, has served as Steward and Trustee, and has given liberally to its support. He cast his first Presidential ballot for John P. Hale in 1852, was a staunch Abolitionist, and in 1856 supported Fremont. Since that time he has been a staunch advocate of Republican principles, has frequently served as delegate to the county conventions, and is a leader of his party in this locality. Mr. Camp is a man of liberal and generous impulses, who takes a commendable interest in everything calculated to benefit the community, and those who

know him esteem him highly for his many excellencies of character and his sterling worth. He may truly be called a self-made man, for his success has been achieved entirely through his own efforts.



GEORGE SEMON is the owner of a well-improved farm located on section 4, Whitmore Township. As he has been a resident of the county for more than a quarter of a century, and is widely known, we take pleasure in presenting this record of his life to our readers. A native of Germany, he was born April 22, 1830, and is a son of John and Ann Semon, whose family numbered only three sons, the other two being John and Andrew. Upon the old home farm our subject was born and reared, and there remained until he had attained to man's estate. Hearing of the advantages afforded young men in the New World, and wishing to try his fortune beyond the broad Atlantic, on reaching mature years he bade good-bye to home and friends and in 1835 crossed the briny deep. The voyage was made in a sailing-vessel, which after forty-one days dropped anchor in the harbor of New York. Mr. Semon did not tarry long in the Eastern metropolis, but at once made his way to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked by the month for year. In 1856, he came to Illinois, working on a farm in Scott County until the breaking out of the late war.

Prompted by patriotic impulses and a desire to aid his adopted country in her struggle to preserve the Union, he enlisted as a private on the 11th of April, 1861, and was assigned to Company K, Fourteenth Illinois Infantry. Going to the front, he participated in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, the siege of Vicksburg and the battles of Jackson and Chattanooga, and was all through the Atlanta campaign. After serving for three years, ten months and twenty days, he received his discharge, his term of service having expired. He later re-enlisted as a veteran and remained in the service



until the close of the war. He participated in many hard-fought battles, but was never known to shirk any duty, being always found at his post as a faithful defender of the Old Flag.

After being mustered out, Mr. Semon returned to Scott County, and in the winter of 1865 came to Macon County, purchasing a farm in Whitmore Township. The same year he was married, Miss Elvira J. Hooker becoming his wife. Their union has been blessed with three children, two sons and a daughter, William H., Emma and Frederick D. The family circle still remains unbroken and the children are all with their parents.

Mr. Semon remained upon his first farm in this county for two years, and then purchased the farm on which he now resides, comprising sixty acres. The improvements upon it have all been made by the owner, who carries on general farming and stock-raising, and is numbered among the wide-awake and enterprising agriculturists of the community. In politics, he is a supporter of the Republican party; socially, he is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic; and, religiously, is a member of the Christian Church. He has never been prominent in public affairs, devoting his entire time and attention to his business interests, in which he has met with good success. Although he came to this country empty-handed, he is now comfortably situated, and therefore need feel no regret that he carried out his determination of trying his fortune in the New World.



**T**HOMAS CHAMBERS is one of Macon County's highly respected citizens, and one of the extensive farmers and stock-raisers of the community. He resides on section 21, Oakley Township, and his highly cultivated and well-improved farm indicates the thrift and enterprise of the owner. Our subject is a native of Kentucky, having been born on the 15th of May, 1826, in Pendleton County, and is the second son of

James Chambers. The family is of Irish lineage, and was founded in America in Colonial days. The father of our subject was born in 1791, and valiantly served as a soldier in the War of 1812. Having attained to years of maturity, he was united in marriage with Miss Nancy Buoy, a native of Virginia, born of Scotch parentage. After selling their residence in Kentucky they came to Illinois, and settled in 1836 upon a farm in Macon County, where they reared a family of five children, namely: Laban, Thomas, James R., Mary and Margaret.

Thomas Chambers, whose name heads this record, spent the days of his boyhood and youth in the usual manner of farmer lads, and began life for himself at the age of twenty years. He was at that time joined in marriage with Miss Mary Yates, a resident of Scott County, Ill. They began their domestic life empty-handed, and neither had had much opportunity of securing an education—only a few months' schooling in the little log schoolhouse of the district—but earnest toil and frugal habits soon won for them a start in life. Mr. Chambers has always followed the occupation of farming and has made a specialty of stock-raising. He always keeps on hand fine grades of horses, cattle and hogs, and at the present time has some two hundred head in all. This branch of his business has proven a lucrative one, for our subject is an excellent manager. His farm is located on section 21, Oakley Township, and comprises four hundred and seventeen acres of valuable land. Every pasture lot is well provided with fine shade trees and running water, and the place is considered one of the best stock farms in the county.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Chambers were born five children: Margaret Ellen, who became the wife of J. K. Peek, and died October 9, 1892; Effie C., wife of David Pollard, a resident of Cerro Gordo, Piatt County; Elizabeth, wife of J. K. Wheeler, who carries on farming on section 21, Oakley Township; Emma, wife of Samuel Hiser, a resident of Long Creek Township; and William Reed, who resides on the old home farm with his father. After attending the district schools, he pursued his studies in Westfield, and completed his education with a course in a business college of Decatur.



Mr. Chambers has always been identified with the Republican party and has held the office of Town Supervisor and School Director at different periods. He may well be called a self-made man, and his success has all been achieved through his own efforts. He is broad-gauged and public-spirited and takes an active interest in everything that tends toward the upbuilding of all the public institutions of the town and county in which he lives. Although he is now well advanced in years, he is still an industrious worker, yet has the capital on which to live a retired life if he so desires.



**G**AINES G. RITCHIE is the efficient Postmaster of Sangamon, and is also serving as telegraph operator and station agent for the Wabash Railroad Company. His life record is as follows: He was born on the 15th of October, 1851, in De Witt County, Ill., and there remained with his parents until sixteen years of age. His father, Thomas W. Ritchie, was born January 26, 1822, in Tallula, Menard County, Ill., and removed with his parents to Big Grove, Tazewell County, in 1828. In 1834 the family became residents of Clinton, Macon County, and after a year went to Funk's Grove, McLean County, where Thomas Ritchie began working by the day for Isaac Funk, in whose employ he remained for about ten years. In 1846 he returned to Menard County, and the same year enlisted as a soldier for the Mexican War. He served his country faithfully for twelve months, when, after receiving a serious wound in the head at the battle of Cerro Gordo and being otherwise disabled, he received an honorable discharge on account of disability. He participated in the memorable siege of Vera Cruz and in many battles. A bullet shot cost him the loss of one eye and seriously affected the sight of the other.

Mr. Ritchie was united in marriage April 17, 1849, with Miss Rebecca Lisenby, and by their

marriage were born two children: Lydia Ann and Gaines G. The father remained in De Witt County until 1867, when with his family he removed to Macon County, locating on section 23, Oakley Township, where he lived for four years. Since that time he has resided on section 34 of the same township. In the autumn of 1854, his wife died and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, of Decatur. The following year Mr. Ritchie wedded Nancy Lisenby, a cousin of his first wife, and they became the parents of eight children, of whom six are now deceased. In 1880 Fannie became the wife of Martin E. Wentz. She died in 1882, and was laid to rest in Greenwood Cemetery. Agnes is still with her parents. The mother has been a consistent and respected member of the Christian Church for over forty years. In politics, Mr. Ritchie is a Democrat and has served as Justice of the Peace and Supervisor. He has a pleasant and comfortable home and is the owner of a farm of eighty acres, the income from which, together with the pension which he receives in recognition of his services as a soldier in the Mexican War, enables him to spend his declining years in rest from labor. He is a kind father and husband and enjoys in a marked degree the confidence of his friends and neighbors and of the community, of which he is a worthy member.

Gaines G. Ritchie, the subject of this sketch, came with his parents to Macon County in 1868. He had been reared to agricultural pursuits and remained upon the old home farm, aiding in its cultivation, until fourteen years ago, when he became a student of telegraphy and has since been a telegraph operator. During this time he has also been employed as station agent for the Wabash Railroad Company at Sangamon. He is faithful to every duty, and his fidelity has been shown by his efficient management of the postoffice, which position he has held continuously since 1886 with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his constituents.

Mr. Ritchie is the owner of a valuable farm in this county, comprising four hundred acres of rich land. In politics he has always been a Democrat since casting his first Presidential vote for Horace Greeley. He has held the office of Justice of the

Peace of Oakley Township for two years, but is not an aspirant for official honors. He enjoys the confidence and respect of the public at large and is a genial, pleasant gentleman, who well deserves representation in this volume.



**D**ANIEL W. BRENNEMAN is recognized as one of the substantial, prominent and representative business men of Decatur, having done much toward the upbuilding and development of the city and its interests. He is now at the head of the firm of D. W. Brenneman & Co., wholesale and retail liquor dealers, is owner of one of the finest stock farms of Macon County, and is President of the Wayne Sulkyette Company.

The life record of our subject is as follows: He was born in Newcastle, Ind., March 6, 1839, and is a son of Jacob and Margaret M. (Branson) Brenneman. His father was a member of the firm of Brenneman & Beam, the oldest cabinet-making firm in Indiana, the partnership continuing until the death of Mr. Beam, after a business connection of forty years. When a young man, Jacob Brenneman spent some time in the Government survey in Arkansas, and in 1830 went to Chicago. Later he engaged as a manufacturer of furniture for a year in Newcastle, Ind., where his death occurred.

Our subject at the age of thirteen went to Cambridge City, Ind., where he engaged in clerking for a year. He then returned to Newcastle, and served a three-years apprenticeship to the cabinet-maker's trade, receiving \$100 for his services during that time. Later he worked for his father for five years, and then, after a year spent in the grocery business in Newcastle, he came to Decatur, in 1865, and has since made his home in this city. He had been married in Newcastle in 1858 to Miss Mary A. Mullin, and has one daughter, Laura, wife of George Keller, who is employed as manager of the wholesale house, and attends to much of Mr. Brenneman's business.

On coming to Decatur, Mr. Brenneman began

business as a dealer in liquors, being a member of the firm of Brenneman & Murphy, but the firm got in debt and after six months sold out. Our subject then became bar-keeper for Kain & Slaughter for a year, after which he purchased the business of Gilbert Howell, carrying on the retail trade from 1867 until 1871, when he began as a wholesale dealer. In 1873, he built his present retail building. The previous year he had been joined by his brother Eli, and in January, 1882, William P. Shade became a partner in the business, which represents an investment of \$175,000. Two salesmen are employed on the road, and the annual sales amount to \$200,000. As above stated, Mr. Brenneman is President of the Wayne Sulkyette Company, which was incorporated in March, 1890. They have a large establishment and manufacture road carts, driving carts and bicycle tires. He is also a member of the firm of P. H. Hunt & Co., which is engaged in general contracting in sewer work, street paving, grading and construction of buildings.

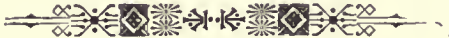
To the breeding of fine horses, Mr. Brenneman devotes considerable attention, having begun this business about fifteen years ago. The Elm Grove Stock Farm, comprising seven hundred acres, is situated eleven miles south of Decatur, and upon it are one hundred mares, with "Anderson Wilkes" 2:22½, sire of "Jack Sheppard," at the head. The training farm lies within the city limits and comprises the Decatur Trotting Association track. The principal owners and members of this association are D. W. Brenneman, M. F. Kanan, B. Z. Taylor, C. P. Housum, George Keller, Otto Curtis and R. R. Montgomery. It was on their track that "Roy Wilkes" made his famous half-mile record. The firm of Brenneman & Co., has twenty-five fine horses in training, including "Jack Sheppard," with a record of 2:14½, and "Magneta," 2:21½. One of their horses, "Pat Delaney," with a three-year-old record of 2:18½, who promised to be one of the speediest of horses, and who was valued at thousands of dollars, recently died while being shipped between points on the circuit. "Effie Price," a very fast three-year-old, is much admired and is a valuable animal.

Each year they hold auction sales. One of



their fine horses, "Wayne Wilson," with a record of 2:29, sold at \$11,000. They have made five importations of horses from France and Scotland, bringing twenty-five each time, and they now have about twenty fine imported horses on the farm, with about \$100,000 invested in their stock. They also own a Central Ridge farm of nine hundred acres, together with two smaller farms of one hundred and twenty and one hundred and twenty-five acres, respectively. Probably no man has done more toward improving the breed of horses and introducing fine horses into Macon County than Mr. Brenneman. He is a true lover of the noble steed, and his roadsters justly deserve the high reputation that they have gained.

In addition to his other interests, our subject has also dealt in city property, and he platted Brenneman's Addition, in the northwestern part of Decatur. He is a man of excellent business ability, possessing keen judgment and far-sightedness, yet in all his dealings has maintained a reputation for honesty that has won him high regard. In personal appearance he is a man of fine physique, and his genial and pleasant manner makes him a popular citizen.



**J**OHAN P. LEHN, who carries on general farming on section 12, Illini Township, and who is numbered among the settlers of the county of 1856, is a native of the Keystone State. He was born in Cumberland County, Pa., January 2, 1838, and is a son of Peter Lehn, who was born in the same county. Having arrived at man's estate, his father married Elizabeth Waggoner, and located upon a farm, where he reared his family and spent the remainder of his days. He died about 1850, and his wife survived him only three years. In the family were seven children, five sons and two daughters. Anna is the wife of Frank Chugerts; John is the next younger; Mrs. Susanna Mathlan is deceased; Sylvester resides in Tennessee; Wil-

son is a resident of Colorado; Josiah makes his home in Oregon, and is a fruit-grower at Shedd's, Linn County; and Samuel is living in Macon County, and is the youngest of the family.

The subject of this sketch remained in Cumberland County until about eighteen years of age. His educational privileges were quite limited, but by reading, experience and observation in later years he has made himself a well-informed man. Believing that better opportunities were afforded young men in the West than in the older and more thickly settled States of the East, he determined to try his fortune in Illinois, and the year 1856 witnessed his arrival in Macon County. Here he began working on a farm by the month, and was thus employed for seven years, or until 1863, when he purchased a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of raw land. It is the farm on which he now resides, but the well-tilled place, with its fields of golden grain, bears little resemblance to the unbroken prairie of that time. The farm is now enclosed by a fine osage hedge fence, and in the midst stands a substantial residence, good barns and the other outbuildings found upon a model farm. An orchard yields its fruit in season, and as the result of the plowing and planting abundant harvests are garnered. Mr. Lehn also owns eighty acres in Hickory Point Township, and an eighty-acre tract in Illini Township, besides his home farm.

On the 20th of February, 1873, our subject wedded Miss Tabitha Jones, who was born in Perry County, Pa., but was reared in Cumberland County. She is a daughter of Robert Jones, of the Keystone State. Mr. and Mrs. Lehn have become the parents of five children: George Wagner, Calvin, Frank, Ellis and Howard. The parents are highly respected citizens of this community and their home is noted for its far-reaching hospitality. In politics, Mr. Lehn has always supported the Democratic party, but has never sought or desired the honors or emoluments of public office, although he served as Road Commissioner. He is a staunch friend to the public schools, and while acting on the School Board did effective service for the cause of education in this locality. He is a public-spirited and progressive citizen and



manifests an active interest in all that pertains to the welfare of the community. He began life for himself empty-handed, but has steadily worked his way upward, and now besides his old home and his other farming land in this county he owns a residence in Warrensburg.



**D**ARVEL E. BROOKS, who owns and operates four hundred and sixty-six acres of land on section 22, Whitmore Township, and is ranked among the extensive land-owners of the county, is a native of Kentucky, born February 22, 1842. His father, John Brooks, was born in the same State, and was of Scotch-Irish descent. His mother bore the maiden name of Susan Clingen. Upon the home farm, Darvel Brooks spent the days of his early boyhood, and in the winter season attended the district schools, where he acquired a good English education. At the age of fifteen, he started out in life for himself and has since made his own way in the world, so whatever success he has achieved has been due entirely to his own efforts.

When sixteen years of age, Mr. Brooks carried mail from Millersburg, Ky., to headquarters on horseback, receiving \$1 per week for his services. He was thus employed for a year. When his time was not occupied with this duty he worked on a farm by the month, and for his first half-day's services, which consisted in covering corn with a hoe in sod ground, he received the munificent sum of five cents. After working as a farm hand for about two years, he purchased a team and engaged in the operation of rented land for two or three years, when, in connection with agricultural pursuits, he began dealing in stock.

Mr. Brooks continued to make his home in the State of his nativity until 1866, when he emigrated to Illinois, locating near Mt. Auburn, Christian County, where for three years he again carried on a rented farm. Having through his industry, economy and perseverance acquired some capital,

he then purchased land, and to its improvement devoted his energies until 1875. That year witnessed his arrival in Macon County. Here he purchased a ninety-acre farm near Harristown, and also bought land in Blue Mound Township, where he lived until coming to his present home.

In March, 1868, Mr. Brooks was united in marriage to Miss Julia S. Toothaker, and by their union were born seven children, but four died in infancy, and Jesse died in 1882. The only two now living are Stella and Maud, both of whom are still under the parental roof. The family took up their residence upon their present farm in 1881, at which time he purchased four hundred and sixty-six acres of land. He has since added to that amount, until the home farm now comprises five hundred and fifty acres, the greater part of which is under cultivation. In the midst of the rich and fertile fields stand a substantial residence, good barns and all the other buildings and improvements found upon a model farm of the nineteenth century. His landed possessions altogether aggregate ten hundred and forty-five acres, all of which has been acquired through his own efforts. He began life a poor boy, but has worked his way steadily upward to a position of wealth and affluence. In politics, he is a supporter of the Democratic party. In 1885, he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 14th of December, 1881.



**J**ONATHAN B. NOWLIN, a well-known farmer residing on section 20, Austin Township, was born in the neighboring State of Indiana, his birth having occurred in Dearborn County April 2, 1841. His father, Silas Nowlin, was born in Kentucky, and there remained until nine years of age, when he determined to try his fortune in Dearborn County. He there became acquainted with Miss Eleanor Blasdel, a native of the Hoosier State, and in 1835 they were married. Four children were born of this union:

Elijah B., who is now living in Nebraska; Naney, wife of Walter Shinkle, a resident of Ohio; Mary, wife of John Shinkle, also of Ohio; and Jonathan B., of this sketch. In 1846 Mrs. Nowlin died, and in 1850 her husband was again married, his second union being with Miss Martha J. Hargitt, by whom he had nine children: Emma, Richard, Jerry, Whitfield, Willie, Annie, Cora, Sherman and Robert. The father of our subject was called to his final rest in March, 1891, on his old farm in Dearborn County, Ind., on which he had lived since before his marriage; his wife died in the following May.

Jonathan Nowlin, whose name heads this record, started out in life for himself at the age of twenty-one, and has since been dependent upon his own resources. Feeling that the country needed his services, he laid aside his business cares in the fall of 1862 to enter the Union army, enlisting at Lawrenceburg, Ind., in Company H, Eighty-third Indiana Infantry. He remained in the South until the war closed and saw much hard service, participating in the siege of Vicksburg and the battles of Missionary Ridge, Resaca and Dallas. He also took part in the siege of Atlanta, and went with Sherman on the memorable march from Atlanta to the sea, and on to Washington City. After the cessation of hostilities he participated in the Grand Review and received an honorable discharge, being mustered out in Washington in June, 1865.

When Mr. Nowlin laid aside the old blue coat and once more donned the garb of a civilian, he returned to his old home in Indiana, where he remained for about eighteen months, when he removed to Morgan County, Ill., and spent the succeeding six years of his life. The next year was spent in Richland County, after which he came to Macon County, in 1874, and settled on his present place, where he has since made his home. He is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of valuable land, one hundred and sixty acres on section 8, eighty acres on section 17. (which he had purchased in 1868), and his home farm of eighty acres on section 20.

In the same year in which he went to the front Mr. Nowlin was united in marriage, August 30,

1862, with Miss Jane Sykes, who was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. Nine children graced this union: Ellen, who is now the wife of C. F. Emery, a resident of Macon County; Martha L., wife of A. G. Curry, of Phelps County, Neb.; Emma, wife of G. D. Applegate, who is also living in Phelps County, Neb.; Cortez D., who married Miss Minnie B. Tump and resides in Austin Township; Silas R. and J. A., who are still at home; and Mary J. and two others who died in infancy.

Mr. Nowlin proudly cast his first vote in support of the Republican party in 1868, and has since been a warm advocate of its men and measures. He has been honored with several positions of public trust in his township, and is now serving as Supervisor. Socially, he is connected with the Grand Army Post of Maroa. His wife is a member of the United Brethren Church. They have a pleasant and attractive home, and enjoy the confidence and respect of the entire community in which they live.



**A**ARON KNIGHT, who is numbered among the settlers of Macon County of 1850, is a representative farmer of Illini Township, residing on section 35. The history of his life work is as follows: He was born in what is now Hoeking County, Ohio, August 23, 1822, his father being William Knight, who was a native of England. When a young man he crossed the Atlantic to America and took up his residence in Pickaway County, Ohio, whence he removed to Fairfield, that State, and spent the last years of his life, dying in 1848. In Ohio, he wedded Miss Mary Slinger, a lady of German birth, who was called to her final rest in 1852. Mr. Knight was a soldier in the War of 1812, and in the Black Hawk War.

Aaron Knight, our subject, is the only survivor in a family of two sons and seven daughters, of whom eight reached adult age and became heads of families. He was reared in his native county and remained with his father until he had attained



his majority. He then learned the cabinet-maker's trade, which he followed for a few years, after which he resumed farming, carrying it on in connection with the other business. As a companion and helpmate on life's journey he chose Miss Mary Ann Painter, a native of Ohio. The wedding ceremony was performed April 29, 1846, and in 1850 the young couple started Westward to Illinois. They cast in their lot with the early settlers of Macon County, and Mr. Knight purchased land in Decatur Township, but after a few years he sold out and bought a tract south of the Sangamon River, which he operated for two years. He then again sold, and purchased raw prairie land, which he developed and improved, making his home thereon for three years. Once more disposing of his farm, he removed to Decatur and bought eleven acres of land, but after three years traded it for a farm in Illini Township. To its operation he devoted his energies for eight years, after which he purchased his present home. It is a good farm, well improved, and the land is under a high state of cultivation. The entire place is enclosed with a well-timmed hedge fence and divided by hedges into forty, twenty, ten and five acre fields. There is a good orchard of select fruits, and other improvements, which add to the value and attractive appearance of the place.

On the 1st of February in the year 1853, Mr. Knight was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died in January, leaving one son, Aaron, a farmer residing near Columbus, Ohio, and a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Edward Meyers, and removed to Missouri, where she died about twelve years ago. Mr. Knight afterwards married, August 23, 1854, Miss Tryphosa J. Jamison, a native of Maryland, who died June 24, 1856. They had one child, who died in infancy. May 12, 1864, he wedded Miss Susan Will, who was born in Cumberland County, Pa., and when a young lady of sixteen came to this State with her mother, her father having died in the Bnekeye State, when she was three years old. Unto them have been born seven children: William H., who aids in carrying on the home farm; Lydia C., wife of John Gepford, a farmer of this county; Charles B., John, Hattie, Myrtle Belle and Martha.

In 1888, Mr. Knight rented his farm and removed to Kingman County, Kan., but a year's residence in that State convinced him of his preference for Illinois, and he returned to his old home. In politics, he was formerly a Democrat and cast his first Presidential vote for James K. Polk in 1844. In 1864, he supported Lincoln, and continued to affiliate with the Republican party for some time, but is now independent in politics. Himself and wife are members of the Harritown Methodist Episcopal Church. Our subject is well known throughout this community as a man of upright character and sterling worth, and he and his estimable wife well deserve representation in this volume.



JAMES H. PARKER is President of the Bank of Maroa, and in this thriving place is recognized as one of the progressive and public-spirited citizens, a fact which makes him well worthy of representation in the history of his adopted county. He was born on the 10th of November, 1846, in Warren County, Ohio, and comes of an old family of New Jersey. His father, James S. Parker, was born in that State, and in an early day emigrated to Ohio, where he carried on farming. He there married Miss Rachel Hankinson, and unto them were born five children, namely: William H.; Sarah J., wife of Anthony Stontenborough, of Maroa; James H.; John P., and Lydia E., wife of Abraham H. Bates, a Presbyterian minister of Springfield. With his family, the father came to Illinois in 1852, and located seven miles northwest of Maroa, where he lived one year. He then removed to a farm of two hundred and forty acres four miles west of Maroa, where he made his home until 1877, when he removed to the town and retired from farming. His death occurred in 1880, at the age of sixty-five years. His wife still survives him and is now seventy-three years of age. For many years Mr. Parker was a member of the Methodist Church, but after



his removal to Maroa attended the Presbyterian Church, to which his wife belongs. He held various official positions, being the first Supervisor elected in Austin Township, and was recognized as an influential citizen of the community where he made his home. He had accumulated before his death two thousand and seventy acres, which he divided among his children.

James H. Parker spent the first six years of his life in Ohio, and then accompanied his parents to Illinois, from which time he was reared on a farm in Macon County. He received a good common-school education, and continued under the parental roof until he had attained his majority, when he started out in life for himself. He began farming on his own account six and a-half miles west of town, his father having given him and his brother William the use of four hundred acres of his land.

On the 27th of September, 1871, Mr. Parker married Miss Emma A., daughter of William and Elizabeth (Vandervort) Shaw, of Ohio. They began their domestic life upon a farm, and there resided until 1887, when they removed to Maroa. Our subject had purchased two hundred and fifty acres of land belonging to the estate, two hundred and sixty acres in Kansas, and two hundred and twenty acres southwest of Maroa. He also owns the old homestead of five hundred and forty acres, together with a one hundred and thirty acre tract north of this place. His health being impaired when he left the farm, he lived retired for about two years, and then, in 1889, embarked in business. Opening the Bank of Maroa, he has since been its President. Anthony Stontenborough is the Vice-President, and Samuel A. Friedman is the Cashier. This is a solid financial institution and is receiving a liberal patronage.

Mr. Parker exercises his right of franchise in support of the Republican party and is now serving his third term as Supervisor. He has also served for several years as School Director. Socially, he is connected with the Masonic fraternity and the Knights of Pythias, and his wife is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Parker is a careful and conservative business man, yet progressive, and by his excellent business and execu-

tive ability has gained a fortune, which now places him among the wealthy citizens of the county. The best interests of Maroa always find in him a friend, and he takes an active interest in its advancement.



JOHN F. KEISTER, who is numbered among the most prominent and influential farmers of Macon County, resides on section 32, Maroa Township. As he has a wide acquaintance throughout the community, we feel assured that this record of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers. A native of Pennsylvania, he was born in York County on the 15th of May, 1843, but he did not long remain in the Keystone State, being brought by his parents to Illinois at an early age. His father, Peter Keister, was also born and reared in Pennsylvania, and was of German descent. He was united in marriage with Miss Susan Fetrow, whose birth also occurred in York County. When a young man, Peter Keister learned the cooper's trade, but during the greater part of his life followed the occupation of farming. In 1850, he determined to seek a home in the West, and with his family emigrated to Illinois, locating first in Hickory Point Township, Macon County, where he purchased eighty acres of land. The country was new and times were hard, and the family had many difficulties to meet. There were three children, but Mary died in childhood, before the family came to the West; John F. is the second in order of birth; and Julius married Miss Tillie Good, of Pennsylvania, and is now a resident of Chicago.

Our subject was a lad of only seven summers when he came to Macon County. Educational privileges in this locality were then quite limited, and as the family was in poor circumstances, instead of going away to school he worked upon his father's farm until twenty-two years of age, and then started out in life for himself. In 1866, he married Miss Nancy Weaver, daughter of Samuel

Weaver, whose sketch appears on another page of this work, and six children were born of their union, as follows: Charles, who died in 1890, and was buried in Boiling Springs Cemetery; Mary, wife of Arthur Hanes, a resident of Maroa Township; Samuel, who died in infancy, and was interred in Boiling Springs Cemetery; Hattie, Frank and Mabel, who are still at home.

Mr. Keister has always been identified with the Republican party, and although he has never been an office-seeker, he is a warm advocate of its principles. Throughout life he has devoted his time and attention to agricultural pursuits, and is now one of the extensive land-owners of the county, his possessions aggregating eight hundred and forty acres of as fine land as can be found in the State of Illinois. The entire amount is under a high state of cultivation, is well fenced and supplied with good buildings. Mr. Keister is now one of the wealthy farmers of the State, and deserves all the more credit for his success as it is due to his own efforts. He has a pleasant and attractive home, and is an honored member of the community in which he lives.



**D**AVID C. DAVIDSON, who is engaged in farming on section 16, Mt. Zion Township, was born in the township which is still his home, on the 9th of April, 1844, and has spent nearly his entire life in Macon County. He was, however, in the service of his country during the late Civil War, and proved himself one of the valiant defenders of the Union. He is a leading and influential citizen, who has a wide acquaintance throughout the community, and we therefore feel assured that this record of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers.

Our subject's father, William Davidson, was a native of South Carolina, and there was reared to manhood. In 1838 he was joined in marriage with Miss Melvina Campbell, of Kentucky, and in

an early day they came to Illinois, easting in their lot with the pioneer settlers of Macon County. The following children were born unto this worthy couple: John B., who died in the army, and was buried near Vicksburg; Mary A., who died and was laid to rest in Mt. Zion Cemetery; David C., of this sketch; Margaret, who is now the wife of E. B. Scott, of Mt. Zion Township; Louisa E., who is living in Mt. Zion; Naney A., wife of C. P. Scott, a resident of Mt. Zion; and William, who died in infancy.

Midst play and work upon his father's farm the boyhood days of our subject were passed. He was early inured to the arduous labors of field work, and to his father he gave the benefit of his services until seventeen years of age, when he responded to the country's call for troops. It was in 1861 that he joined the boys in blue and became a member of Company H, Fifth Illinois Cavalry. He remained at the front until the close of the war, when, his services being no longer needed, he received an honorable discharge, and was mustered out in Springfield, Ill., in 1865. His military record is one of which he may well be proud, for he was always found faithful to his post. He participated in the entire siege of Vicksburg, the battles of Ft. Jackson, Arkansas Post, and others of importance, besides numerous skirmishes.

When the preservation of the Union was an assured fact, Mr. Davidson returned home and remained under the parental roof until 1870, when was celebrated his marriage with Mrs. Melissa Gum, *nee* Goff, who died in 1878, and was buried in Marshall, Mo. He had started from Kansas with her, and she died en route, aged twenty-one years. She left a son to mourn her loss, William I., who is still at home. November 8, 1882, Mr. Davidson was again married, his second union being with Miss Minnie A. Elder, who was born and reared in Caldwell County, Ky. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson have no children of their own, but a niece, Miss Maggie A. Travis, daughter of George D. and Mary E. (Elder) Travis, has made her home with them for several years. They now reside on section 16, Mt. Zion Township, where Mr. Davidson owns and operates a good farm of two hundred acres. The place is under a high state of



cultivation, and its neat and thrifty appearance well indicates his careful supervision.

Mr. Davidson votes with the Republican party and is a staunch supporter of its principles. He is the Supervisor of his township, having twice been elected to that position, for his faithful service during his first term won for him re-election. So- cially, he is connected with Tom White Post No. 529, G. A. R., and is also a member of the Odd Fellows' and Modern Woodmen societies. Him- self and wife hold membership with the Cumber- land Presbyterian Church of Mt. Zion, and are highly respected citizens of the community in which they reside.



**S**AMUEL GERBER, one of the successful and enterprising business men of Macon County, is now engaged in banking in Argenta, as a member of the firm of S. Gerber & Sons. He also carries on the furniture business and is enjoying a good trade in that line. Energetic and persevering, he carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes, and the community therefore finds in him a valued citizen.

Mr. Gerber was born in Dayton, Ohio, Septem- ber 27, 1835. His father, Peter Gerber, was a na- tive of Switzerland, and in 1852 he crossed the At- lantic to America in a sailing-vessel, which after a voyage of fifty-five days landed him in Baltimore. He located near Dayton, Ohio, where he began working at his trade of carpentering. He married Sarah Weit, who was a native of Pennsylvania, and was of German descent. They became the parents of three children: Samuel; John C., who is living in Shelby County, Ohio, on a farm; and Lucinda, wife of Peter Knull, who resides near Columbia City, Ind. Mr. Gerber removed to Shelby County, Ohio, where he secured two hundred acres of land from the Government, and in the midst of the forest hewed out a farm. In the wilderness he erected a

log cabin, which was three miles from the nearest neighbor. To the improvement of his land he devoted his energies until his death, which oc- curred in October, 1876. His wife passed away in 1885. Both were members of the German Re- formed Church.

Mr. Gerber whose name heads this sketch was born in a small village near Dayton, Ohio, but when he was about fifteen months old his parents removed to the farm which the father secured from the Government, and thereon he was reared to manhood. There were no schools in the neigh- borhood until he was eight years of age, after which he attended about three months in the win- ter season, school being held in a small log house on his father's farm. He remained under the pa- rental roof until he had attained his majority, and then began farming the old homestead on shares. This was continued until 1859, when he concluded to follow Horace Greeley's advice and go west.

Previous to his removal, however, Mr. Gerber was married to Miss Susanna Hillbrant. Their union was celebrated December 12, 1856, and was blessed with six children, namely: Lucinda; An- nie, who died in 1860; Blanche, who died in Sep- tember, 1862; Peter E., who carries on a stock farm; Samuel N.; and Mary, wife of Charlie Hankins, of Decatur.

On the 10th of September, 1859, Mr. Gerber ar- rived in Macon County, having made the trip Westward by team. He rented a farm in Whit- more Township for a year, and then purchased forty acres of raw prairie land on section 2, where he engaged in farming until January, 1883, when he came to Argenta. Here he established a hardware store and also engaged in buying and shipping grain in connection with William Boyer. That partner- ship continued for two years. In the mean time, Mr. Gerber became associated with D. H. Garver, and established a general store, but in the spring of 1886 he traded his interest in the business and embarked in banking in connection with J. W. Brown, under the firm name of Brown & Gerber. His partner died in 1892, and the bank of S. Ger- ber & Sons was then organized. This is one of the solid financial institutions of the county, rest-



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

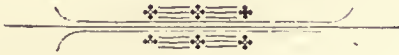


JOHN W. TYLER



MRS. JOHN W. TYLER

ing upon a firm landed basis, and the concern does a good business. In 1890, Mr. Gerber also opened a furniture store, which he still carries on, and in addition owns seven hundred acres of valuable land, all well improved. They carry on quite a large stock farm and import and breed fine horses. The successful business career of Mr. Gerber is not due to outside aid, but has been brought about entirely through his own perseverance, industry and enterprise. Making judicious investments of his money, he has thus multiplied his property and is now the possessor of a handsome competence. Upright and honorable in all transactions, his word is as good as his bond. In politics he has always been a supporter of the Democratic party, and has held the office of Assessor of Whitmore Township. He was Supervisor of Friends' Creek Township for two years, and has been School Director for a number of years.



**J**OHIN W. TYLER (1808—1888) was the eldest son of Benjamin Tyler (1782—1870), who was the third son of William Tyler (1747—1843), a native of Virginia, and one of the first settlers of Fayette County, Ky.

The first American ancestor of the Virginia Tylers was Henry Tyler, a reputed native of Shropshire, England. In the third volume of the Virginia Land Register is the record of a patent in Henry Tyler's name, bearing date January 7, 1652, and locating two hundred and fifty-four acres of land in what was known as the Middle Plantation, "due to him by and for transporting to this Colony six persons, to-wit: the said Henry Tyler himself, and Mary, his wife, and Anne Sherman, Thomas Day, David Legurne and James Musskattina—forty-six acres remaining due on the last name." The laws of the Colony at that time encouraged immigration by allowing to the importer fifty acres for each and every person brought over at his expense. This Henry Tyler lived on the

outskirts of what is now the city of Williamsburg, and his residence, though remodeled, retains many quaint and beautiful features of "ye olden time." His name repeatedly occurs in the records in connection with some of the most respectable names of the Colony. His eldest son, Henry, married into the Page family of Virginia, and played a useful part in the affairs of the Colony. He held many offices of trust and authority in York County through a long series of years with credit and character. He died in 1729, leaving three sons: John, Francis and Henry. This Henry, the third of the name, heired the ancestral homestead, but in 1752 he sold out and removed to Sussex County, and there died in 1774. Leaving no surviving issue, he divided his property between his grand-nephew, John Tyler, "attorney-at-law in Charles City County," and his grand-nephew, William Tyler, grandson of Francis Tyler, of Prince William. This will is recorded in Sussex County Court. The young attorney mentioned therein became the father of John Tyler, the tenth President of the United States, and the other legatee was the William Tyler who located a few years later in Fayette County, Ky., and became the grandfather of John W. Tyler, the subject of this sketch.

William Tyler, the grandfather of John W., was born December 27, 1747; was married to Letty George August 15, 1774, and died March 1, 1843. The exact date of his settlement in Kentucky is not known. Ranck, in his history of Lexington, says: "The summer of 1776 found no white man in all the length and breadth of the present Fayette County." In March, 1779, Col. Robert Patterson was sent from the fort at Harrodsburg, and was successful in building a block-house fort on the very site where Lexington now stands. James Masterson, after whom the fort five miles northwest of Lexington was named, was a member of the company commanded by Col. Patterson. William Tyler made his home with his small family in the Masterson fort for a time after reaching Kentucky. A deed, without date, now in possession of a great-grandson of William Tyler, was placed on record at the July term of the Fayette County Court in 1789. By this deed Richard Masterson and Sarah, his wife, transferred to William Tyler



"one hundred and fifty acres, being a part of the McConnel's settlement." His coming to Kentucky must, therefore, have been somewhere between 1779 and 1789. It was probably late in 1782.

To William Tyler and his wife nine children were born. Charles was born May 27, 1775; Sally, September 20, 1777; William, July 24, 1780; Benjamin, October 20, 1782; Ann, August 13, 1785; Susanah, December 1, 1789; Jesse, April 1, 1793; Mary, March 19, 1795; and George, April 28, 1797. There is a trustworthy tradition that Benjamin was born in an Indian fort as they were emigrating to Kentucky.

Dr. Richard Spurr, in writing of those early times, says: "William Tyler was a pious, God-fearing man. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Church. A meeting-house was built near the fort, and here they held their membership. When this house was no longer tenable, stated meetings were held at the house of old Father Tyler, this being a point in the circuit." Ranck in his history says: "In 1787 the first Methodist Church built in Kentucky (a log one) was erected at Masterson's Station, five miles northwest of Lexington, and in 1790 the first annual conference of the church in Kentucky was held there and had the great and good Bishop Francis Asbury as its presiding officer."

Benjamin Tyler, third son of William, was married to Susanah Shores, and to them five children were born: John William, September 27, 1808; Jane, April 6, 1810; Charles, November 17, 1812; Susanah, May 4, 1815; and Benjamin George, November 1, 1821. The daughters married brothers: Jane married Harvey Higgins, after whom Higginsville, Mo., was named; and Susanah married Dr. Worden Higgins. Jane died March 27, 1846; and Susanah died July 3, 1854. John W. was married first to Elvira Oxley, June 18, 1831, and after her death was married to Sarah Roney, February 28, 1839. Charles was married to Eliza Ellen Neel August 22, 1839, and died at his home in Bloomfield, Ky., October 14, 1887. Benjamin G. was married first to Mrs. Rebecca Smith, *nee* Cromwell, and after her death to Mrs. Sally Steadman. He died at his home near Lexington, Ky., April 1, 1891.

Dr. Spurr, in writing of Benjamin Tyler, son of William, says: "He was a model of industry and integrity, his word being considered the equal of his bond. He was one of the best citizens of Fayette County. He was never known to take any intoxicating drinks; this was remarkable when we remember that at that time whisky or brandy was kept in every house and their use was quite common. He was a strictly moral man, never known to use profane language, was a man of peace—in short, a model irreligious man until late in life (a period at which few persons ever make a change in habits) he became a devout member of the Cane Run Baptist Church. He was a man of a wonderful amount of common sense. He never ceased during his long life to give his personal attention to his business, and at his death he left a large estate." His death occurred May 2, 1870, his wife having died four years prior to that, May 19, 1866.

John W. Tyler, eldest son of Benjamin Tyler, was born September 27, 1808. The first settlers of Fayette County had made rapid and substantial progress. On the 26th of December, 1781, the trustees of Lexington station had adopted a plan for the town. The first newspaper ever published west of the Alleghany mountains made its appearance in that town August 18, 1787. Lexington reached the zenith of her first period of prosperity in 1810. Log cabins were giving place to more commodious and comfortable dwellings. Schools were established in which rudimentary education might be had. The standard was not high. When one had learned to spell, to read and to write legibly, had studied Pike's Arithmetic to fractions, and had acquired a smattering of Murray's English Grammar, he was thought to be fairly and sufficiently educated. Algebra, geography, etc., were not taught and were thought to be useless. This represents about the opportunity John Tyler had to receive an education. Rev. D. P. Henderson, his classmate in boyhood, says: "We were taught by very exacting teachers, who practically enforced discipline even by the rod, under which most of us had often to pass. I have a vivid recollection of John Tyler. He was a quiet, studious, grave, industrious pupil. He made rapid progress

in his studies. He was not so fond of youthful sports as many others, consequently his recitations were better, much better, than his classmates. He enjoyed the confidence and love of the pupils." Another who attended school in boyhood with him has left this record: "He was an apt scholar, learned fast, stood about the head of his class, was a favorite with the scholars, engaged in all their games at play-time, was very active, fleet of foot, peaceable, kind to all. Sometimes for six months at a time he was not in school, and could not have been over fourteen years old when his school days ended and he went to work as a regular hand with his father on the farm. Then it took six days of work to fill up the week. Raising horses was quite a business with John's father, and on Sunday he always had a good horse that he was breaking by riding to church. He had great pleasure in hearing gifted speakers both in the pulpit and on the stump, and had frequent opportunity of hearing such men as Henry Clay, John J. Crittenden, Tom Corwin, Tom Ewing, Robert Wickliffe and Robert J. Breckenridge. He was always fond of company, and enjoyed himself with old people as much as with those of his own age. He never took much interest in his dog or gun or fishing-rod, but was always in the highest degree interested in either political or religious discussions and would go whenever practicable to hear speakers of note." The boy was father to the man.

The visit of Gen. La Fayette to Lexington made a deep impression upon him. That was in May, 1825, when John was in his seventeenth year. His own uncle, Charles, had been a soldier in the War of the Revolution and was present. It was probably the grandest gathering ever seen in Lexington. An immense concourse of people from all parts of Kentucky and from several other States, companies of infantry, artillery and cavalry, Revolutionary soldiers, distinguished strangers, members of all professions, went out to meet him. The announcement that the Marquis and suite were in sight was the signal for round after round of deafening cheers, volleys of musketry and thunders of artillery. All this so thrilled the youthful John with military ambition that for a time his dreams were all of military glory. But

he was destined for more peaceful, although not less honorable, pursuits.

The terrible ravages of cholera in 1833 will ever keep that fatal year memorable in the annals of Lexington. It made its appearance the first of June, and in less than ten days fifteen hundred persons were prostrated and dying at the rate of fifty a day. An indescribable panic seized the citizens, half of whom fled from the city, and those who remained were almost paralyzed with fear. It was an awful scourge, but not without its beneficial effects. Saddened and chastened, the city turned to religion for consolation, and in 1834 there was a great and wide-spread revival. It was shortly before this that the Cane Run Baptist Church had been constituted by persons from the Townfork, North Elkhorn, Great Crossings, and possibly other Baptist Churches in the surrounding neighborhoods. Meetings were held statedly at a stand in the woods or at the home of some of the members. Prayer-meetings were held from house to house on Sunday evenings. These services were all attended with marked regularity by John Tyler. A meeting-house was built, and upon its completion the Rev. Jeremiah D. Black held a series of meetings which resulted in a large ingathering into the church. Among the number was John Tyler. That was in the summer of 1834. He began at once to speak in the neighborhood meetings and soon entered upon the work of the ministry, in which he continued for fifty-four years.

June 18, 1831, he was united in marriage to Elvira Oxley, a union broken seven years later by the hand of death. There were born of this union two sons and a daughter: Theodore M., Nancy J. and John W., Jr. Theodore died July 14, 1868. On February 28, 1839, he was united in marriage to Sarah Roney, a union which continued through almost fifty years, and there were born of this union seven sons and four daughters: Benjamin Bushrod, April 9, 1840; Susan Frances, March 15, 1842; James Alexander, September 14, 1843; Barton Stone, August 19, 1845; Charles Willis, in November, 1846; Joseph Zachary, October 10, 1848; Henry Clay, August 16, 1850; Mary Edna, August 18, 1852; Bettie Ann, October 16, 1854;



Charles Henry, August 19, 1856; and Sarah Alice, April 27, 1859. Two died in early childhood: Charles Willis in January, 1851; and Henry Clay, August 19, 1851. James A. died February 26, 1876.

Sarah Roney, the wife of John W. Tyler, was born in Shelby County (now a part of Oldham County), Ky., November 16, 1816. She was the fourth daughter of James Roney and his wife, Mary Aiken, both natives of Virginia. James Roney was the eldest son of his widowed mother, and the care of the family rested upon him. When quite a young man he came to Kentucky, secured land in Shelby County, cleared a small patch of ground, built a cabin, and, returning to Virginia, brought his mother and family to the new home. He and his brother Joseph became men of position and influence in the new settlement and were prosperous. He was married to Mary Aiken February 19, 1806, and to them were born six sons and eight daughters: John, December 25, 1806; Joseph, March 3, 1808; James, October 30, 1809; Matilda, July 11, 1811; Malinda, January 12, 1813; Maria, December 15, 1814; Sarah, November 16, 1816; Joshua, November 11, 1818; Robert, September 5, 1820; Polly, August 5, 1822; Naney, June 11, 1824; Louisa, November 6, 1826; Samuel, August 1, 1829; and Emaline, September 3, 1830. These were all born in Kentucky.

The family removed to Shelby County, Ill., in 1831, but the county was subsequently divided, thus placing their home in Moultrie County. At the time of their leaving Kentucky, Sarah was in the fifteenth year of her age. In her childhood she had been lamed, and for some time went upon crutches. Of bright mind and happy disposition, her affliction naturally made her the pet of the family. She grew to young womanhood under the conditions and limitations of those primitive times, and her opportunities to attend school were very meagre, but her natural thirst for knowledge led her to drink of the fountains that spring by the wayside, until she became a woman of information, and possessed a wisdom which schools cannot confer. Her early religious training was among the Presbyterians. Her religion was not of the demonstrative kind. Her devotions flourished

most in the sacred privacy of the closet. She was characterized by an enlightened faith, a rational reverence, strong convictions, genuine benevolence, charitable judgment, uncompromising conscientiousness, and an unswerving devotion to duty in every relation in life. Her love of the beautiful did much to make her own life beautiful from its early dawn to its cloudless close. She was admirably fitted to be the wife of a pioneer and preacher.

Upon his removal from Kentucky in the fall of 1834, John W. Tyler located for a short time in the northeastern part of Montgomery County, Ind., and gave himself zealously to the work of the ministry. He soon organized a church in that neighborhood with the very suggestive title of the "Union Baptist Church of Christ." A letter granted him by that church in August, 1835, certifies to his being "a member and a regularly ordained minister of the Gospel with us, in good standing and full fellowship, and since he joined us he has been constant, exercising a gift of exhortation, and preaching with entire satisfaction to the church." Leaving Indiana, he spent a few months in Morgan County, Ill., to which a large number of persons from his section of Kentucky had gone a year or two before, prominent among whom was that great revivalist and reformer, Barton W. Stone. The next year finds him in Macon County, and this continued to be his home until his tragic death, June 16, 1888. He was farmer, Justice of the Peace, schoolmaster and minister. His ministry was chiefly in the counties of Macon, Moultrie, Shelby, Piatt, Sangamon and Christian. Most of the Christian churches in these counties were either planted by his personal ministry or watered in their early years by his personal care and instruction. With apostolic zeal he labored with his own hands that he might support himself while laying the foundations upon which others were to build, and in his declining days he found his dearest joy in the increasing prosperity of those who continued the work he had so well begun.

On Friday afternoon, June 15, 1888, in the public highway, on the old homestead and in the immediate vicinity of the Antioch Church, he was fa-



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

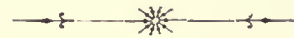


*John H. Crocker*

tally hurt by a kick from the horse he was driving. He lingered unconscious until three o'clock the next morning, and then breathed his last. His faithful and beloved wife survived him four years, peacefully closing her earthly career Tuesday morning July 26, 1892. A few extracts from the local press of the day will best indicate the esteem in which they were held by the community in which they had lived for half a century. In speaking of Father Tyler, the *Herald* said: "He was frequently called to serve the people in official positions, and he discharged his duties with a fidelity which won the respect and confidence of all. Few men ever live to so great an age, and of few, indeed, can it be said that they leave a record so clear and so full of good works. He had unselfishly devoted much of his life to the Christian ministry, oftentimes receiving no remuneration for his work. He was a preacher, but in his own life his faith was manifested by good deeds." The *Republican* said: "He was one of the best-known residents of the county and was greatly admired for his genial disposition and hospitable and sympathetic nature. He loved the truth, he loved his church and his family, and all his long life he has ever been found a true friend and a man of the strictest integrity. The whole community mourns his death." The *Bulletin* said: "He was a social favorite in his neighborhood and was often honored with marks of personal confidence by repeated election to local office. He was not a politician, but he was interested in all questions that involved the protection of public morals. The sanctity of the Sabbath and temperance reform were to him matters of political as well as moral faith, and were maintained always without regard to the effect upon his partisan friends." In speaking of Mrs. Tyler at the time of her death, the *Review* said: "The death of Mrs. Tyler marks the close of a rarely useful life. Grandly and cheerfully did she perform the work that fell along her pathway. No one was ever known to speak ill of her, and no woman had as many friends in the city. The same thoughtful regard for others that has marked her whole life characterized her last days. She was one woman among a thousand." The *Bulletin* said: "To know this

dear woman was to love and adore one of the purest and sweetest of Christian characters. Her calm quietude mingled ever in social and business relations, her pleasing and gracious nature won every heart, and her loving tenderness in ministering to others lifted them to a higher plane. Such grace is not the product of a day, but is the natural fruition of patient living through the mingled joys and sorrows of life." The *Herald-Dispatch* said: "The life of this truly good woman is like an open page upon which there appears no blot. From the beginning to the end it is a record of Christian virtue and Christian faith, which have never wavered during a long and useful life. It was a life that made the world better for having been, and will leave a mark in years to come."

The mortal remains of these long and honored residents of this county rest in the beautiful Greenwood Cemetery adjoining the city of Decatur, and the spot is fitly marked by a solid block of granite with a simple epitaph.



**J**OHN H. CROCKER was for many years a well-known and prominent citizen of Macon County. He was born in Derry, N. H., on the 9th of July, 1829, and in his youth received excellent educational privileges. Later he pursued a course of study in the Illinois College, of Jacksonville, Ill., and for several years after leaving school engaged in civil engineering, having fitted himself for that profession by special study. During the early part of the Civil War he was a member of Gen. Grant's staff of engineers, and was cotton inspector on the staff of Gen. Brayman.

Mr. Crocker was united in marriage with Miss Louise Philbrook, a native of Ohio, born in Licking County. Her father, Seth Philbrook, was born in Maine, and in Ohio married Miss Margaret Ward, a native of Virginia. In 1853 he came to Illinois, settling near Vandalia, where he spent his remaining days, dying at the age of sixty-six



years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Crocker was born a family of eight children: George L., a veterinary surgeon of Springfield; John, who is represented in this volume; Margaret P., wife of Dr. W. T. McLean; Anna Louise and Elsie May, at home; and three who died in infancy, Mary Neal, Paul Bernard and Seth.

After the war was over, Mr. Crocker came to Maroa, in 1865, and engaged in the lumber and coal business until 1870, when he became a partner with his father in the banking business, under the firm name of Crocker & Co. Operations were carried on under that style until 1888, when the bank of C. F. Emery was consolidated with Mr. Crocker's institution, under the name of Crocker, Emery & Co. Business was carried on under that name for two years, and since then has been conducted under the name of Crocker & Co.'s Bank. Our subject became a very prominent and influential citizen of Maroa, where he lived from 1865 until his death, which occurred February 10, 1890, when in his sixty-first year. At the age of thirteen he became a member of the Presbyterian Church, and for some time served his congregation as Trustee. He belonged to Maroa Lodge No. 454, A. F. & A. M.; Maroa Chapter No. 52, R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T., of Decatur. He was Master of the Blue Lodge for several years, and served for three years as High Priest in the Chapter. He was also a prominent Odd Fellow and belonged to the Royal Templars of Temperance, serving as Supreme Counselor two terms. In politics, he was an inflexible adherent of the Republican party, and served one term in the winter of 1882-83 in the Illinois Legislature. He held a number of local offices, and when Maroa was made a city was elected its first Mayor, serving as such at the time of his death.

Mr. Crocker was always found in the front ranks of every good work, and was a public-spirited citizen, whose aid was never withheld from any worthy enterprise. In 1873 he bought the Illinois Central Elevator in company with D. G. Kent, who after a year retired when, in connection with his father, Mr. Crocker carried on business until the latter's death, in 1879. Mr. Crocker then

formed a partnership with his two sons, George and John, and they continued alone until the consolidation of the banks in 1888, the firm being then composed of John H. Crocker, John Crocker, Mrs. L. A. Emery and George Conover. The estate is now interested in the banking business, together with John Crocker and George Conover, under the name of Crocker & Co. In the death of our subject the community lost one of its most valued citizens, a man who had done much for the growth and upbuilding of Maroa, and whose name is inseparably connected with its progress, and has become a synonym for integrity. Mrs. Crocker, who survives her husband, belongs to the Presbyterian Church, and is one of its faithful members.



CLARENCE H. DAWSON, who is proprietor of one of Macon County's finest drug stores, was born in Warren County, Ind., on the 8th of June, 1861, and is the eldest of a family of five children. The parents, James E. and Mary J. (Borders) Dawson, were both natives of Ohio. They removed to Indiana, and after some years' residence in Warren County removed to Iroquois County, Ill. Their two sons and three daughters are Clarence H., Alva M., Nora B., Florence M. and Cora E.

The subject of this sketch was a lad of nine summers when his parents came to this State, and from that time until 1893 he has been a resident of Iroquois County. His education was acquired in the public schools. After attaining to years of maturity he was united in marriage with Miss Frances Wilson, daughter of John B. and Eliza (Hickman) Wilson, residents of Iroquois County. Their union was celebrated on the 14th of February, 1883. They have a daughter, Helen Wilson Dawson, born April 6, 1893. In his political affiliations, Mr. Dawson is a Republican, but has never been an office-seeker, preferring to devote his time and attention to his business and other interests, rather than to enter the political arena. He holds

membership with Milford Lodge No. 168, A. F. & A. M.; Watseka Chapter No. 114, R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery, K. T., of Decatur.

After a residence of some five years in Wellington, Ill., Mr. Dawson went to Milford, Ill., and in March, 1881, embarked in the drug business, carrying a full stock of drugs, medicines, books, stationery, paints, oils, etc. In 1893 he came to Decatur, where he purchased a similar store, succeeding Swearingen & Tyler, druggists, and John B. Robinson, dealer in books and stationery. It is said that he has one of the finest, most beautiful and best-equipped stores in the city. His patronage is well deserved and is constantly increasing. Those who have known Mr. Dawson from boyhood, and have witnessed the honorable and upright life which he has always led, hold him in high regard and are numbered among his staunchest friends. He also ranks high in business circles and is classed among the prominent and progressive citizens of the community. He is public spirited and takes an active interest in all that pertains to the welfare of the town and county, and is ever ready to aid in the promotion of those enterprises calculated to prove of public benefit.



ALEXANDER C. TRAUGHBER, a well-known farmer, was born April 3, 1834, on section 9, Mt. Zion Township, on the farm on which he still makes his home. His father, Henry Traughber, was a native of Kentucky, born January 9, 1803. He came to Illinois in 1827, and located the following year on the land where A. C. now lives. He was one of Macon County's earliest pioneers, and here he made his home until his death, which occurred October 5, 1892. His remains were laid to rest in Mt. Zion Cemetery. In 1829 he was united in marriage in Macon County with Miss Nancy Smith, who was born in Tennessee, and came with her father, Robert Smith, to Illinois at a very early day. She was called to the home beyond in August, 1863,

and was also laid to rest in Mt. Zion Cemetery. Theirs was the second marriage of white people celebrated in Macon County, and they were numbered and honored among its highly-respected pioneers. Mr. Traughber was a brick-mason, and worked at his trade a portion of the time for many years. He helped to build the first court house in Shelby County, and many other buildings have stood as monuments to his thrift and enterprise.

Alexander Traughber is the third in order of birth in a family of eight children, of whom Robert, the eldest, a soldier of the late war, died and was buried during the siege of Vicksburg; Daniel, also deceased, died in infancy; A. C. is the next younger; John R. died in early childhood; Elizabeth M. E. (Mrs. James Hunt, of Decatur,) is also deceased; Mary Jane is the wife of Porter Denning; Rebecca, a young lady of seventeen, died, and like the other members of the family was laid to rest in Mt. Zion Cemetery, with the exception of Caroline, who was buried in Humboldt, Kan.

Mr. Traughber whose name heads this record spent the days of his boyhood and youth in the usual manner of farmer lads, working in the fields during the summer months and attending the district schools of the neighborhood during the winter season. It was thus his education was acquired. To his father he gave the benefit of his services until twenty-one years of age, and then started out in life for himself. The following year, December 11, 1856, he was united in marriage with Miss Virginia C. Whitehouse, who was born in Indiana, and has now been a faithful companion and helpmate to her husband for thirty-seven years. Four children have graced the union of this worthy couple, the eldest of whom, George, married Miss Dora Black, and resides in Macon Township. Judson, William B. and Flaudie May are all with their parents.

Mr. Traughber is a staunch Republican in politics and warmly advocates the principles of the party of reform. His wife is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Our subject is recognized as one of the leading agriculturists of eastern Illinois, and is now the owner of eight hundred and forty acres of arable and valuable land. There are two hundred and eighty acres in the home



farm, and five hundred and sixty in a farm in Macon Township. It is all under a high state of cultivation and yields to him a golden tribute in return for the care and labor he bestows upon it. The well-tilled fields, good barns and neat appearance of the place indicate the thrift and enterprise of the owner. His home is a beautiful and attractive residence, and a free-hearted and open-handed hospitality is there dispensed to the many friends and acquaintances of the family.



**R**OBERT MORRIS, who is the owner of a valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres situated on section 24, Austin Township, claims New Jersey as the State of his nativity, his birth have occurred at Seaville Cape, August 1, 1838. He spent the first fourteen years of his life in that locality and then removed with his parents to Illinois, in 1852. His father, William Morris, was born in New Jersey in 1806, and the mother, who was in her maidenhood Miss Eliza Hughes, was born in the same State in 1809. Their family numbered six children: Robert, of this sketch; Albert, who died at the age of two years; Pauline; Lydia; Albert, the second of that name, who died at the age of twenty-five and was buried in Farmingdale Cemetery, near Springfield, Ill.; and William R., who married Miss Julia Ernst, and lives on the old homestead.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris left New Jersey in 1852, and, emigrating Westward, located in Sangamon County, Ill., where the father spent his remaining days. His death occurred in March, 1892, and he was laid to rest in Farmingdale Cemetery. His widow is still living and makes her home in Sangamon County with her daughters.

No event of special importance occurred during the boyhood and youth of our subject, which were quietly passed under the parental roof in the usual manner of farmer lads. Having arrived at mature years, he chose as a companion and helpmate on life's journey Miss Mary E. Lyman. Their

union was celebrated November 15, 1867, and they came at once to Macon County, locating on the farm where they now reside, on section 24, Austin Township. Four children came to bless their home, and Etta Caroline (who is a graduate of Wilson's College of Art at Bloomington, a department of Wesleyan University), Robert Lyman and Frank Hayes are still with their parents. William Ezra, the second child, died at the age of eighteen years, March 28, 1890, after an illness of over two years, and his remains were interred in Ridge Cemetery. He had been filled with ambitious ideas and had entered the Decatur High School, but an attack of inflammatory rheumatism compelled his withdrawal, and his health continued delicate for several months, but he resumed his studies with a view to entering the Wesleyan University at Bloomington, and was making rapid progress when la grippe attacked a constitution already enfeebled, and after only one week's severe illness he succumbed to this dead disease. His death left a vacancy in the family and among a wide circle of intimate friends that time cannot heal. He is especially missed in the church of which was a bright and lovely member. He took a great interest in all that pertained to the church, and for one so young no one gave a better example of a noble Christian character.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris are consistent members of the Pleasant View Methodist Episcopal Church, of which the former was one of the founders and has been a Steward and Class-leader constantly since its organization, always taking an active part in its upbuilding and aiding in all of its benevolences. He is identified with the Prohibition party, which embodies his views on the temperance question. Mr. Morris has never sought or desired the honors or emoluments of public office, but has served his township in several official positions, filling the office of Supervisor for three years. He is a progressive and public-spirited man, and the best interests of the community find in him a friend.

Our subject devotes his energies to farming and stock-raising, and in his business career has met with a marked degree of success, being now the owner of a valuable and desirable farm of three hundred and twenty acres. The land is gently



rolling and is well watered, every forty-acre lot having running water on it. For this valuable place our subject has been offered \$85 per acre, which sum is not considered a high price when the splendid improvements upon the place, its comfortable home, good outbuildings and highly cultivated fields are taken into consideration. Mr. Morris may feel justly proud of success in life, which is due entirely to his own efforts and the assistance of his estimable wife. Together they have secured a home in which to spend their declining days, and in which they are now surrounded by all the comforts that go to make life worth the living.



**J**OHN H. EBERT, who is now living a retired life at No. 842 West Marietta Street, Decatur, is a native of Maryland, having been born in Middletown Valley on the 23d of October, 1835. He spent the first seven years of his life in the State of his nativity, and in 1842 accompanied his parents on their removal to Ohio. The father, Frederick Ebert, was a native of Virginia, and was a carpenter by trade. The family located in Montgomery County, Ohio, and under the parental roof our subject was reared to manhood. In 1852, at the age of seventeen years, he began learning the tinner's trade, serving a three-years apprenticeship in Columbus, Ohio. He received as compensation for his services for the first year \$30 besides his board, the second year he was given \$40, and the third year \$50. He remained with that firm for six years in all, and after his term of apprenticeship had expired he was paid from \$1.50 to \$2 per day. He later went to Shelbyville, Ky., where he worked for six months, or until the breaking out of the late war.

An important event in the life of Mr. Ebert occurred on the 6th of April, 1865, when was celebrated his marriage with Miss Martha J. Fleming, who was born in Ohio, but at the age of seventeen years came to Decatur, where she has since made her home. Four children were born of

their union, two sons and two daughters, of whom three are yet living, viz.: Laura Belle, Elizabeth, and Joseph, a sign writer of Chicago. J. Frederick died at the age of eighteen months.

During the period of the war Mr. Ebert made his home in Chicago and Minnesota, and in 1865 he came to Decatur. For nine years after his arrival he worked as a journeyman for Frank Taylor, and later served in the same capacity for R. C. Crocker. In 1874 he began business for himself. Purchasing a stock of hardware, he opened a store, which he carried on successfully for thirteen years, or until 1887, when he retired. The firm was Ebert & Bros., the other partners being Jacob and Frank Ebert until 1884, when the partnership of Ebert & Stewart was formed. In addition to dealing in hardware, they did an immense trade in job work, and their large business yielded them an extensive income.

Mr. Ebert has made judicious investments in real estate. He erected, and still owns, a good business block at the corner of Water and East Green Streets, and also owns a five-acre tract of land, which has greatly increased in value, owing to the rapid upbuilding of the city beyond him. In 1887 he erected a pleasant and comfortable home thereon, where he is now living retired, resting in the fruits of his former toil. In politics Mr. Ebert is a Republican on questions of national importance, but at local elections he votes for the candidate whom he thinks best qualified for the position, regardless of party affiliations.



**P**ETER W. WIKOFF, a highly-respected citizen and retired farmer of Maroa, was born on the 24th of May, 1825, in Butler County, Ohio, and is a son of Samuel and Ann (Henderson) Wikoff. The father was born in Monmouth County, N. J., and was a son of Samuel Wikoff, who in early life was a tanner and shoemaker. He was also an agriculturist, and reared his children upon a farm. His death occurred at the age of eighty

years, in his native State, New Jersey. The maternal grandfather, Samuel Henderson, was a native of Ireland, who, having crossed the broad Atlantic, spent the remainder of his life in New Jersey, where he carried on agricultural pursuits. In his native land he had followed school teaching. Samuel Wikoff removed to Ohio in 1820, and there spent the remainder of his days, being called to the home beyond in 1846, at the age of seventy-nine. His wife died in the month of January of the same year, at the age of fifty-four. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and she belonged to the Baptist Church. Of them mention is made elsewhere in this volume in connection with the sketch of Lemuel Wikoff.

In the State of his nativity Peter W. spent the days of his boyhood and youth, and the public schools afforded him a good English education. He remained in Ohio until 1855, when he emigrated Westward to Illinois, and spent the succeeding five years of his life in Marshall County. He then went to Atlanta, where he engaged in farming until 1862, which year witnessed his removal to De Witt County. In 1863 he came to Macon County and purchased eighty acres of land five miles southwest of Maroa, which he improved and cultivated, making his home thereon until October, 1884, since which time he has lived a retired life. As his financial resources increased he extended the boundaries of his farm, until it now comprises two hundred and forty acres of valuable land, that yields to him a good income, being now rented.

On the 29th of June, 1848, Mr. Wikoff was united in marriage with Miss Phoebe Ann Condon, daughter of George and Sarah Condon. One child was born of their union, a daughter, Laura Belle, but she died at the age of sixteen months. The mother died in 1850. On the 19th of February, 1854, Mr. Wikoff was again married, his second union being with Miss Charlotte M. Crowell, daughter of Moses and Salina (Stover) Crowell, the former a native of New Jersey, and the latter of Ohio. Three children were born of this union, a son and two daughters, Clara, Edward C. and Kate, but all are now deceased, aged six years and nine months, three years and eight months, and three

years and six months, respectively. Losing all of their own children, our subject and his wife took a young boy, Henry W. Waggoner, to bring up, and kept him for eleven years, or until he was twenty-one. He is now farming in Maroa Township.

Mr. and Mrs. Wikoff are faithful and consistent members of the Christian Church, and have been for upward of forty years, and they have done much to promote its growth and upbuilding. Mr. Wikoff has served as one of its Elders since 1866. In politics he is a stalwart Republican, having been identified with that party since the dissolution of the Whig party, with which he formerly voted. He is a man of generous and kindly impulses, true to his professions, and his life has been an honorable and upright one, well worthy of emulation. During his long residence in this county he has made many friends and gained the high regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact.



**N**EAL J. BLACK, who is successfully engaged in farming on section 5, Mt. Zion Township, is a self-made man, and one of the honored veterans of the late war, who valiantly wore the blue in the struggle and aided in the preservation of the Union. We feel assured that his life record will prove of interest to many of our readers, for he is widely and favorably known throughout this, his native county. He was born on the 7th of September, 1836, in Long Creek Township, and is a son of Jacob and Eleanor (Flora) Black, both of whom were natives of Virginia. The father was born May 13, 1802, and their marriage was celebrated in Long Creek Township, in 1835. The father first came to Illinois in 1814, with his parents, Abraham and Barbara Ann Black. They located in Sangamon County, where our subject remained until 1825, when he removed to Macon County, where both his parents died. Mr. Black was three times married. He first wedded Miss Eleanor Wallace, who was born in 1804, and died April 18, 1835. Seven children were born of



that union: John, who died of measles in Mexico during the war; Joseph, who died in Moultrie County; Williamson, who was killed in February, 1862, in the service of his country at the battle of Ft. Donelson; Martha, wife of John Williams, a resident of Deatur; Mary Ann, wife of Andrew J. Thomasson, a resident of Moultrie County; Amanda, who married Robert McClellan, and is living in the West; and Deamaris, wife of John Gray. Mr. Black's second wife was Miss Eleanor Flora, of Macon County, who died when her son Neal was five years old. They had three children: Neal J.; James H., who enlisted in the Twenty-first Illinois Regiment, was captured at Chickamauga, and died a prisoner in Andersonville after a confinement of nine months, aged twenty-seven; and Jacob, who lives in Mt. Zion Township, and also served during the war, being mustered out June 14, 1865, at Springfield. Jacob Black, Sr., for his third wife married Mrs. Lucinda Smith, whose maiden name was Oxley, and they had one child, David B., of Davenport, Neb. She died about 1856, and her husband died in 1876.

At the age of nineteen, Neal Black started out in life for himself empty-handed, and has followed farming as a means of livelihood ever since, and through his industrious efforts has achieved success. His life has indeed been a busy one, for he had to work hard to get a start, but prosperity at length rewarded his efforts, and he now has a good farm of one hundred and twenty acres. This is a valuable tract of land, and the place is under a high state of cultivation and well improved.

On the 12th of September, 1866, Mr. Black married Miss Amanda Jane Black, a native of Macoupin County, Ill., but who was reared in Macon County, a daughter of Daniel and Naney (Ashlock) Black. Her father, who died in 1861, was a brother of Jacob Black, and consequently she and her husband are first cousins. Mrs. Daniel Black made her home with her daughter Amanda, her only child, until her death, in November, 1873. Our subject has one son, Walter R., who is still at home.

During the late war, Mr. Black entered the service of his country, on the 6th of December, 1861, as a member of Battery I, Second Light Artillery.

The troops went South in February, 1862, and he participated in the battles of Island No. 10, Corinth and Perryville, Ky., and on to Atlanta, was with Sherman's army on its celebrated march to the sea, and took part in the Grand Review at Washington. He was forage master for the stock through Georgia, and held the office of Corporal. He remained in the service until the war closed, when, the country no longer needing his service, he was honorably discharged, June 16, 1865, being mustered out at Springfield.

In his social relations, Mr. Black is connected with Thomas White Post No. 529, G. A. R., of Mt. Zion. In politics, he is a staunch Republican, having supported that party since attaining his majority. His first vote was cast for Lincoln in 1860. Himself and wife hold membership with the Methodist Episcopal Church at Mt. Zion. He is a public-spirited, broad-gauged man, who has the best interests of the community at heart, and well deserves the good name which he bears.



JOHN A. WILSON is the owner of one hundred and sixty-five acres of splendid farming land all under a high state of cultivation, and this valuable tract is a part of the old Wilson homestead, on which he was born and reared, for his family is one of the pioneer families of the county. His birth occurred February 20, 1858. His father, William A. Wilson, was born in Tennessee, and when a mere lad came with his parents to Illinois. For sixty consecutive years he lived in Macon County, and his death occurred here on January 9, 1888, aged sixty-seven years. Being reared amid the wild scenes of pioneer life, William Wilson had no opportunities for an education, and instead of being sent away to school when old enough to work, like his neighbor, Abraham Lincoln, he went to the huge forests and split rails at fifty cents per hundred, thus clearing up the land for farming purposes.



For many seasons he hauled the farm products to St. Louis and to Chicago with ox-teams, camping under the wagon at night. These and many other hardships Mr. Wilson passed through in his early manhood, but he was strong and willing, and after many years of hard toil and struggle he succeeded in getting a little home paid for. With this start it was not long before he acquired a competency. Mr. Wilson was a successful and self-made man, and his prosperity was well deserved. In the early days he was well known all through this section of the State and had the respect and esteem of his acquaintances. He was a man of strict integrity and honesty of purpose, was liberal-minded and enterprising, and assisted largely in building up the permanent public institutions of his town and county. Politically, he was identified with the Democratic party.

Mr. Wilson was united in marriage with Miss Margaret Henry, who came with her parents to Macon County in her childhood. Unto them were born six children, but Eveline, James, Morrison and William are now deceased. Mary is the wife of Dr. Martin V. Lonergan, of Long Creek Township, who is mentioned on another page of this volume. The mother died in 1863, and the father in 1888. They now rest side by side in Mt. Zion Cemetery.

In taking up the history of our subject we record the life-work of one who is widely and favorably known throughout his native county. The public schools afforded him his educational privileges, and under the parental roof in the usual manner of farmer lads he was reared to manhood. He has followed agricultural pursuits throughout his entire life, and the neat and thrifty appearance of his place indicates the careful supervision of the owner, who ranks among the wide-awake and enterprising young farmers of Mt. Zion Township.

March 10, 1886, Mr. Wilson was united in marriage with Mrs. Lola (Chapman) Casner, a daughter of Andrew J. Chapman, of Long Creek Township, and widow of Oliver Casner, who was a son of L. B. Casner, and who died March 3, 1880. Mr. Casner was a farmer of Mt. Zion Township, and she married him when in her eighteenth year.

She has a daughter, Olive Casner, by her first marriage, now aged fourteen years. By her second union have been born two children, Lola Marie and John Howard. The parents have a pleasant home, a bright and interesting family, and are well situated to enjoy life. Mr. Wilson is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and his wife holds membership with the United Brethren Church. In politics, he is a supporter of the Democracy, and socially is connected with Casner Lodge, I. O. O. F. Having spent his entire life in this county, his history is therefore well known to many, and the fact that he is held in the highest regard by his many friends and acquaintances well indicates an upright career.



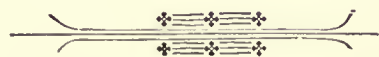
**N**OAH W. TOHILL, a farmer residing on section 33, Long Creek Township, was born in Crawford County, Ill., August 11, 1840. His father, John Tohill, was born in Lancaster County, Pa., in 1818, and when a child went to Hoeking County, Ohio, with his parents, his father being a pioneer farmer and tobacco-raiser of the county. When twenty-one years of age, John Tohill removed to Lawrence County, Ill., where he spent one winter; then returned to Ohio, where he married Martha Springer, a native of the Buckeye State. Her parents were from Virginia, but the family originally came from Switzerland. In 1836 Mr. Tohill brought his bride to Illinois and settled on Stringtown Prairie, in Lawrence County. He afterwards bought land in Crawford County, and there made his home until 1864, when he removed to Mt. Zion Township, Macon County, where he is still living. He has been successful in business and now owns a fine farm of two hundred and ninety acres. He is a Republican in politics, and himself and wife are faithful members of the United Brethren Church. The family numbered thirteen children, of whom five sons and seven daughters are yet living. Lewis, the eldest, who

served in the Ninety-eighth Illinois Infantry during the late war, now resides in Crawford County; Noah is the second; John died in infancy; Mary is the next younger; Laurence resides in Colorado; Jonah is living in this county; and Martha, George W. (of Colorado), Andrew J., Eli, Sarah, Ella and Belle complete the family.

Our subject was educated in the primitive school, with its puncheon floor, huge fireplace, clapboard door, mud and stick chimney, and greased-paper windows, but he afterward attended the academy in Mt. Zion for fourteen months and the High School in Crawford, thus becoming well informed, and subsequently engaged in teaching. At the age of twenty-one, in 1861, he enlisted in Company I, Twenty-first Illinois Infantry, under Col. Good for three months. In 1862, he re-enlisted as a member of Company E, Ninety-eighth Illinois Infantry, under Col. Funckhauser, and went to Louisville, where the company was engaged in building breastworks. He participated in many important battles, including the engagements at Crab Apple Orchard, Murfreesboro, Hoover's Gap, Dalton, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, Resaca, Ringgold, Knoxville, Atlanta and Jonesboro. During much of the time the troops were mounted, and probably no regiment saw more active service. Mr. Tohill was mustered out June 27, 1865, after three years spent on Southern soil, and returned home with all of his equipments of war. He still has his sabre and Spencer rifle.

Our subject first bought eighty acres of land of his father, and in the spring of 1872 purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres. It was then wild prairie, but by tiling and thorough cultivation he has made it one of the best farms of the neighborhood, its well-tilled fields yielding him a good income. In the spring of 1878, he was united in marriage with Rebecca Jane Burrous, daughter of Ben Burrous, of Mt. Zion Township, where the lady was born April 12, 1861. Their union has been blessed with the following children: Romulus Remus, Garfield, Noah, Randall, John Bennett (who was killed by a colt July 7, 1891), William Floyd, John Thomas and Gracie Elizabeth.

Mr. and Mrs. Tohill are members of the United Brethren Church, of Casner, and he is a member of, and Chaplain in, the Grand Army post of La Place, and also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He cast his first Presidential vote for Grant, and has since been a stalwart supporter of the Republican party. He was elected Assessor in the spring of 1879, but has never been a politician in the sense of office-seeking. The community has ever found in him a valued citizen, for he discharges his public duties with the same fidelity which he manifested during the late war, when in his country's hour of peril he defended the Stars and Stripes, which now float so proudly over the united nation.



**R**ANDALL F. McDONALD, an enterprising and progressive farmer of Long Creek Township, residing on section 30, was born in Winchester, Scott County, Ill., March 27, 1854. His father, John McDonald, was born in Philadelphia, Pa. The grandfather was a native of Scotland, and was accidentally drowned in the Little Miami River, in Ohio. He had had one son who went to California during the gold excitement, and after his return to Illinois enlisted in the One Hundred and Sixteenth Regiment and died from a wound received in the battle of Shiloh. John McDonald was apprenticed to a Mr. Coughler, who ran a flourmill, barrel factory, distillery and paper factory. He learned all these trades, and became an expert in the various lines. At the age of twenty-one he bought a flatboat and did trading in New Orleans. He also ran a grocery at Cincinnati for a time, but while he was sick his partner swindled him out of the greater part of his capital. Subsequently he engaged in farming near Milford, Ohio, and later he emigrated to Winchester, Ill., where he engaged in milling for two years. In 1854 he went to Decatur, and for five years operated the mill for Frank Priest. He



then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land on section 20, Long Creek Township, and operated it for a year, after which he resumed milling for a year, and later he again went to the farm and successfully continued its cultivation until his death, in 1880, at the age of sixty-eight years.

Mr. McDonald was a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and belonged to the Odd Fellows' society. He was one of the leading members of the Union League, and was one of the prominent Republicans of his county, being often seen in its conventions, where he was recognized as a leader. In Parkersburg, W. Va., he was married, in December, 1845, to Miss Nancy L. Sisson, who was born in Washington County, Pa., March 12, 1828, and went with her parents, Edwin and Sarah Sisson, to West Virginia when twelve years old. Of the children born to this union, Mrs. Florence L. Prather lives in Decatur; Edmon S., who was educated in Evanston, Ill., is a leading lawyer of Decatur, and has served as City Attorney; A. F., a twin brother of our subject, is a farmer of Mt. Zion Township, and married Miss Davidson; Aliee is the wife of Ira T. Baird, of Prairie Home; John, who married Miss Hamilton, of Decatur, is living on the old homestead; George, who married Miss Lulu Gabbett, follows farming; and Sheridan died at the age of sixteen months.

The subject of this sketch was only six months old when brought by his parents to Macon County. He was reared in Decatur and on the old home farm, and acquired a good practical education in the public schools. Reared to agricultural pursuits, he has followed that business throughout his entire life and is recognized as one of the wide-awake and enterprising farmers of the neighborhood.

As a companion and helpmate on life's journey, Mr. McDonald chose Miss Sarah J. Baker, a native of Montgomery County, Ill., and a daughter of George Q. Baker. Their union has been blessed with two children, Luella and Bessie, and the daughters are the light of the household. The family holds a high position in social circles and their home is the abode of hospitality.

Since his marriage, Mr. McDonald has carried on

farming, and now owns and operates one hundred and twenty acres of rich land, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation. In politics, he is an advocate of Republican principles and has been honored with the offices of Justice of the Peace and Assessor. He has often attended the conventions of his party and is one of its leading members. Socially, he belongs to the Odd Fellows' society of Casner, and himself and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Long Creek. The cause of temperance finds in him a warm friend, and he gives his support to every enterprise calculated to promote the general welfare.



ELLEN TAFT GRIMES, M. D., a practicing physician of Decatur, has an office in the Woman's Club Building, and enjoys a liberal practice. She was born in Braceville, Trumbull County, Ohio, on the 31st of October, 1846. Her father, Frederick L. Taft, was a native of Ohio and married Miss Elvira Rood, who was born in Litchfield County, Conn. Their marriage was celebrated in her native State. Frederick Taft was a stock-dealer, and his daughter Ellen spent her early years on his stock farm in her native county. After attending the public schools, she entered the Western Reserve Seminary, at Farmington, Ohio, where her literary education was completed.

When a young lady of twenty-two Miss Taft gave her hand in marriage to Dr. Francis S. Grimes, who was born in Springfield, Mass., in 1831. He was graduated from the Medical College of Pittsfield, Mass., and afterward spent three years in Bellevue Hospital, in New York. During the war he served for three years as Surgeon in the Army of the Potomac, being attached to the Sixty-second New York Infantry. Soon after the war was over he located in Braceville, Ohio, and began practice. It was during his residence there that he and his wife were married.



By this union have been born two children, a son and a daughter. Stanley Taft, the elder, is now a compositor on the *Review*. Frances has been a thorough student and is now taking a two-years course in Pratt's Normal Institute, of Brooklyn, N. Y., devoting her time and attention to art work with a view to teaching the same. She is a popular young lady in the circles of society in which she moves, and has many friends throughout this community.

During their residence in Braeeville, Ohio, in 1870, Mrs. Grimes began reading medicine with her husband. In 1873 she entered the Woman's Medical College of Philadelphia, from which she was graduated in March, 1876, after pursuing a three-years course, with the degree of M. D. She at once began practice with her husband in Braeeville, and was the first lady physician in her old home. On the 30th of June, 1879, they arrived in Decatur. At that time Dr. Scargent was the only lady physician in the city. She warmly welcomed Mrs. Grimes, who from the beginning had a fine practice, which has constantly increased. She makes a specialty of the diseases of women and children, and in her practice has met with excellent success. She is entirely devoted to her profession, of which she has been a close student, and always keeps well informed concerning the theories and discoveries connected with the science of medicine. In professional and social life she is highly esteemed, being a lady of many excellencies of character.



**J**AMES M. BIDDLE, City Marshal of Maroa, and a widely known and popular man, was born in Fleming County, Ky., November 17, 1847. His parents, Stephen and Elizabeth (Shoekey) Biddle, were also natives of the same State, and the father was a farmer by occupation. In 1863, he came to Illinois, locating eight miles southwest of Maroa, where he bought eighty acres of land and carried on farming until

1879, when he went to live with his son Alfred, in whose home he died July 12, 1880, at the age of sixty-seven. He married Miss Shoekey, and they became parents of seven children: John P., of Montgomery County, Ind.; Nancy, wife of Jesse Fisher, of Decatur; William H., of Montgomery County, Ind.; Jerome H., of Remington, Ind.; James, of this sketch; Alfred R., of Storm Lake, Iowa; and Mollie, wife of J. E. Clemens, of Storm Lake. The mother of this family died, and Mr. Biddle married Mrs. Eveline Ross, who was the mother of two children, Elizabeth and Luey. After her death he wedded Mrs. Duvall, widow of Edward Duvall, and a daughter of William Preece. By her first marriage she had two sons, William and Richard, and by her second union she had one child, Napoleon P., of Indian Territory.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Stephen Biddle, was born on the eastern coast of Maryland. He was a farmer, who reared a large family, and died at the great age of ninety-two. The maternal grandfather, James M. Shoekey, was born in Kentucky, and was of Dutch descent. Just after the war he came to Macon County, and followed farming in Maroa Township. He then removed to Tundridge Township, De Witt County, where he bought a home, and spent the remainder of his days, dying in 1869, at the age of seventy-six.

The gentleman whose name heads this record was a youth of sixteen years when with his father he came to Illinois. His education was acquired in the county of his nativity. He was reared to farm life and followed that vocation until 1883, since which time he has made his home in Maroa. He has been twice married. In 1869 he married Clara M., daughter of W. H. and Eliza (Stephenson) Hill. By their union was born a daughter, Anna C. The mother was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and a most estimable lady. She departed this life February 28, 1870. On the 22d of October, 1872, Mr. Biddle married Miss Mattie D. Cord, daughter of Sidney and Margaret (Dye) Cord, natives of Fleming County, Ky. They have two children, Sudie A. and William R. The daughter Anna is now the wife of Louis A. Mills, of Decatur.

Since living in Maroa, Mr. Biddle has followed

various occupations, and for four years he has served as Marshal, proving a capable and efficient officer. He is also County and City Constable and is now serving his second four-years term with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his constituents. In politics, he is a stalwart Republican, and, socially, is a member of Maroa Lodge No. 454, A. F. & A. M.; Maroa Chapter No. 192, R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T., of Decatur. Himself and wife are members of the Christian Church, and in the community where they reside have the warm regard of a large circle of friends and acquaintances.



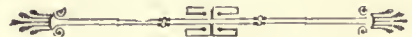
**D**A. BARRACKMAN, manager of the Decatur Shaft Support Company, whose business promises to become one of the leading industries of this city, is a native of Indiana. He was born in Worthington, Greene County, on the 27th of March, 1849, and is a representative of one of the pioneer families of that locality, his father, C. J. Barrackman, being one of the founders of the town of Worthington. On leaving the Hoosier State in 1860, he came to Macon County, and for a time engaged in merchandising in Decatur, and was the owner of considerable real estate in and near the city. His death here occurred about 1887.

The subject of this sketch spent the first eleven years of his life in the State of his nativity, and then came to Illinois, where his education was acquired in the public schools. When a young man he worked in the clothing store of his father, and later became a traveling salesman for a tobacco house. Subsequently he was made manager of the northwestern department of the Union Tobacco Works, of Louisville, and was thus employed until about four years ago, when he decided to leave the road. He proved an expert salesman and occupied a good position in that line.

On the 9th of October, 1880, Mr. Barrackman

was joined in marriage with Miss M. L. Andrews, the youngest daughter of W. C. Andrews, of Worthington, Ind. Her father was also one of the early settlers of that place, and aided greatly in its upbuilding. The union of our subject and his wife has been blessed with two interesting children, Marion A. and Josephine.

In his political views Mr. Barrackman is a stalwart Democrat and an inflexible supporter of the principles of that party. Socially, he is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge of Worthington, Ind. On his return to Decatur he embarked in the real-estate business, continuing in that line until, having invented the Star Coil Spring Shaft Support and Anti-Rattler, and secured the patents upon it, he began its extensive manufacture. A company was formed, including some large capitalists of Decatur, and the business has been pushed to its utmost. Many testimonials have been received stating that this shaft support is the finest invention of the kind. Many have said that they would not do without it for several times its price. The business has rapidly increased, and the support already has a large sale. Ample facilities have been made for its manufacture and the trade is constantly increasing. It will be seen that Mr. Barrackman is a man of considerable inventive genius, as well as good business ability. He is recognized as one of the valued citizens of Decatur, and his honorable, upright life has gained him the confidence and esteem of all with whom he has been brought in contact.



**A**NDREW F. McDONALD, who devotes his energies to agricultural pursuits and makes his home on section 4, Mt. Zion Township, is a native of this State. He was born in Winchester, Scott County, March 27, 1854, but has been a resident of Macon County since 1858, at which time the family removed hither. His paternal grandfather was a native of Scotland, who, having emigrated to America, was drowned in the



Little Miami River, in Ohio. His son John, father of our subject, and one brother were left alone in the world. The former was born in Philadelphia in 1812. When the gold excitement in California broke out his brother went to the mines, thus leaving John entirely alone.

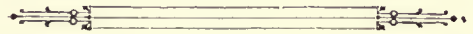
Anxious to accomplish something in life and become a useful member of society, Mr. McDonald learned the miller's trade, at which he worked for many years, becoming an expert in that line. In 1852, he removed to Scott County, Ill., and in 1858 to Macon County. In 1859, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of prairie land in Long Creek Township, and carried on farming for a year, after which he returned to Decatur, where he resumed milling. A year afterwards, however, he again went to the farm, where he remained until the breaking out of the late war, when he enlisted as a member of the One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry. In the battle of Shiloh he was wounded, and from the effects he never fully recovered. His death occurred in March, 1880.

In December, 1845, John McDonald was united in marriage with Miss Nancy L. Sisson, of West Virginia, who was born in Washington County, Pa., March 12, 1828. Six children graced this union: Edward S., a leading lawyer of Decatur; R. F., a farmer of Long Creek Township; Andrew, twin brother of R. F.; Alice, wife of Ira R. Baird, who is living in Prairie Home, Ill.; John, who resides on the old homestead; George, a resident of Long Creek Township; and Sherry, who died at the age of two years.

Andrew F. McDonald has spent nearly his entire life in this county, and has been prominently identified with its farming interests. He aided his father in the mill and on the farm until twenty-one years of age, when he started out to make his own livelihood. As a companion and helpmate on life's journey he chose Miss Frances L. Davidson, a daughter of S. S. Davidson, an old and highly respected citizen of Mt. Zion Township, now living in Decatur. Their union was celebrated April 15, 1880, and has been blessed with two children, John A. and Andrew Fay.

Mr. McDonald is now the owner of a good farm of eighty acres, situated on section 4, Mt.

Zion Township. Upon the place is a pleasant residence, good barns and outbuildings, and all the necessary improvements and conveniences. The fields are under a high state of cultivation and yield a golden tribute in return for the care and labor bestowed upon them by the owner, who is regarded as one of the enterprising and representative agriculturists of the community. He is a highly respected citizen and manifests a commendable interest in everything that pertains to the welfare of the community in which he makes his home. He has lived a quiet, unpretentious life, and thereby has gained universal confidence.



PETER R. GROUND, who carries on general farming on section 12, Mt. Zion Township, claims North Carolina as the State of his nativity, his birth having there occurred in September, 1828. His father, Henry Ground, was born in the same State, and the mother, whose maiden name was Mary Isenheimer, was also a native of North Carolina. In 1840, they left their old home and removed to Indiana, where they resided until called to their final rest. They had a family of twelve children. Levi and Franklin died while young and were buried in North Carolina; Andrew resides in Missouri; Alexander died and was buried in Owen County, Ind.; Miles, a soldier of the Mexican War, died in Tennessee; Logan resides in Greene County, Ind.; Peter R. is the next younger; Rebecca is the wife of Thomas Stevens, who is living in Brown County, Ind.; Mary is the wife of James Wampole, of Greene County, Ind.; Elizabeth is the wife of Samuel Parks, a resident of Monroe County, Ind.; and Lena is the wife of William Hendricks, also of Monroe County.

Under the parental roof our subject spent the days of his childhood. He started out in life for himself on attaining his majority and has since been dependent upon his own resources. He first emigrated to Greene County, Ill., where he re-



mained six months, and then removed to Cass County, where he resided for about four years. On the expiration of that period he came to Macon County, and since 1861 has resided in Mt. Zion Township, where he has carried on agricultural pursuits.

In 1855, in Cass County, Ill., Mr. Ground was married to Miss Margaret Frasill, by whom he had two children: Lurana, wife of L. Baker, who now resides in Arkansas; and one who died in infancy. The mother died in February, 1859, and her remains were interred in Mt. Zion Cemetery. In February, 1860, Mr. Ground was again married, his second union being with Miss Angeline Jones, a daughter of Claybourn Jones, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Four children have been born of their union: Minnie, now the wife of George McCool, who resides near Argenta; Harry, at home; Robert, who is living in Argenta; and Ella, who is still under the parental roof. In 1874, Mr. Ground was again called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 5th of December, and was laid to rest in Long Creek Cemetery. On the 17th of January, 1882, he married Mrs. Maria Bradley, who came to Illinois in 1864, and was the widow of Samuel Bradley, to whom she was married at nineteen. She had had five children by her first marriage: Quincy, a traveling salesman of Peoria; Henry, who died at seventeen years of age; Martha, in Decatur; Maggie, Mrs. Leslie Beldon, of Mt. Zion; and Samuel, who died at two years of age. Their union has been blessed with three children, Annie, Rufus C. and Homer V., all at home.

When he left home to make his own way in the world, Mr. Ground had only \$8 in money, but he possessed a young man's bright hope of the future and a determination to succeed. In consequence, with the energy and industry which are numbered among his chief characteristics, he has worked his way upward and is now numbered among the leading and substantial agriculturists of the county. He has gained a competency for his declining years, being now the owner of a splendid farm of four hundred and thirty-six acres, all under a high state of cultivation and supplied with good buildings. In social circles the family holds an

enviable position; their pleasant and attractive home is the abode of hospitality, and their many friends are always sure of receiving there a hearty welcome and cordial greeting. Mr. and Mrs. Ground are faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and, in politics, he is a supporter of the Democratic party.



JASPER J. PEDDECORD, one of the prominent and influential citizens of Decatur, is a member of the banking firm of Peddecord & Burrows, also President of the Decatur Furniture Company. The subject of this sketch was born near Rockville, Montgomery County, Md., on the 8th of November, 1815, and comes of old families of that State. His parents, Allen B. and Catherine (Willett) Peddecord, were both natives of Maryland, and were of Scotch descent. By occupation, Allen B. Peddecord was a farmer. He lost his wife in 1815, he surviving her many years, and died in 1868, at the advanced age of seventy-eight, leaving three children: Rebecca, Ninian, and Jasper, our subject, who is the only living representative of the family.

Jasper remained on the home farm in the county of his birth until he was fifteen years of age, acquiring such education as was afforded in the country schools of that day, supplemented by study in the Rockville Academy, after which he secured a position as mercantile salesman in Washington, D. C. There he remained five years, going from there to Vicksburg, Miss., where he again found employment in a mercantile establishment, and remained two years, after which (in 1838) he came to Decatur, Ill., where he has continuously resided, and where the trials and struggles in a new country actually began.

Our subject entered one hundred and sixty acres of land northwest of Decatur, and soon afterward formed a co-partnership with Henry Prather, and carried on general merchandising for

fifteen years, including various flatboat trips to New Orleans, loaded with pork, flour, corn, etc., to exchange for cash or other commodities, requiring nearly three months to make a round trip. Their first place of business was a log cabin on the northwest corner of the old square, where the Long Hotel now stands, and his name is inseparably connected with the history of Decatur and Macon County. Having witnessed the erection of every house now standing in the city of Decatur, he is indeed one of the honored pioneers.

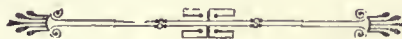
In 1849, Mr. Prather retired from the business, and went to California, Mr. Peddecord purchasing his interest in the business. He afterward admitted to partnership Hosea J. Armstrong, who continued with him two years, when he too went to California, and Mr. Peddecord was once more alone. In 1852 his third and still existing partnership was formed with Lowber Burrows, and they soon after established a banking business, which they have since continued.

On the 30th of July, 1842, Mr. Peddecord was united in marriage with Mrs. Adamson, widow of John S. Adamson, daughter of Jacob and Isabella (Watson) Oglesby, and sister of ex-Governor Oglesby. Five children have been born to their union, namely: Woodford W., Isabella, Emeline W., Richard G. and Valette O., all of whom are living.

The Decatur Furniture Company, of which Mr. Peddecord is now President, was established about thirty years ago, and was incorporated under the general laws of Illinois in 1881. In 1890 the plant was destroyed by fire, but was immediately rebuilt on a more extensive plan, and fully equipped with all modern wood-working machinery, and to-day will compare favorably with any of the modern factories.

In politics, our subject has been from youth a Jackson Democrat, and continued to act with that

party until the breaking out of the Rebellion, when he promptly took the side of the Union, and has been closely allied with the Republican party ever since. While not an office-seeker, he has twice been honored with the office of Mayor of the city and other public positions. He, however, takes an active interest in political affairs, and his commodious house, No. 226 North Franklin Street, has long been headquarters for visiting statesmen from this and other States. Socially, he is a member of Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M.; and is one of the charter members of Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M. He and his wife hold membership with Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, in which Mr. Peddecord is one of the Trustees.



**C**OL. JAMES W. THORNHILL, a well-known and popular citizen of Harristown Township, is a farmer and auctioneer. A native of Kentucky, he was born in Grant County July 19, 1824, and is a son of Reuben Thornhill, who was born and reared in Virginia. When a young man of eighteen he went to Kentucky, and was there married to Sally Musleman, who was also born in the Old Dominion. Upon a farm in the State of his adoption, Mr. Thornhill reared his family and spent his entire life, dying at the age of seventy-four years.

The educational privileges of our subject were quite limited. He remained with his parents until after their deaths, and then purchased the old home farm, which he operated until 1857. In that year he sold out and removed to Butler County, Ohio. In Hamilton he purchased an hotel, which he carried on until 1865, when he disposed of that property and emigrated Westward. Locating in Blue



Mound Township, Macon County, the Colonel rented land and engaged in farming. The farm upon which he now resides was purchased in 1886. Since locating thereon he has made many excellent improvements, which add greatly to the value and attractive appearance of the place. When a young man of eighteen years he began crying sales, and throughout his entire life has served as an auctioneer. He is now considered one of the best auctioneers in Macon County.

Mr. Thornhill was married in Ohio, November 6, 1856, the lady of his choice being Martha E. Lewis, a native of Butler County, Ohio, and a daughter of James Lewis, one of the early settlers of that county. Her grandfather, Andrew Lewis, was one of the pioneers of the State. When he went to Ohio an old fort stood on the site of Cincinnati, and when he went to the neighborhood where he settled he made his way by blazing trees. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Thornhill were born seven children. Edward is married and follows farming; David O. is married and is a resident farmer of Illini Township; Clyde W. aids in the operation of the home farm. They lost four children: Josie, who died at the age of eighteen; May Belle, at the age of fifteen; Minnie, at the age of nineteen; and Maria, when three years of age.

Col. Thornhill was a member of the State militia in Kentucky. He cast his first Presidential vote in Covington, Ky., supporting Henry Clay, and since that time has been an advocate of the Democracy. Himself and wife are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and are people whose many excellencies of character have gained for them high regard. The Colonel is a pleasant, genial gentleman, and through his service as auctioneer he has formed a wide acquaintance.

**J**OHAN CROCKER, of Maroa, is a native of Illinois. He was born near Vandalia August 2, 1857, and is a son of John H. and Louise V. (Philbrook) Crocker, the former a native of New Hampshire, and the latter of Ohio. The record of his parents is given elsewhere in this volume.

During the war, when he was only four years old, his parents removed to Bird's Point, Mo., and in 1865 came to this place, where he was reared to manhood, acquiring a good education in the public schools. He was also a student for a year in Illinois College, of Jacksonville, and in Dartmouth College, of New Hampshire. Returning home, he joined his father in business and has since here resided. He and his brother George became partners in the bank in 1879, and were associated with their father until his death, since which time George has lived in Springfield, where he is engaged in the practice of veterinary surgery. John has continued in the banking and grain business in Maroa, doing a large and constantly increasing business. He was elected Mayor to fill the unexpired term of his father, which certainly was a high testimonial to his popularity and the favor he finds with the people. In politics he is a Republican, and is a member of the Blue Lodge, Chapter and Commandery of the Masonic fraternity.

Mr. Crocker is the owner of a fine drug store, which is managed by James H. Sterling, and he is also interested in the grain elevators in Emery and Pearson, in connection with Thomas Costello, and in the Masonic Building, which is owned by a stock company, of which he is Secretary. He was the prime mover in securing the electric-light plant, one of the finest in the State, and now as the result of his untiring efforts the streets and all the principal business houses are well lighted with arc lights. The Maroa Electric Light Company has been organized and its officers are John Crocker, President; George Conover, Treasurer; and Will Schenck, Secretary.





**The St. Nicholas Hotel.**

The above is a representation of one of the most famous hostelries found within the boundaries of this grand commonwealth. Here the traveler finds rest and comfort, and on the site where the old-style landlord greeted with hearty smile the occasional guest as he alighted from the primitive stage coach or jaded horse, the present popular host, Mr. Charles Laux, meets with open arms the hundreds of commercial men who flock here to participate in the good cheer that each knows awaits him, and sleep in the comfortable beds in airy chambers where every modern convenience is found. For thirty years Mr. Laux has been landlord of the St. Nicholas, and his name is always associated with this renowned hostelry.

In years gone by, "before the war," the Harrell House was the rendezvous for many remarkable men. Here Abraham Lincoln met and joked with other remarkable men, but little less distinguished. In 1865 Mr. Laux remodeled that home and named it the St. Nicholas, which stood till 1891, when the present magnificent edifice was erected at an immense cost, and now stands a monument to his enterprise and ability.

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

**C**HARLES W. THOMAS is engaged in general farming and stock-raising on the old Thomas homestead on section 9, Mt. Zion Township, where his parents located in 1863. He was born in Dayton, Ohio, on the 4th of March, 1855, and in 1857 the family came to the West and settled in Decatur, Macon County. The father of our subject, Milo J. Thomas, was born in Lamoille County, Vt., in 1829, and after having arrived at man's estate was united in marriage with Miss Sarah E. Sandham, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, born in 1835, and a daughter of John and Phoebe Sandham. Their marriage was celebrated in June, 1854, and they became the parents of two children, a son and daughter. The latter, Cora A., is the wife of J. W. Stocks, who resides in Moultrie County, Ill., near Lovington, and the former is the subject of this sketch.

Milo J. Thomas was a brick mason by trade and a building contractor. He worked at that trade before and after coming to Illinois, and was successful in his undertakings. On coming to Macon County, he first located in Decatur, where he remained for about five years, doing business as a contractor, and then in 1863 removed to Mt. Zion Township. In 1872 he settled on his farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 9, and from that time until his death devoted his energies to its cultivation. In the pleasant and attractive home which he erected he spent the remainder of his life. His death occurred on the 14th of March, 1893, and he was laid to rest in Mt. Zion Cemetery. He was a staunch Republican in politics, prominent in local political circles, and held the office of Justice of the Peace for thirteen years in Mt. Zion Township. For many years he belonged to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and was one of its faithful and consistent members. Mrs. Thomas, who belongs to the same church, soon after her husband's death removed to Mt. Zion, where she expects to spend the remainder of her days.

Charles W. Thomas is still living on the old homestead where his boyhood and youth were passed. The place is dear to him from its associations, and he has known no other home since he was a lad of six summers. He is now engaged in

general farming and stock-raising and does a good business along those lines. The well-tilled fields yield to him a golden tribute in return for the care and cultivation he bestows upon them. After attending the common schools, Mr. Thomas completed his education in Lincoln University, and subsequently engaged in teaching. He entered upon that profession on attaining his majority, and for seven years was employed as a teacher in Macon and Moultrie Counties, proving himself an able and successful instructor.

February 27, 1884, Mr. Thomas wedded Miss Lucy Meisenhelder, who was born, reared and educated in Decatur. Their union was blessed with three children, only one of whom is living, Ida, a bright little child of four years, who is the light of her parents' home. Two children died in infancy, Milo and Roy. Our subject, who follows in the political footsteps of his father, and is a stalwart advocate of Republican principles, is now serving as a Justice of the Peace. Himself and wife are members of the United Brethren Church. They have a pleasant home and are surrounded by all the comforts and conveniences that go to make life worth the living.



**B**RYANT NOWLIN, who has long been a resident of Macon County, now resides on his farm on section 27, Long Creek Township. As he is widely and favorably known throughout this community, we feel assured that this record of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers. He was born near Vandalia, in Fayette County, Ill., September 14, 1828, and comes of an old Virginian family. His grandfather, James Nowlin, spent his entire life in Buckingham County, and his father, John Nowlin, was born and reared in the Old Dominion. The latter served in the War of 1812, under Gen. Jackson, and took part in the battles of Mobile and New Orleans. On receiving his discharge, he walked from the Crescent City to his old home in



Virginia. Some years later he removed to Tennessee, locating on the banks of the Cumberland River. At length he came to Bond County, Ill., and then went to Fayette County, where he died October 30, 1847, at the age of sixty-five years. For his services in the Mexican War he received a land warrant for one hundred and sixty acres, which was located by his sons.

In Tennessee Mr. Nowlin married Prudence Ann Blankenship, daughter of Zachariah Blankenship, and a native of Tennessee. Unto them were born nine children: Sarah, deceased; David, who died on the old homestead; Nancy and Mrs. Mary Beck, both deceased; Nathaniel, who entered the army from Arkansas and died in Fayette County, that State; Lurena, deceased; Bryant; John, a soldier of the late war, now living in Missouri; and James, who was in the service for three years. The father of this family took quite an active interest in public affairs and was prominent in local political circles. He held membership with the Close Communion Baptist Church. In an early day he was a great hunter, and was an expert rifle shot, and killed a panther and many deer and wild hogs.

Mr. Nowlin of this sketch was reared to manhood upon the home farm and was educated in the old-time subscription schools, which were held in a log building, with a huge fireplace, in which a back log six feet long could be placed. He remained at home until sixteen years of age, when at his father's death the family was broken up and he began earning his own livelihood. He worked as a farm hand for \$8 per month. Starting for St. Louis with only \$1.05 in his pocket, he walked that distance, and three nights were spent by the roadside. After three years he went to Jacksonville, where he was again employed as a farm hand, and in 1851 returned to Fayette County.

In the following spring Mr. Nowlin was united in marriage with Mary M. Stokes, a native of Fayette County, Ill., and she has proved to him a true helpmate and companion. For two years he operated a rented farm. In the fall of 1854 the Illinois Central Railroad was just completed to Decatur, and, as there were no coaches yet on the line at that time, he made this journey by rail on

a flatcar. He rented a farm in Long Creek Township, and has here since made his home. As the result of his industry and enterprise he was enabled to purchase a farm, and now has two hundred and forty acres of valuable land, which yields to him a golden tribute.

Mr. Nowlin cast his first Presidential vote for Franklin Pierce in 1852, and since that time has voted for Lincoln and Grant, but usually supports the Democratic party. He may truly be called a self-made man, for his possessions have been acquired entirely through his own efforts. He now has a good property and a pleasant home, and has reared a family of children who are all doing well in life. George, the eldest, is now a farmer of Indiana. He was educated in Terre Haute and Decatur, and has engaged in teaching. Frank M. aids in the operation of the home farm; Nettie is under the parental roof; and Stephen A. Douglas, who married Naomi Bradley, also follows farming. The parents and children are leading citizens of the community, and our subject is recognized as a man of sterling worth and strict integrity.



**R**EBEN H. MERIWEATHER, who is widely known throughout Macon County as one of its prominent citizens, is now living on section 30, Long Creek Township, and is numbered among the settlers of 1858. He was born near Baltimore, Md., June 20, 1820, and comes of an early Colonial family. His grandfather, Reuben Meriweather, was one of the heroes of the Revolution, serving in the War for Independence as Colonel, and was one of the executors of Lord Baltimore. His entire life was spent about twenty-three miles from the city of Baltimore, and he became a large land-owner and wealthy man.

Thomas Meriweather, father of our subject, was born and reared on the old homestead and afterward inherited it. He acquired a liberal education for those days, and throughout his entire life en-

gaged in farming. His wife was in her maidenhood Maria Handy, and her father was also a Colonel of the Revolution. Our subject is the only survivor of their family. He had four sisters, but all are now deceased.

No event of special importance occurred during the early boyhood of our subject, which was passed upon his father's farm and in attendance at the common schools, but at the age of eighteen years he entered Kenyon College, from which he was graduated at the age of twenty-two. President Hayes was in the class just before him, and the young men formed a warm friendship in college. Mr. Meriweather continued to make his home in the State of his nativity until 1858, when he emigrated Westward and took up his residence in Decatur. Here he served as Deputy Circuit Clerk under William Hammel for four years, and was appointed Master in Chancery by Judge Emerson, filling that office for ten years with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of all concerned. In the meantime he studied law and for a period engaged in legal practice. In 1875, he was elected and served as Mayor of Decatur. This ended his city life, for in the fall of 1876 he removed to the farm which he has since made his home. It comprises two hundred and twenty acres of rich and arable land, and for the cultivation of it the owner receives abundant harvests.

Mr. Meriweather was married in his native State to Miss Hester A. Austin, a daughter of Dr. John Austin, of Maryland. She was educated in an academy of that State, and their union was celebrated in 1846. Unto them were born three sons and a daughter. John A., who was educated in Decatur, and married Miss Tyler, is now teller in the National Bank, of that city; Herbert is living in Decatur; Mary R. and William are at home.

Mr. Meriweather is a broad-minded man, who reads extensively and thinks deeply. His opinions are the result of earnest meditation; and he is not afraid to defend his views on any subject. He cast his first Presidential vote in 1844 for Henry Clay, and was a Whig until the organization of the Republican party. Earnest and zealous in defense of the Union, he joined that party and has since been one of its staunch supporters. He is firm

in his advocacy of protection, as he believes it to be for the best interests of the majority. As before stated, Mr. Meriweather is well known throughout this community and those with whom he has been brought in contact hold him in high esteem, his public and private life having been alike true.



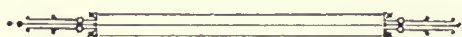
JOSEPH RAY, who carries on general farming and stock-raising on section 6, Whitmore Township, has the honor of being a citizen of this county. He was born on the 7th of October, 1842, in Scott County, Ill., and is of Scotch and Irish descent. His father, Thomas Ray, was a native of Virginia, and was a brother of the author of Ray's Arithmetic, a standard textbook, very widely used in the schools. The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Julia A. Curtis. In the family were thirteen children, nine of whom are now living. In order of birth they are: Alonzo, Joseph, S. C. (a veteran of the late war), Mary, Edward, David, Sarah, Maggie, and Clinton. This family furnished four sons and soldiers of the late war, and the father also wore the blue.

Our subject was born and reared upon a farm, and the public schools afforded him his educational privileges. When a lad of thirteen summers he came with his parents to Macon County, in 1855, the family locating in Friends' Creek Township. There he attained to mature years, his youth being passed in an uneventful manner. In 1861, the family removed to Whitmore Township. Joseph was still at home with his parents at the breaking out of the late war. Prompted by patriotic impulses, he entered the service of his country on the 10th of July, 1861, as a member of Company A, Forty-first Illinois Infantry. He was mustered in at Decatur for a three-years term, and the first active engagement in which he participated was at Ft. Donelson. He was under fire at the battle of Shiloh, participated in the siege of Corinth, the battles of Hatchie's River, Cold Water, the siege of Vicksburg and the battle of Jackson. He served



all through the Meridan campaign, the Georgia campaign, went with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea, took part in the siege of Savannah, the Carolina campaign, was at the surrender of Gen. Johnson, and participated in the Grand Review at Washington. He re-enlisted in the same company December 10, 1863, after the siege of Vicksburg, was made Sergeant, and was mustered out as Second Lieutenant, October 23, 1865, after more than four years of faithful service, during which time he was never off duty for a single day.

After receiving his discharge, Mr. Ray returned to Macon County, and in 1867 purchased a farm of eighty acres on which he now resides, since which time he has devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits and the raising of stock. In politics he is a Republican and has been honored with several local offices of trust. He served as Collector for four years, and was one of the Commissioners who had charge of the drainage ditch of Hickory Point, Whitmore and Friends' Creek Townships. He takes considerable interest in civic societies, is a member of the Masonic fraternity, the Uniformed Rank of the Knights of Pythias, the Odd Fellows' lodge, and the Grand Army of the Republic.



**T**HOMAS J. DRAPER, a highly esteemed farmer residing on section 15, Mt. Zion Township, is living in the neighborhood of his birthplace, for he was born in this township, March 3, 1855. His father, John A. Draper, was one of the first white children born in Macon County, the year of his birth being 1828. Prominent among the pioneer settlers was our subject's grandfather, who came from Virginia in 1825, locating here when Macon County was almost an unbroken wilderness. He settled on Steven's Creek, where he remained for about a year, after which he bought out an Indian trader, who lived about twelve miles northeast of Decatur. While there he was converted under the preaching of Peter

Wright, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, about 1830 or 1832. He was of Scotch-English descent, and had served in the Black Hawk War. His son, John Draper, was widely and favorably known in this community, where he resided until 1892, when he removed to Douglas County, where he is now living. He crossed the plains to California in 1850 in search of gold. He returned in January, 1853, and was married in the winter of 1854, the lady of his choice being Miss Sarah W. Jones, who was a native of Ohio, and of Scotch-Irish descent, as is also Mr. Draper. Her death occurred in 1888, and her remains were interred in Mt. Zion Cemetery.

The father of our subject chose farming for his life work, and at one time was the owner of a large tract of the best farming land in Macon County. In his family were seven children: Thomas J., whose name heads this sketch; John A., a resident of Iowa; Purnell; Abram Lincoln; Ulysses Grant and Lewis Sherman, who are living in Decatur; and James Ottis, who died and was buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery. Thomas Draper, whose name heads this record, acquired his education in the schools of Macon County, and was reared to agricultural pursuits, having followed that business throughout his entire life. He started out for himself at the age of twenty-one years empty-handed, but he has made the most of his opportunities, and is now a successful agriculturist.

In 1885, Mr. Draper was married to Miss Luella S. Stewart, who was born in Macon County, and died in 1887, her remains being interred in Mt. Zion Cemetery. September 24, 1889, Mr. Draper was again married, his second union being with Miss Mary P. Wonaecott, also a native of this county. Her father, John R. Wonaecott, was one of the brave boys in blue of the late war, and is now deceased. Her mother, Margaret J. Blaney, is still living and makes her home in Mt. Zion.

Socially, Mr. Draper is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He has been identified with the Republican party since becoming a voter and is a staunch advocate of its principles. His wife holds membership with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Their home



is a pleasant one, situated on section 15, Mt. Zion Township, where Mr. Draper operates one hundred and sixty acres of good land. They are pleasant, companionable people, who hold an enviable position in social circles, and their sterling worth and many excellencies of character have gained for them the high regard of a large circle of friends and acquaintances.



**F**REDERICK W. MILLER, a retired farmer who makes his home in Maroa, is of German birth. His parents, Philip and Charlotte Miller, were natives of Prussia. They had three children: Frederick W., Louisa and Henry. Our subject was born June 11, 1832, and when a young lad of nine years was left an orphan by the death of his parents. No money came to him from the estate, and empty-handed he was thus early thrown upon his own resources. When in his tenth year he started for America in company with some friends, who located in Jackson County, Ind., upon a farm, and with whom he remained for about three years. When a youth of fourteen years he removed with the family to St. Charles, Mo., and in that neighborhood lived for fifteen years upon a farm. His entire life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits.

On the 15th of November, 1855, Mr. Miller was united in marriage with Sarah Ann Moekbee, daughter of Tillman and Anna Moekbee, who were natives of Kentucky. Four children graced their union, but Philip, Frederick and William H. are now deceased. The last-named wedded Mamie Swain, and died leaving three children: Hallie, Neta and Walter. Charles A., the only one now living, is a farmer and painter. He married Miss Rose Williams, and lives in Maroa. Mrs. Sarah A. Miller died March 5, 1865, in the faith of the Methodist Church, with which she had held membership from her eighteenth year. Mr. Miller was again married, October 3, 1865, his second union

being with Lydia Margaret, daughter of William and Miriam (Kramer) Stewart, the former a native of Ohio, and the latter of Pennsylvania. Four children were born of the second marriage. Marshall B. died at the age of three years; Anna is next in order; Lucy M. became the wife of William A. Haynes, who was killed in a railroad accident at Monticello, Ill., on Easter Sunday, April 17, 1892, leaving a son, Frederick A. Mrs. Haynes now lives with her father. Benjamin Franklin is the next younger; and Fannie died in infancy.

In 1861 Mr. Miller enlisted in the State militia, and served until 1865. In the spring of that year he came to Macon County, Ill., and located on section 18, Maroa Township, where he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land. To that tract he added until he now owns four hundred acres, which yield to him a golden tribute. He also has fine city property in Decatur and Maroa. Himself and wife are members of the Presbyterian Church. Socially, he is a member of Maroa Lodge No. 454, A. F. & A. M.; and, politically, is a Democrat. We see in Mr. Miller a self-made man, who has had many obstacles and difficulties to overcome and who, though thrown upon his own resources at a very early age, has worked his way steadily upward to a position of affluence. Of his success he may be justly proud.



**B**ENJAMIN M. SMITH, one of the highly respected and worthy citizens of Mt. Zion Township, now living a retired life in the village of Mt. Zion, is a native of Virginia. He was born in Prince William County, February 22, 1816, and his father, Joseph Smith, was born in the same county in 1774. The latter was married, in 1801, to Miss Elizabeth Jameson, who was also a native of Virginia. In 1819 they left their old home and emigrated to Montgomery County, Ky., where they remained until their deaths. The mother passed away in 1842, and the father was called to his final rest in 1851. They became the

parents of the following children: Weeden W., who died in 1842, and lies buried in the family burial-ground in Powell County, Ky.; John B., who died in 1836; James and Sidney, also deceased; Jane, who has been called to the home beyond; Sarah, who died in 1891; and Benjamin, the only surviving member of the family. The father was a soldier in the War of 1812, and won the rank of Captain.

No event of special importance occurred during the childhood and youth of our subject, which were quietly passed under the parental roof. When quite young he manifested an aptitude for his studies and improved his early opportunities for an education. He developed a taste for book-keeping and mathematics, and in 1838, when he started out in life for himself, he was employed as book-keeper in the Red River Iron Works and also in the Caney Iron Works, in Bath County, Ky., remaining with each company for a year.

As a companion and helpmate on life's journey, Mr. Smith chose Miss Frances Stoner, of Kentucky. The lady was born in Madison County, that State, and is a grandniece of Daniel Boone, the famous pioneer and the discoverer of the Mammoth Cave in Kentucky. Her grandfather was engaged in the Indian wars and was associated with Daniel Boone for many years. The union of our subject and his wife was celebrated in 1843, and has been blessed with the following children, namely: Weeden, who resides in Mt. Zion; Mary, who makes her home in Kansas City, Mo.; Minerva, who is living in Joliet, Ill.; Washington, who resides in Decatur, and is now a member of the State Legislature; Annie, who makes her home in Piatt County; and Maria and Jefferson D., who are still living with their parents in Mt. Zion.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith began their domestic life in Montgomery County, Ky., and there remained until 1857, when they emigrated with their family to Illinois, locating in Mt. Zion Township, Macon County, with whose interests and upbuilding their history has since been identified. Mr. Smith here embarked in farming, which he carried on successfully until 1891, when he laid aside the cares of active business life and removed to Mt. Zion, where he is now enjoying a well-earned rest. The

family has a most pleasant and attractive home, situated on an elevated site and surrounded by a grove of beautiful shade trees, which wave their green banners over the well-kept lawn. Mr. Smith was formerly a Royal Arch Mason, and in politics is identified with the Democratic party. His life has been such that he has gained universal confidence. He is a genial, pleasant gentleman, and in consequence has gained many warm friends. Though seventy-seven years old, he is still able to read clearly any message without glasses.

• — — — — ✱ — — — — •

JAMES MADISON GRAY is a well-known lawyer of Decatur, Macon County, and is prominent in political circles. A native of Illinois, he was born in Fayette County, near Vandalia, on the 1st of June, 1862. On the paternal side he comes from an old Tennessee family, and on the maternal side from one of the pioneer families of Kentucky. His grandfather Gray was a native of Tennessee, but, emigrating to Illinois, became one of the earliest settlers of Fayette County. He was a prominent farmer, but lived a quiet, unpretentious life. He reached the allotted three score years and ten, and passed away, mourned by all who knew him.

Richard Gray, the father of our subject, was born in Coles County, Ill., and there resided until 1854, when he removed to Fayette County, where he has since made his home. Throughout his life he has engaged in farming and stock-raising. He has also been an active politician in the Democratic ranks and warmly advocates the principles of that party. His wife was called to the home beyond at the age of forty-seven, in 1887. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and a most estimable lady. She became the mother of six children, as follows: Douglas; James M.; Aliee, wife of Austin W. Miller, of Ramsey, Ill.; Rachel, wife of Benjamin F. Kirk, of Bayle City, Ill.; Nora and Eddie.

Glancing back at the early boyhood of our sub-



jeet, we see that it was passed in the usual manner of farmer lads on his father's farm in Fayette County. He began his education in the district schools of the neighborhood and attended the High School at Ramsey, Ill., for two years, after which he taught school for three years. Later he pursued the scientific course in the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso, and in 1886 was graduated from that institution with the degree of B. S. Having completed his literary education, he again embarked in teaching school, and followed that profession for a period of two years. During that time he entered upon the study of law, having determined to become a member of the legal profession, and in 1890 he was graduated with the degree of LL. B. from the law department of the same school in which he had completed the scientific course. The same year he was admitted to the Bar and, locating in Decatur, he hung out his shingle to the breezes.

Since attaining his majority, Mr. Gray has taken an active part in politics, and is a warm advocate of Democratic principles. He ably served as Chairman of the City Central Committee for two years, was also a member of the County Central Committee and of the Congressional Committee. Mr. Gray is still a young man and in all probability much of his life yet lies before him, but in the few years which have passed since he has reached man's estate, he has given evidence of qualities that will no doubt make his career a successful one. He is ambitious and enterprising, well versed in the law, an able advocate, and has already gained a fair patronage.



**V**OLNEY BARBER, a member of the firm of George W. Jones & Co., dealers in clothing and gents' furnishing goods, is a well-known business man of Decatur, and a prominent citizen of Macon County. He is a native of the Empire State, and was born in the town of Sheldon, Wyoming County, August 8, 1832. His par-

ents were Jarvis and Betsy (Frink) Barber. The former was born in Connecticut, and was descended from one of the early New England families, and the latter was a native of Pennsylvania. They had a family of eight children, of whom Amanda, Homer and Lorette, the three eldest, are deceased; Henry H. is a retired farmer of Marshall, Lyon County, Minn.; Volney is the next younger; Emily is the widow of C. Kennedy, of Marshall County, Minn.; Alta R. is the wife of John Irwin, of Decatur; and one child died in infancy.

In 1843, the family left New York State and, coming West, settled in Lake County, Ill. Mr. Barber of this sketch was born and reared on a farm, and received such educational advantages as the district schools afforded. He became inured to farm labor in his early youth, and assisted his father in the cultivation of the farm until twenty years of age, when he determined to enter upon some other pursuit. On leaving home he secured a position as clerk in a grocery store in Bloomington, this State, where he remained for one year, and then entered a boot and shoe store as clerk, remaining three years.

On the 1st of January, 1857, Mr. Barber opened a boot and shoe store in Decatur, which he carried on successfully for ten years. In 1867, he sold his stock of goods and leased his building for five years, and two years later removed to a farm four miles north of the city. He had purchased this land in 1865, becoming owner of one hundred and sixty acres on section 27, Hickory Point Township. It was all wild and unimproved, but he at once began its development and soon the raw prairie was transformed into well-tilled fields. Farming afforded him profitable employment until 1872, when he returned to Decatur, where he again embarked in the boot and shoe business, which he continued for three years, in partnership with J. N. Baker.

In 1875, Mr. Barber returned to his farm, leaving his partner in charge of the store, in which he continued to own an interest until 1889. In 1892, he purchased a half-interest in the business now conducted under the firm name of George W. Jones & Co. This is one of the leading clothing stores of the city. In the spring of 1893, Mr.



Barber sold his beautiful farm of two hundred and forty acres north of Decatur and became a resident of the city. He is still largely interested in real estate, his landed possessions in different States exceeding two thousand acres. In Shelby County, Ill., he has a large stock farm of five hundred and sixty acres, where he is extensively engaged in raising thoroughbred Aberdeen, or Polled-Angus, cattle and draft horses. He also has a very large ranch in Kansas, devoted to breeding and feeding horses and cattle. Mr. Barber is a member of the Orange Belt Land and Canal Company, which has its headquarters at Phoenix, Ariz.

On the 15th of April, 1857, Mr. Barber was united in marriage with Miss Cleora R., daughter of Reuben Rugg. Six sons were born of this union. Arthur R., the eldest, is a farmer of Shelby County, Ill.; Frank H. resides in Grand Rapids, Mich.; Lucius V. carries on his father's ranch in Shelby County; Walter O. is at home; Willie F. B. died at the age of two years; and Albert H., who is Secretary of the Orange Belt Land and Canal Company, resides at Phoenix, Ariz.

For twelve years Mr. Barber was Superintendent of the County Farm, and for three years he held the office of Supervisor of his township. In politics, he has been a Republican since the organization of that party. For about forty years he has been a member of the Masonic order. In his various business enterprises he has achieved success as a result of his industry and business sagacity.



**B**ENJAMIN F. SHIPLEY, who is successfully engaged in the practice of law in Maroa, has for only a short time devoted his energies to this work, but he has the ability and force of character that will win him a foremost place in the ranks of the legal profession, and is a wide-awake and enterprising young man. He was born near Vandalia, in Fayette County, Ill., February 14, 1850, and is one of four children, whose parents were Russell and Martha

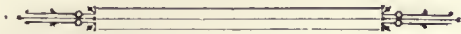
(Greene) Shipley. The former was a native of Kentucky, and his father was born in Maryland. He was a planter, and in slavery days was extensively engaged in raising tobacco. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812. Russell Shipley followed farming in Kentucky and Illinois, and after locating near Vandalia married Miss Greene, a native of this State. The children born of this union were Benjamin F.; Byrd; Luc E., wife of Samuel Spratt, of Greeneville, Ill.; and Lizzie, wife of John Shipley, of Bowling Green, Ky. The father died in 1876, at the age of sixty years, and the mother in February, 1861. They were members of the Methodist Church, but after the death of his wife Mr. Shipley joined the Baptist Church. He was a soldier in the Mexican War.

The early life of our subject was similar to that of any other farmer lad of Illinois in an early day in most particulars, differing mostly as to details. He early learned to plow and plant, and in the winter months attended the district schools. He was afterwards a student in the public schools of Vandalia, and there at the age of twenty-one began reading law. While pursuing his law studies he was elected to the office of County Superintendent of Schools, which position he filled for ten years. In 1886, he came to Maroa, and was elected Principal of the public schools of this place, vacating the office after a seven-years term. Mr. Shipley was a most able instructor. Tact and talent were combined in his work, and his success is shown by his long terms of service.

Our subject has been twice married. He first wedded Dora, daughter of Benjamin F. and Charlotte (Bishop) Lee, of Shobonier, Ill. His wife died in December, 1891, and on the 24th of May, 1893, he married Miss Ada V. Graham, daughter of George and Ellen L. (Shutt) Graham, of Ramsey, Ill. This worthy couple are held in the highest regard by all who know them and have a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

In 1893, Mr. Shipley laid aside educational work and began legal practice, having been admitted to the Bar in Mt. Vernon in 1889. He is the present City Attorney of Maroa, which office he has held since the organization of the city under the general law. He is a member of the Chris-

tian Church, and his wife is a member of the Methodist Church. Socially, he is a member of Maroa Lodge No. 454, A. F. & A. M.; Maroa Chapter No. 192, R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T., of Decatur. He also belongs to Royal Lodge No. 109, K. P.; and Maroa Camp No. 417, M. W. A. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the Democratic party.



**J**OHAN S. KIZER, of Decatur, claims Ohio as the State of his nativity. He was born in Hamilton County, ten miles from Cincinnati, October 17, 1815, and is of German descent. His grandfather, a native German, crossed the Atlantic to Pennsylvania, and in that State Jacob Kizer, the father of our subject, was born. At the age of twelve he went to Tennessee, and lived with a brother until he had attained his majority, when he went to Ohio. He there met and married Rhoda, daughter of Benjamin Stites, who laid out Columbia. She was a native of New Jersey, and was of English descent. They were married in 1807, and settled on a farm which Mr. Kizer operated in connection with blacksmithing. In 1821, he removed to Shelby County, Ohio, where he bought land and cleared a timbered tract. The year 1835 witnessed his arrival in Illinois after a journey of thirty-three days. The father died in Mechanicsburgh in 1845, at the age of fifty-seven years, after which the family scattered and the mother lived with her children. She died in Long Creek Township in October, 1875, at the age of eighty-five. Mr. Kizer was a zealous member of the Methodist Church, and served as Class-leader and Steward for thirty years. In politics he was a Democrat. Of the twelve children, eleven grew to manhood and womanhood, and five are still living, namely: John; Mary Ann, widow of John Stickel, of Long Creek; William B., of Texarkana, Tex.; Mrs. Rhoda Brown, of Arkansas; and Jacob R., of Missouri.

Our subject was a lad of only six summers when

the family removed to Shelby County, where he was reared to manhood amid the wild scenes of frontier life. His education was acquired in the old-time log schoolhouse, with its slab seats, huge fireplace and other primitive furniture. On attaining to man's estate he began to earn his own livelihood. In 1837 he bought a team and went to Galena, where he worked in the lead mines for two years, and then engaged in cabinet-making and carpentering. The year 1846 witnessed his arrival in Macon County. Locating in Long Creek Township, he there made his home until 1857.

Mr. Kizer was married in 1845, in that township, to Miss Lydia, daughter of Joseph Davis. She was born in Kentucky, and was brought to Macon County when one year old. Eight children have been born unto them, namely: Mrs. Sarah Worthem, of Hammond, Ill.; Thomas J., a grain buyer of Hammond; Louisa Luella, at home; William R., a jeweler of Mattoon; John Henry, a farmer of Long Creek Township; Clara J., at home; Marvin D., a merchant of Long Creek; and Flora Belle, who is living in Tuscola, Ill. Mr. Kizer has provided his children with good educational advantages and thus fitted them for the practical duties of life.

In 1857 our subject went to Missouri, but when the war broke out was forced to leave. He was engaged in merchandising in company with his brother, W. B., and they lost nearly \$9,000. Returning to Illinois, he located on a farm in Long Creek Township, purchasing eighty acres of arable land and forty acres of timber on section 27. To the cultivation and improvement of his farm he assiduously devoted his energies until about 1887; when he came to Decatur, where he has since lived a retired life, enjoying the rest which he has so truly earned and richly deserves. For many years himself and wife have been prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, have taken an active part in benevolent and charitable work, and Mr. Kizer has served as Class-leader. His fellow-townsmen have called upon him to serve in several public positions. He has filled the office of Assessor, was Supervisor for two terms, Justice of the Peace for thirteen years, and School Treasurer for twenty-one consecutive years. In poli-



ties he was long a supporter of the Democracy, but now votes with the Prohibition party. The cause of temperance finds in him a warm friend, and every enterprise calculated to prove of public benefit receives his support.



JAMES DURNING, who after years of toil and labor is now living a retired life at his present home in Mt. Zion, deserves representation in this volume, for he is one of the highly respected citizens of the community. His life record is as follows: He was born June 20, 1828, in Caldwell County, Ky., and is a son of John and Jane (Maxwell) Durning, the former born in Venango County, Pa., in 1802, and the latter in Caldwell County, Ky., in 1805. Her death occurred in the county of her nativity in 1850, but Mr. Durning died in Kansas in 1880, and was buried in Humboldt, Kan. The family of this worthy couple numbered eight children: Alexander, whose death occurred in Kentucky; William, who died in Hancock County, Ky.; James, of this sketch; Zekiel K., who died and was buried in Salem Church Cemetery, of Macon County; Edward N., who resides in this county; Elizabeth, wife of John Kincaid, who is living in Daviess County, Ky.; Catherine, Mrs. Elliott, a resident of Indiana; and Martha, wife of Adam Turpie, a resident of Argentine, Wyandotte County, Kan., and who is a brother of United States Senator Turpie.

We see in Mr. Durning a self-made man who started out in life without money or influence, but has worked his way upward from a humble position to one of affluence. He owes his success today to his industrious habits, good management and honesty of purpose. His life work has been farming and stock-raising. He settled in Wheatland Township in 1853, having come to this county with S. K. Smith, of Mt. Zion. After a ten-years residence there he removed to Long Creek

Township, where he remained for two years, and then became a resident of Mt. Zion Township, in which he still makes his home. Since laying aside business cares he has resided in the village, but he still owns his valuable farm of one hundred and forty acres on sections 4 and 5.

On the 20th of September, 1855, Mr. Durning wedded Miss Mary Jane Nicholson, of Garrard County, Ky., who was born August 28, 1830. Her father was a well-known teacher of that county, who made teaching his life work. Two children graced this union: Charles, who married Miss Lutitia Muir, and resides on the old homestead with his wife and three children, Arthur C., Orville R. and Nina May. Stella resides with her parents. Both were educated in Mt. Zion and Prairie Hall.

Mr. Durning has been honored with the office of Road Commissioner for nine consecutive years, which indicates two facts: that his fellow-townsmen repose great trust in him, and that the trust has never been betrayed. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the Republican party. Socially, he is a member of the Masonic Lodge of Mt. Zion, and himself and wife hold membership with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Mr. Durning is numbered among the honored early settlers of the county, and it was he who hauled the first load of lumber to the site of the present town of Macon. He is a man of broad views, is public spirited and progressive, genial and cordial in manner, and he and his estimable wife have many warm friends throughout the community.



JOHN SCOTT, a retired farmer now living in Mt. Zion, is a native of the Hoosier State. He was born in Gibson County, Ind., on the 22d of December, 1821, and is a son of John and Polly (Dodds) Scott. The father was born in South Carolina, and in his youth removed with his parents to Tennessee, where he met and married Miss Dodds. They became the parents of seven children, but James, Betsy and Nancy all



died and were buried in Indiana. Jane was laid to rest in Mt. Zion Cemetery; Jessie is living in Iowa; Frank D. is mentioned on another page of this work; and our subject completes the number. The father of this family was in the War of 1812, serving under Gen. Jackson. He and his wife now sleep side by side in Mt. Zion Cemetery.

Our subject was only seven years of age when he accompanied his parents to Sangamon County, Ill., where the family remained for a year, and then spent one year in McLean County. Since 1835 they have been residents of Macon County. Mr. Scott of this sketch is a self-made man, who has been dependent upon his own efforts since the age of sixteen years. His educational privileges were quite limited. Farming and stock-raising have been his life work, and that he has been successful in his career will be seen from the fact that by his faithful and energetic efforts and the assistance of his wife he has acquired a handsome competency for his declining years. They have a pleasant home in Mt. Zion, where they now reside, and own four hundred and thirty-six acres of fine land, all under a high state of cultivation and improvement, with the exception of a thirty-six-acre tract of timber-land.

On the 22d of March, 1853, Mr. Scott was united in marriage with Miss Mary J. Davidson, whose father was a native of South Carolina, and mother a native of Kentucky. The family came to Illinois in 1829. Four children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Scott, but Martha, a bright and beautiful girl, died at the age of eighteen years, and was laid to rest in Mt. Zion Cemetery, mourned by a large circle of warm friends. Minna died at the age of nine years, and was buried by the side of her sister. Oliver M., who married Miss Nancy Smith, is living in Wheatland Township; and Rhoda is the wife of L. Henry, and is living on the old home farm with her parents near Mt. Zion.

Mr. Scott is a Republican in politics, and has been honored with a number of official positions, the duties of which he has discharged with promptness and fidelity, but he has never been an office-seeker. He has always taken an active interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the com-

munity and its upbuilding. After a well-spent and useful life he is now living retired, enjoying the rest which he has so truly earned and richly deserves. He is numbered among the honored pioneers of the county, and has here made his home for more than half a century, and it is with pleasure that we present to our readers this record of his life.



**T**OBIAS QUICKEL, who for twenty-five years has carried on agricultural pursuits on sections 13 and 18, Long Creek Township, was born in York County, Pa., in 1835. His great-grandfather, John Michael Quickel, was born in Europe in 1721, and crossed the Atlantic in 1769, landing in Baltimore, whence he went to Pennsylvania, where he bought four hundred and eighteen acres of land, the homestead of the family. There his death occurred in 1787. His son, John Quickel, was born in 1762, and became a prominent citizen of York County. He entered land from the Government and gave a portion of this as a site for a church and burying-ground. The old Quickel Church was replaced with a new one some years ago. He also volunteered for the Revolutionary service, raised a company for that war, and valiantly aided in the struggle for independence. He taught school for a number of years and served as Justice of the Peace. He learned the trade of stone-cutting and made a number of the tombstones which still stand in the old cemetery near the homestead. He knew something of medicine, and also had a set of dentist's instruments, but his main pursuit was farming. The community found in him a useful and valued member.

The father of our subject, Michael Quickel, was born August 25, 1794, in York County. He was reared under the parental roof, and hauled stone for the house and barn on the old place. In later life he cared for his father in his declining years. The latter died in 1831, and his wife, who was born in 1763, died in 1830. Michael Quickel followed

farming until his death, in 1846. He married Miss Catherine Krone, daughter of George Krone, who was born in the year 1763 and died in 1817. His wife was born in 1775, and died in 1852. Mrs. Quickel is still living, at the age of eighty-six years, and makes her home with her youngest daughter in Chambersburgh, Pa. After the death of her first husband, she kept her family together until the children were nearly grown. She was again married, and is now the widow of Samuel Long. The parents of our subject were both members of the Lutheran Church, and the father was a supporter of the Democracy. The children of the family were Gideon, who served three years in the Eighty-seventh Pennsylvania Regiment during the late war and died in the Keystone State; George, who resides near the old home; Mrs. Anna Meisenhelter, of Pennsylvania; and Mrs. Leah Rice, of Chambersburgh.

Tobias Quickel is a self-made man, whose career is well worthy of emulation. His privileges were quite limited, but he made the most of his advantages. There were no free schools near his home until after he was thirteen, but his father taught him at home, and he attended the subscription schools. At the age of eighteen he began earning his own livelihood, and for one summer worked on a farm, receiving \$8 per month. He then worked in a mill for six months for \$6 per month. The next half-year he received \$8 per month, and for two months was paid \$12 per month. Not satisfied with his education, he re-entered school and as he possessed a natural taste for mathematics, he advanced rapidly in his studies. He learned surveying, studied astronomy, algebra and other higher branches, and then engaged in teaching and successfully followed that profession for some time. In 1864 he came West on a prospecting tour, visiting Iowa and Illinois, and attended the State Fair in Decatur.

In 1867, Mr. Quickel was married to Miss Mary Reeser, a native of York County, Pa., and with his bride started at once for Macon County, where he has since made his home. His wife died here, leaving a three-year-old daughter, Catherine E., now the wife of Milton Reisinger, a farmer of this community. She was reared by her grandparents

in York County, Pa. For his second wife, our subject chose Elizabeth A. Hursh, of Cumberland County, Pa. Her father died when his children were small, and the family was then scattered. She has one brother living in Massachusetts, one in Nebraska, one in Missouri, and one in Kansas; one died in the Keystone State. Mr. and Mrs. Quickel have a son, Oscar H., who is still on the home farm.

When our subject came to this county he bought eighty acres of improved land, but to this he has added from time to time, until he now has an extensive farm, where he successfully carries on agricultural pursuits and stock-raising. The place is under a high state of cultivation and well improved. The house is a commodious and fine residence, around which he has planted many beautiful shade trees, and the place is one of the most desirable country homes in eastern Illinois. Mr. Quickel has led a busy and useful life, yet has found time to devote to public interests. Education has ever found in him a friend, and all worthy enterprises receive his support. Himself and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Long Creek. He cast his first Presidential vote for Buchanan in 1856, and has since been a Democrat. By careful attention to the details of his business, by enterprise and perseverance he has acquired a comfortable competence and is now numbered among Macon County's substantial citizens.



**S**AMUEL HEFT, who carries on general farming on section 17, Austin Township, is one of the worthy citizens that Ohio has furnished this community. He was born in Fairfield County August 21, 1828, and is a son of David Heft, a native of Virginia, who in early boyhood went with his parents to the Buckeye State, where he was reared to manhood and married Miss Sarah Smith, a native of Ohio. Seven children were born of the union of this worthy couple: Ezra, who died in Memphis, Tenn., in the



service of his country during the late war; Samuel, whose name heads this sketch; Emanuel, who is living in Nebraska; Mary, wife of John Hurd, a resident of Council Bluffs, Iowa; Peter, of Pottawattamie County, Iowa; Joshua, of Council Bluffs, Iowa; and Sarah Jane, wife of Benjamin Hurd, who is living near Council Bluffs, Iowa. The father of this family died in Hocking County, Ohio, in 1845, and the mother spent her last days in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, where the family had settled in 1855.

The subject of this sketch spent his childhood upon his father's farm, and in the winter season attended the district schools, while in the summer months he aided in the labors of the field. Having attained to mature years, he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Davis, of Shelby County, Ohio. Their union was celebrated April 10, 1853, and has been blessed with a family of eight children, as follows: William W.; Foster, at home; Scott; John A., of Phelps County, Neb.; Oma; Annie; Stella and Clara. Oma, Annie and Clara are still living with their father. The mother was called to the home beyond January 27, 1877, and her remains were interred in Emery Cemetery.

Our subject settled in Illinois in 1856, and except for one year, has lived in the State ever since. The home farm, upon which he settled in 1870, is situated on section 17, Austin Township, and comprises one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land, which yields a golden tribute for the care and labor bestowed upon it. There are good buildings upon the place, and it is well improved in every way. Mr. Heft has always followed agricultural pursuits. At the age of sixteen years, on his father's death, he was left to look after the family, and his labor and work all went for their aid until he had become a young man of twenty-five years. He then left home empty-handed, but by a determined will, good management and perseverance he has worked his way upward to a position of affluence. Certainly his success is well deserved, being the just reward of a well-spent, useful and unselfish life. Mr. Heft has always faithfully discharged his duties of citizenship, but has never had time or inclination for office-seeking. He votes with the Republican party, with which he

has been identified since its organization, his first vote being cast for Gen. Scott in 1852. He is an honest, upright man, who has the respect and goodwill of all who know him, and in his declining years he is taking life easy in his pleasant and attractive home.



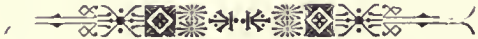
**W**ILLIAM C. BRELSFORD, a farmer residing on section 14, Austin Township, claims Ohio as the State of his nativity. He was born in Butler County March 22, 1833, and is one of seven children whose parents were Benjamin and Jane (Van Cleve) Brelsford. The father was born near Reading, Pa., in 1776, and when a young lad removed with his parents to Cincinnati, when one log cabin marked the site of that great commercial city. The children of the family were Catherine, Sarah Jane, Martha, Ann Maria, Benjamin V., Absalom D. and William C.

Our subject started out in life for himself in 1850, when he was seventeen years of age. He had had little opportunity for securing an education, and had no capital to aid him in life's struggles, but nevertheless he has prospered. On the 15th of October, 1855, he chose as a companion and helpmate on life's journey Miss Susan E. A. Detro, of Butler County, Ohio. Their union was blessed with the following children: Benjamin C., William H., Eliza Jane, Sarah M., Eugene, Pierson, Lydia Ellen and Harry. Pierson and Harry are still at home. On the 15th of September, 1876, Mrs. Brelsford died and was laid to rest in Central Ridge Cemetery, in Maroa Township. April 9, 1878, our subject was again married, his second union being with Miss Ella Bost, a resident of Edgar County, Ill.

Throughout his entire life Mr. Brelsford has followed the occupation to which he was reared. When he began to earn his own livelihood he worked by the month for several years as a farm hand, receiving from \$10 to \$15 per month in compensation for his services. He had many hard-



ships and difficulties to meet in those early days, and many obstacles to overcome, but with determined effort and willing, honest hands he worked his way slowly but steadily upward to success, and now in his declining years he can look back over the days that were spent in hard toil and see that by his industry and steadfastness of purpose he has won for himself and family a comfortable competence, which in his declining years will enable him to live a retired life. He can look out over beautiful fields of waving grain, comprising four hundred acres of rich farming land, and know it is his own. He may well be proud of the success that has attended his efforts, for in all his dealings he has followed an honorable and upright course, and his example is well worthy of emulation. It should also serve to encourage others who like himself have to start out in life with nothing to depend on but their own exertions. Success is not the result of talent and genius, it is the reward of labor. In his political affiliations, Mr. Brelsford is a Democrat, but has never been an aspirant for public office. In the community where he resides he has the confidence and high regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact.



**J**AMES H. ALEXANDER, one of the early settlers of Macon County, has resided upon his present farm on section 31, Whitmore Township, for almost forty years, or during his entire residence in this community. In the days which have come and gone since he located in this community, he has aided in the development of the county, and has borne his part in its upbuilding and progress; hence his name deserves enrollment with the honored pioneers.

Mr. Alexander was born near Franklin, in Johnson County, Ind., on the 29th of October, 1831, and is a son of James R. and Rebecca (Gay) Alexander. His father was a native of North Carolina and was of Irish descent. He was born in 1797, and when quite young removed with his parents

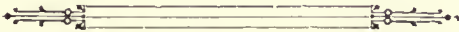
to Tennessee, from where he went to Indiana in 1828, making the journey by team. He located in Johnson County, becoming one of its pioneer settlers. From the Government he secured a tract of land and there engaged in farming until his removal to St. Clair County, Ill., where his death occurred in May, 1847. By occupation he was a farmer, and followed that pursuit throughout his entire life. He held membership with the Presbyterian Church, and in politics was a Democrat. While in Indiana in an early day he served as County Judge. The mother of our subject, who also belonged to the Presbyterian Church, after her husband's death went to Decatur, where she died in November, 1868.

The Alexander family numbered ten children, but the four eldest, Mary, Eliza, Thomas K. and Tilghman H., are now deceased. John H. is living a retired life in California; Emily has also passed away; James is the next younger; Addison J. and William G. are also deceased; and Isabella completes the family.

We now take up the personal history of our subject, who is widely known in Macon County. During his boyhood, he attended school for about three months during the year in a log school-house and even this meagre privilege was no longer afforded him after he had completed his fifteenth year. His father died when he was seventeen years of age, and he then aided in the care of the home farm, remaining with his mother until he was a young man of twenty-three. He continued to make his home in St. Clair County until April, 1854, when he cast in his lot with the early settlers of Macon County. He located upon the farm in Whitmore Township which has since been his home, and which now comprises four hundred and ninety-two acres of land. For years he engaged in its cultivation, and from time to time he erected good buildings and made other substantial improvements upon the place, all of which are monuments to his handiwork.

As a companion and helpmate on life's journey, Mr. Alexander chose Miss Sarah A. Griffen, a native of Illinois, and a daughter of Joseph and Mrs. Mary Foulke (Shepherd) Griffen. The marriage ceremony was performed October 17, 1860, and by

their union have been born three children: Joseph, a musician, who is now traveling with the Andrews Opera Company; Edgar, a business man of Decatur; and Ottie, wife of William Hayes, who with her husband resides on the old homestead with our subject, and he operates the farm. The mother of this family was called to the home beyond January 15, 1893, and her remains were interred in the Decatur Cemetery. Mr. Alexander is now living a retired life, resting in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former labor. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the Republican party, with which he has affiliated since its organization.



**M**MUELLER, is one of Decatur's most prominent and enterprising men. He is at the head of three large industries, and by his business interests he has materially aided in the prosperity and upbuilding of his adopted country. The record of his life is as follows: He was born in the year 1832, in the city of Wertheim, on the Main, in the Grand Duchy of Baden. His education was begun in the common public schools, and on mastering the studies there he attended the gymnasium, or High School. When a youth of fourteen he began learning the locksmith's trade, and after following that business for two years he spent the two succeeding years in learning the machinist's trade in the city of Mannheim, Grand Duchy of Baden. From there he went to another machine shop under instruction.

When he was twenty years of age, Mr. Mueller traveled in Germany (as all mechanics must do under the law of the land), through the Netherlands and Rhinelands, going as far as Rotterdam. Not finding the employment he wished, he determined to seek a home and fortune in America, and, carrying out this resolution, crossed the Atlantic and landed in Chicago in 1851. He had no capital, and being entirely dependent upon his own exertions at once began the search for work.

He secured employment in a machine shop in that city and there remained for four years, after which he went to Freeport, Ill., to establish business for himself as a gunsmith. Two years were there passed, and the year 1857 witnessed his arrival in Decatur, where he again embarked in the gunsmith business.

Attracted by the discovery of gold at Pike's Peak, Mr. Mueller journeyed Westward in 1859, but after a year returned to Decatur and worked at the gunsmithing trade until 1872 when, in connection with that enterprise, he began the manufacture of water-work supplies, such as water-tapping machines and brass goods, and also established a plumbing and heating department. At this time in one house were combined the three enterprises—the manufacture of water-work supplies, plumbing and heating and gun departments, but soon it was found necessary to move the gun department into a separate building. This was done in 1885, and in 1888 the plumbing and heating department was also moved into a separate building. All three businesses are incorporated as separate and independent concerns, and Mr. Mueller is President of each. He manufactures everything in the line of water-work supplies and in first-class style does all kinds of work connected with heating, plumbing and gunsmithing. Mr. Mueller is a man of unbounded enterprise, of fertile resources, possesses great perseverance and industry, and as the result of his own unaided efforts he has achieved the success which places him in the foremost rank among the business men of this thriving city.



**L**EMUEL WIKOFF has been a resident of Illinois since 1854, and has long been identified with the agricultural interests of Macon County, but is now living a retired life in Maroa. He was born in Butler County, Ohio, January 13, 1834. The family is of German origin, and the grandfather of our subject, a New



Jersey farmer, was one of a family closely connected with the Revolution. His father, Samuel Wikoff, was also born in New Jersey, and in an early day emigrated to Ohio. He married Miss Vashti Ireton, and unto them were born five sons: Joseph, Samuel, Ireton, Charles and Jacob, all of whom are deceased, and one daughter, Achsa. For his second wife he chose Ann Henderson, also a native of New Jersey, and they became the parents of seven sons and two daughters: Garrett, August C., Gertrude (deceased, Mrs. John Vale), Jonathan H. (also deceased), Peter, John, Hudson B., Lemuel, and Mary Ann, wife of Hugh Foueh. The father died in Ohio at the age of seventy-nine, and his wife at the age of fifty-four years. He was a Presbyterian and she a Baptist in religious belief.

The subject of this sketch was reared in the usual manner of farmer lads, save that at the age of eleven he was left an orphan, after which he made his home with two of his brothers until he had arrived at man's estate. Hoping to benefit his financial condition thereby, he came to the West in 1854, locating in Sangamon County, where he operated a rented farm for about three years, after which he worked for his brother-in-law in a dairy at Decatur for a few months. He then bought out the business, which he conducted successfully for three years. In 1863 he removed from Decatur to De Witt County, where he followed farming for two years, and then returned to Macon County. Purchasing eighty acres of land in Maroa Township, he devoted his energies to farming during the seven succeeding years of his life, and in the meantime he purchased an additional tract of forty acres and another of eighty acres. He lived upon the latter until January, 1891, when he came to Maroa, where he has since lived retired. When he left the farm he owned five hundred acres of valuable land, highly cultivated. He also owns the good residence in which he now lives.

Mr. Wikoff was married November 27, 1856, Miss Sarah A. Wikoff, a relative, becoming his wife. She was a daughter of Peter and Eliza Wikoff. Their union was blessed with six children: Olive L., wife of Albion Lyman, a farmer of this county, by whom she has four children, Laura,

Charles, Earl and Vera; Richard B.; James E., who married Nettie Denise, and with their daughter, Ethel, reside near Maroa; Charles W., who wedded Revina Bennett, is engaged in the furniture trade and makes his home in Maroa; William A., a farmer residing five and a-half miles southwest of the city, who married Annie Hockaday, by whom he has two children, Bernice and Arville; and Fred O., at home.

Mr. Wikoff is a stalwart supporter of Republican principles. He has served as Road Commissioner for the past nine years and is a member of the City School Board. Every public duty and private trust reposed in him is faithfully performed. Himself and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he is now acting as Trustee, and in the work of its upbuilding and advancement they take an active interest. His toil in former years has brought to Mr. Wikoff a handsome competence, and he can now spend his declining days in the enjoyment of a well-earned rest.



**J**OHN CROCKER, deceased. This work would be far from complete were not adequate mention made of the gentleman whose name heads this record, and who was so inseparably connected with every enterprise intended to build up both the temporal and the spiritual interests of the people among whom his life was spent, and with whose interests his own were so closely interwoven. The Crocker family, of Scotch-Irish descent, dates back to Colonial days, and is one that has exerted no little influence in our country's history. John Crocker is the fourth in descent to bear the name, a peculiar coincidence lying in the fact that it was the only son in each case who was named John.

The family had settled in New Hampshire soon after the founding of that commonwealth, and our subject was born in the old town of Londonderry August 2, 1804. His parents were John and Mar-



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*John Crocker*



*Mary Neal Crocker*



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

garet Crocker, and when but twelve years of age he was left fatherless. As he grew to manhood, he worked his mother's farm in the summer months and taught school during the winter seasons, having, largely through personal effort, received a liberal education for that period. In June, 1828, he married Miss Mary Neal Pillsbury, who came also from a family that was prominent in more ways than one. Her father, Moses C. Pillsbury, was a noted prison reformer, as was also her brother, Hon. Amos Pillsbury. In 1837, Mr. Crocker removed to Boston, where he lived two years, coming thence to Illinois in 1839. After a three-months journey, he located in Jacksonville, in October of that year.

In October, 1854, Mr. Crocker was appointed the first agent of the Illinois Central Railroad at Maroa, and at once entered upon the duties of that position, working for the railway company until 1868. The country being new, he secured from the Government large tracts of land, which increased greatly in value and made him a wealthy man. His wealth was not used wholly for himself, but was placed where others gained by its rise, and many a man can look back to times when Mr. Crocker's ready hand helped him through trying ordeals. Realizing the great needs of the new community, he entered actively into such work as he saw was desired. He was one of the prime movers in securing the Presbyterian Church in 1859, and was its ruling Elder from that time until his death. He contributed largely of his influence, time and means to the upbuilding and advancement not only of the church, but of every enterprise calculated to help the town. The public library of the town was established through his munificence, and he purchased the church bell.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Crocker were enthusiastic workers in every cause tending to advance the people intellectually and morally, and he seemed to have a father's interest in the welfare of every one who cast his lot in Maroa. He organized the first bank of the town, which is still doing business here, although it has undergone some slight changes in name. His mind was clear, and he possessed a keen business sagacity and insight and was looked up to as a counselor and friend by every man who

became connected with any local enterprise. He had four children: John Holbrook, born July 9, 1829; George Farrer, born in February, 1831; Rufus Choate, born August 16, 1834; and Abby Wells, born in September, 1841. His happiness was broken in 1873, when his life adviser and companion was taken away, and in 1879 he passed from earth and joined her in the eternity of love.



JAMES M. EYMAN, who resides on section 33, Illini Township, where he carries on general farming, has long been identified with the history of this county, and his entire life has been passed in Illinois. He was born in St. Clair County August 6, 1830, and comes of one of the oldest families in the State. His grandfather, Abraham Eyman, a native of Virginia, was one of the first white settlers of St. Clair County, and upon the old homestead his son Abraham, the father of our subject, was born January 6, 1803. Having arrived at mature years he married Clarissa McGuire, a native of Pennsylvania, who with her family became one of the pioneers of St. Clair County. It was in 1856 that Abraham Eyman came to Macon County, locating in Harristown Township, where with his sons he opened up a farm. The later years of his life were spent in Harristown, where he lived retired. He was called to his final rest April 20, 1891. His wife survived him one year and passed away May 18, 1892, and both lie buried in Harristown Cemetery, where a marble monument indicates the loving remembrance in which they are held by their children. The family numbered seven sons and three daughters who grew to mature years, of whom three sons and two daughters are yet living.

The subject of this sketch spent the days of his boyhood and youth upon the old homestead in St. Clair County and was early inured to the hardships of frontier life and to the arduous labor of developing wild land, but he thereby gained a self-reliance and force of character which have proved

of incalculable benefit to him in his later years. In 1855, when a young man, he came to this county, and during the first season engaged in breaking prairie. He aided his father in opening up a farm and remained at home until twenty-four years of age, when he developed the farm on which he now resides.

As a companion and helpmate on life's journey Mr. Eyman chose Harriet E. Huff, a native of Tippecanoe County, Ind. Their union was celebrated December 16, 1858, and the young couple began their domestic life upon the farm which Mr. Eyman had begun to improve. Their home was a log cabin and only a few acres were broken, but with characteristic energy he began its development, and in consequence the farm of to-day bears little resemblance to that of thirty years ago. It is conveniently located within three miles of Harristown and comprises one hundred and twenty acres of rich land, upon which are a substantial residence, good outbuildings, an orchard and other accessories. The whole is enclosed with a beautiful hedge fence.

The death of Mrs. Eyman occurred March 25, 1863. One daughter was born of the union, Mary, wife of C. A. Towne, of Decatur, by whom she has three children; two died in childhood, Frank and Albert. December 1, 1865, Mr. Eyman married Miss Nareissa Fuller, a native of Indiana, and a daughter of Joel and Margaret (Lucas) Fuller. They have four children: Ella, wife of Bruce McGregor, a farmer of Harristown Township; Cora, wife of Frank P. Towne, a merchant of Harristown; Lina and Edith, at home.

In politics, Mr. Eyman was originally an old-line Whig and cast his first Presidential vote for Gen. Scott, but in 1856 he joined the Republican party, with which he affiliated until 1892, since which time he has been found in the ranks of the Prohibition party. He is a staunch advocate of temperance principles and gives his support to every enterprise calculated to advance moral interests in the community. Himself and wife are faithful members and active workers in the Christian Church of Harristown, in which he has served as Elder for twenty-five years. Straightforward and honorable in all his dealings, and true to every

trust, both public and private, Mr. Eyman has gained the respect of the entire community in which he has so long made his home, and we feel assured that his many friends will receive with interest this record of his life.



**CAPT. WILLIAM GRASON**, a prominent citizen of Oakley Township and Decatur, for his home lies within the corporation limits of the city, is a native of Ireland. He was born in County Monaghan, December 27, 1832, and in 1835 his father, Robert Grason, brought the family to this country. After living in Cincinnati for a few years he went to St. Louis, then to Peoria and afterward returned to St. Louis, where he engaged in clerking. Subsequently he went to New Orleans, where all trace of him was lost. He married Jane Glenn, who is of Scotch descent, her parents having removed from Scotland to the North of Ireland to escape religious persecutions. The family numbered ten children, but William, Maria and Thomas are the only ones now living. The father was a member of the Presbyterian Church.

Capt. Grason left home at the age of twelve and began working as a farm hand. Four years later, having determined to acquire an education, he went to Scott County, Ill., pursued his studies, mastered the higher grades and studied languages, mathematics and drawing. Later he learned the trade of carpentering and ship-building in Pike County, at which he worked until twenty-two years of age, when, in 1855, he came to Macon County. That year he purchased his present farm, a tract of wild land, upon which he made his home until 1862.

On the 22d of April, 1855, in Scott County, Mr. Grason married Helen E. Burrows, a native of Morgan County, Ill., whose parents came to this State from Vermont. In 1862 Mr. Grason enlisted for the late war and was elected First Sergeant of Company A, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois



Infantry. The regiment was organized at Decatur and formed part of the Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, under Gen. Sherman. He took part in the battle of Tallahoochee, then fell back to Memphis and went to Holly Springs. He took part in the first attack on Vicksburg and the siege of that city, and the battle of Arkansas Post. In the charge on Ft. Hill he was wounded, being shot through the left lung. He was then commanding his company. On account of his injuries he was sent home on a furlough, but as soon as possible went back to the front. He was also in the disastrous charge on the works at Vicksburg May 19, when the company entered with thirty-one men, but only thirteen stacked arms. He was again wounded at Jonesboro, Ala., a spent ball fracturing two ribs and injuring his right lung. Capt. Grason took part in the Atlanta campaign and the march to the sea, and participated in the Grand Review at Washington. He was made First Lieutenant April 28, 1863, and was mustered out as Captain June 7, 1865.

Returning to Scott County, our subject worked at his trade for two years, and has since engaged in the cultivation of his present farm of two hundred acres, but expects soon to lay aside all business cares and live a retired life. In 1891 he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 9th of August. Eight children were born unto them, six yet living: Charles Fremont, a farmer of this county; William Carlton, who wedded Mary Gary and resides on the old homestead, which he has recently purchased; Robert Emmett, a farmer of Crawford County, Iowa; Franklin Glenn, an engineer on the Wabash Railroad; Thomas A., a fireman on the Wabash Road; and Ida Belle, wife of Scott Cook, of Decatur.

Capt. Grason is a Universalist in religious belief, has read extensively and is a deep thinker. He was one of the first Republicans of this township and has been an ardent supporter of the party since casting his first vote for Fremont. He served as Supervisor for four terms, was census enumerator, and was elected to the Thirty-fifth General Assembly, in which he served on the Committees on Public Charities, Roads and Bridges, and Labor. He proved a capable and useful member of

the House, and in all the public offices which he has been called upon to fill he has discharged his duties with a promptness and fidelity that won him high commendation, and he is always true to public and private trusts. The country found in him a faithful defender during the late war and it now recognizes in him a valued citizen.



**H**ON. W. F. CALHOUN is too well known throughout Illinois to need special introduction to the readers of this volume. He has become widely known as one of the enterprising journalists of Macon County, and formed an extensive acquaintance while acting as Speaker of the House of Representatives of Illinois. Prominent in all public circles, he is alike popular in social circles, and few men have more friends and less enemies than our subject.

On the paternal side, our subject is of Scotch descent, and on the maternal side of German lineage. His grandfather, Jacob Kiner, was a soldier in the War of 1812. His father, John M. Calhoun, was born near Blain, Perry County, Pa., and died there in 1858. He followed the trade of a contractor and builder, and carried on a cabinet-maker's shop during the winter, employing a force of men throughout the year. He married Catherine Kiner, also a native of Blain, and at his death left three sons and two daughters: William F. (of this sketch), Winfield Scott, Mrs. Jennie McLaughlin, John Dill and Mrs. Ella Hill. After the death of her first husband, Mrs. Calhoun, in 1867, became the wife of J. B. Terpening, of Geneseo, and by him had one child, Grace.

The life record of our subject is as follows: He was born in Blain, Pa., November 21, 1844, and his first memories are of the Keystone State, where he was reared under the beneficent influences of a good home. After attending the common schools, he was a student in the Mt. Pisgah Academy, of Landisburgh. Lessons of industry were also instilled into his mind, and at the early age of

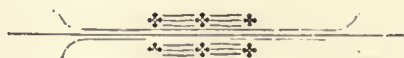
twelve years the enterprising lad began work upon a farm. Having secured a teacher's certificate he taught a school near Blain in 1860 and continued teaching and farming until the time of his enlistment for the late war.

In August, 1862, Mr. Calhoun became a private of Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-third Pennsylvania Infantry, for nine months. He served in the Army of the Potomac, his regiment being connected with the Fifth Army Corps. Under Capt. David Tressler, he participated in the engagements at the second battle of Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, after which the regiment was mustered out, the term of service having expired. Mr. Calhoun re-enlisted in Company K, Twentieth Pennsylvania Cavalry, just after the battle of Gettysburg. He entered the service as a private but was made Sergeant soon after. His company was commanded by Capt. S. E. Gross, now the wealthy and well-known real-estate dealer of Chicago. He did service in the Shenandoah Valley under Gens. Sigel, Hunter and Sheridan, and engaged in the battles of Newmarket, Piedmont, Lexington, Lynnhurst, Liberty, Ashby's Gap, Snicker's Gap, Kernstown, Winchester, Gordonsville, Waynesboro, Five Forks, Saylor's Creek, Appomattox Court House, and many other smaller affairs. At the battle of Piedmont his horse was shot from under him. After that engagement he was promoted to be Orderly Sergeant and served in that capacity until the close of the war, being mustered out in Philadelphia, in August, 1865. He was present at Lee's surrender and participated in the Grand Review at Washington.

After the war, Mr. Calhoun returned to his home in Pennsylvania, and in the fall of 1865 came with his mother, brothers and sisters to Illinois. Under the direction of Dr. Joshua Smith, then of Marseilles, he studied dentistry, and subsequently engaged in the practice of his profession in Seneca, Farmer City and Clinton, Ill. He was very successful in this line of work. While at Seneca, he was married, on the 18th of August, 1869, to Miss Blanche Derthick, of that place, and their union has been blessed with five children: Maude, now a teacher in the public schools of

Decatur; Nellie, an expert stenographer, who was employed by the Republican State Central Committee during the late campaign; Kate, Collier, and Richard.

Mr. and Mrs. Calhoun hold membership with the first Methodist Episcopal Church. He is an active member of Dunham Post No. 141, G. A. R., and in politics is a loyal Republican. In 1883, he was elected from the district comprising Piatt, Champaign and DeWitt Counties to the State Legislature, and served during the Thirty-third, Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth General Assemblies with honor to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. In the session of 1887, he was Speaker of the House, an honor well deserved and ably borne. In 1890 he purchased an interest in the Decatur *Daily and Weekly Republican*, buying out J. R. Mosser. The paper is now conducted under the firm name of Hansher & Calhoun. The daily is a nine-column, four-page paper, and the weekly, which is the oldest newspaper in the county, is a six-column, eight-page paper, and is the organ of the Republican party in Macon County. In the farm work of his boyhood, in the school teaching of early manhood, in the dentistry of his more mature years, in his official life, Mr. Calhoun met with excellent success, and now as one of the editors of the leading Republican paper of Decatur, he is alike successful. It is needless to say that through the columns of this journal he wields an influence for the best interests of the city and its advancement. Faithful to his country in her hour of peril, he is as true in days of peace. His public and private life are alike above reproach, and the able editor of the *Republican* has the confidence and warm regard of all.



**ORATIO M. STREVER**, who is engaged in farming on section 3, Friends' Creek Township, is among the early settlers of the county and is one of the honored veterans of the late war. He served among the boys in blue and



valiantly aided his country in those dark days. He has been alike true in times of peace, and the community recognizes in him a valued citizen. Born near Bryan, in Williams County, Ohio, March 25, 1841, he is a son of Anson and Naomi (Cook) Strever. The family is of German descent. The father was a shoemaker by trade and followed that business for some years. The maternal grandfather was a Revolutionary hero, and Anson Strever was a soldier of the Mexican War. At the breaking out of that struggle, he enlisted in Defiance, Ohio, as a member of Capt. Chase's company, and the same year died from disease contracted in the service. His remains were interred in Mexico. In the family were seven children. John B., who served as a Corporal in Company D, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, during the late war, was captured in July, 1863, and died in Libby Prison in the following October; Samuel C. is a grain and stock buyer of Argenta; Horatio is the next younger; Susan is the wife of George Phillips, of this county; and two children died in infancy.

We now take up the personal history of the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He was reared in the usual manner of farmer lads and at intervals attended the district schools until eighteen years of age, thus acquiring a good practical business education. He came to Macon County with his mother in 1855, the family locating in Friends' Creek Township. He began life for himself when a youth of sixteen and has since been dependent upon his own resources, so that whatever success he has achieved is due entirely to his own efforts. He worked as a farm hand by the month until the breaking out of the war, when, in April, 1861, he enlisted in the State service for three months, spending that time in Springfield.

When that term had expired, Mr. Strever joined the boys in blue of Company A, Forty-first Illinois Infantry, for three years, enlisting July 10, 1861. He was mustered into service at Decatur, and the first active engagement in which he participated was at Ft. Donelson. This was followed by the battles of Shiloh, the siege of Corinth, Cold Water Creek, the siege of Vicksburg, and Jackson, Miss., where he carried the colors. There were

over seventy bullets passed through the flag at the engagement, and of the seven men who carried the Stars and Stripes at Jackson he was the only one who escaped. He afterward participated in the Meridan campaign and the Red River campaign and was mustered out of service as Sergeant. He was very fortunate, in that he was never wounded or taken prisoner. He was always found at his post, faithfully doing his duty, and received an honorable discharge on the 20th of August, 1864.

Mr. Strever at once returned to his home in Macon County, and began farming in Friends' Creek Township, where he has since resided. He was married on the 8th of March, 1866, to Miss Lydia Pettit, and by their union have been born eleven children: Irva, wife of Frank Gray, who is living in Argenta; George, Barney, Alta, Charlie; Samuel, who died in infancy; Maggie; Annie, who died in 1882; Oscar and Otto, twins; and Roland.

The Republican party finds in Mr. Strever a staunch advocate, he being a believer in its principles. He served his township as Assessor for one term, and was School Director for eleven years. Socially, he is connected with the Grand Army, of which he is Past Commander, and, religiously, is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Those who know Mr. Strever esteem him highly, for his upright and honorable life has won him universal confidence.



**C**M. BOARDMAN, who is numbered among the settlers of this county of December, 1854, and who now follows farming on section 34, South Wheatland Township, is a native of Indiana, his birth having occurred in Columbus in 1849. His father, Isaac Smith Boardman, was born in Seneca County, N. Y., September 10, 1804, and when five years old went with his parents, Amos and Sylva Boardman, to Dearborn County, Ind. There he rolled the logs out of the way for the erection of the court house of Columbus, and



helped to build the second court house of that place. After seven years spent in Dearborn County, the family removed to Ripley County, where Isaac reached his majority. He considered himself fortunate if he received one month's schooling a year, but he made the best of his opportunities and acquired a good practical knowledge. Removing to Bartholomew County, Ind., he was employed as clerk in a drug store for a time, afterwards engaged in teaching school, and subsequently worked for his brother-in-law, who was County Clerk.

Mr. Boardman married Margaret Chitty, a lady of excellent personal qualities, and for more than a-quarter of a century they traveled life's journey together. She was born in North Carolina, of German parentage, and became the mother of eleven children, nine yet living. Mr. Boardman held the office of County Clerk and Recorder of Bartholomew County for fourteen years, and afterwards served as Circuit Clerk until his removal to Illinois in 1854. He volunteered for the Mexican War on the first call for troops, and served as Captain of a company. He participated in the battle of Buena Vista, in which he saw Jeff Davis wounded, and was in many skirmishes.

In 1854, Mr. Boardman came to Illinois with ox-teams, and in the spring of 1856 settled on section 27, South Wheatland Township, where his son Thomas now lives. He bought two hundred acres at \$21 per acre, but afterwards increased his possessions until he owned about seven hundred acres. Prosperity crowned his efforts, and he became quite wealthy. He was alive to all the best interests of the county, and served as Supervisor in 1860, 1865, 1867 and 1870. He cast his first Presidential vote for Andrew Jackson in 1828, and was a staunch Democrat until his death, which occurred November 30, 1882.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Boardman were born the following children: James, who died in Bartholomew County, at the age of eight; Eliza, wife of Jacob Sine, of Decatur; Rebecca, widow of Joseph Sine; William, who married Miss McDaniel, and is a farmer of South Wheatland Township; Melissa, wife of Y. P. Jones, a retired farmer of Decatur; Martha, wife of Thomas Jones, an agriculturist of South Wheatland Township; Mary and Thomas,

who live on the old homestead; Buena Vista, who died at the age of fourteen; Charles M., and Edward S., who is married and lives in Oklahoma City, Okla. Thomas Boardman was born in 1844, in Bartholomew County, Ind., and was reared to manhood in Columbus. During his youth he assisted his father in the care of his stock, herding sheep mostly. Throughout his entire life he has followed agricultural pursuits, and still lives on the old homestead, where he and his sister both own seventy-two acres of land. He is a Democrat in politics, and is now serving as School Trustee of his township, but has never been an office-seeker, preferring to devote his time and attention to his business interests.

No event of special importance occurred during the boyhood and youth of C. M. Boardman, who was reared on the old home farm and acquired his education in the public schools of the neighborhood. He now owns one hundred and fifty-two acres of valuable land, and its well-tilled fields and neat appearance indicate his careful supervision. He is recognized as one of the leading agriculturists of the community. On the 13th of January, 1870, he was married to Miss Mary Ballinger, a native of Virginia, and a daughter of Robert Ballinger, of Ohio, and Cassie Ann (Bell) Ballinger, of Virginia. They have cared for and educated Miss Minnie Neyhard, who is still with them.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Boardman are prominent and influential members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Shady Grove, do all in their power to advance its interest, and take an active part in Sunday-school work. He cast his first Presidential vote for Greeley in 1872, and has since been a stalwart advocate of the Democracy, taking an active part in local politics. He is an enterprising and progressive citizen, and his useful and upright career has won him the high regard of all who know him.

Mrs. Eliza Sine, the eldest daughter of the Boardman family, was born and reared in the Hoosier State, spending much of her girlhood in Columbus, Ind., where she acquired her education. In October, 1849, she became the wife of Jacob Sine, who was born in Trenton, N. J., and at the age of fifteen emigrated to Indiana. He was a

cooper by trade. In 1856 he came to Illinois, and has since lived in this State. For some years he was in the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, but is now engaged in the nursery business. For nineteen years he has made his home in Decatur.

Six children have been born unto Mr. and Mrs. Sinc: Susan, wife of Thomas Abel, a merchant of Decatur; Albert, who married Ida Williams, and is employed in the coffee works of Decatur; Laura, wife of Edgar J. Robbins (deceased), of Decatur; Mrs. Mary Ferguson, also living in the county seat; Mrs. Minnie Allen and Mrs. Katie McWhorter, twins. The children have all been provided with good educational advantages. The Boardman family and its various members are widely known in Macon County, and are entitled to the respect of all.



**L**ESTER F. ABRAMS, a leading photographer of Decatur, who stands at the head of his profession in Macon County, was born in Blue Mound in 1869, and is therefore one of the younger business men of this city. He is a son of Francis M. Abrams, who was also born in this county. Grandfather Abrams came from Kentucky to Illinois, settling in Decatur more than forty years ago. His old home still stands. He saw Indians upon the river and also saw the red men laid upon piles of rails for burial. He split rails with Abraham Lincoln in an early day and ran a transfer line from this place to St. Louis. After the building of the railroad he engaged in the real-estate business. His last days were spent upon a farm near Blue Mound. In the early days of the city he held a number of offices and was a prominent man. His children were Dr. D. O. and J. H., of Woods, Ill.; Mrs. Adeline Blaney; and F. M., father of our subject.

The latter was born in Decatur in 1842 and for some time was associated with his father in business. During the late war he enlisted as a member of Company E, One Hundred and Fifteenth

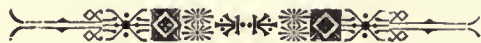
Illinois Infantry, and participated in the battles of Chattanooga, Mission Ridge, Chickamauga and Ft. Donelson. When the country no longer needed his services, he returned to his home near Blue Mound and soon after married Sarah Weigandt, a lady of German descent, who was born in Ohio and whose parents came from Pennsylvania. For a number of years they resided upon the farm, but in 1883 they removed to Decatur, where Mr. Abrams engaged in the grocery business for a time. He then removed to Blue Mound, where he now makes his home and where he carries on the grain business. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the Masonic fraternity, and he and his wife hold membership with the Methodist Episcopal Church. Their family numbers eight children: Lester; John L., who is learning photography with his brother and has charge of the printing department; Myra, Orlando H., Arthur, Frank, Lillie and Lena.

Our subject spent his boyhood days upon his father's farm and acquired his education in the schools of Blue Mound and Decatur. He started out in life for himself at the age of sixteen. For some time he studied oil painting and then took up the study of photography in the gallery of Mr. Shively, completing his studies in Chicago and St. Louis. He also learned pastel painting. Some three years ago he returned to Decatur thoroughly equipped for business, and has since engaged in his present line. He occupies a front rank among the artists of the city, has one of the finest and best equipped galleries and studios in Decatur, and the public accords him a liberal patronage. No discovery relating to the art is unknown to him, and the best methods are always employed in his gallery.

In December, 1890, Mr. Abrams was united in marriage with Miss Martha App, daughter of Oliver App. She was born in Ohio and is of German descent. Their union has been blessed with one son, L. Merle, who is the joy of the household. The parents hold an enviable position in social circles and are widely and favorably known throughout the community. Mr. Abrams is a Republican in politics and is an active member of the Knights of Pythias lodge and the Uniformed Rank.



During his boyhood he was told by three phrenologists that he would make an artist. As this prophecy accorded with his tastes he entered upon that profession, and his success from the beginning has been assured, for he has done his utmost to perfect himself in his art, and his natural ability has done much toward placing him among the leading artists of central Illinois.



**E**LIJAH WALKER, a leading and influential farmer, and one of the early settlers of South Macon Township, residing on section 3, is a native of St. Clair County, Ill. He was born March 3, 1843, and is a son of Edward B. and Rebecca (Chancee) Walker. This worthy couple were the parents of a family of nine children, seven sons and two daughters, of whom our subject is the sixth in order of birth. Five of the number are now deceased. Joseph died in infancy; Newton, Sarah and Elizabeth have also passed away; Joel is engaged in the grain business in Moweaqua, Ill.; John W. is a grain dealer at Walker Station, and one of the prominent men of the county; Elisha, twin brother of our subject, died when about four years of age, and he and his father were buried in the same grave; and Edward B., the youngest member of the family, follows farming in this county. The father, who was a native of Tennessee, and was of English extraction, emigrated to St. Clair County, Ill., at an early day, and throughout his life followed the occupation of farming. His death occurred in St. Clair County, at the age of forty-seven years. His wife was born in that county in 1812, her parents having been among the first white settlers. She passed away February 27, 1893, and was buried in Macon Cemetery.

The subject of this sketch was only about four years of age when his father died. He remained with his mother in St. Clair County until twenty years of age, when they sold the old homestead on which he was born and reared, and came to Macon

County, where they rented land for a year. Mr. Walker then purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land for his mother, and cultivated and improved that place for about five years. He started out in life for himself at the age of twenty-five, entirely without capital, in fact, he went in debt for his wagon and team. For three years he rented land, and then with the money which he had acquired purchased eighty acres of farming land. Since that time he has bought, improved and sold several farms, and by these investments has made considerable money.

On the 31st of March, 1868, Mr. Walker was married to Miss Carrie L. Allison, of this county, and by their union were born six children, three sons and three daughters: Walter E., Oliver Newton, Clara, Ella (who died at the age of fourteen years), Arthur and Mamie. The family have a very pleasant and comfortable home, situated a mile and a-half southeast of Macon, where Mr. Walker owns four hundred and eighty acres of arable land. There in connection with the cultivation of his land he is also engaged in stock-raising, making a specialty of the breeding of Polled-Angus cattle and Pereheron and French Coach horses. He is an excellent judge of stock, and some fine specimens may always be found upon his farm. He deserves great credit for his success in life, as his prosperity is the reward of his own industry and enterprise. In politics, he is a supporter of Republican principles, and he and his family are members of the Methodist Church.



**A**LBERT RANSON NICHOLSON was born at Lincoln, Logan County, Ill., October 28, 1864. He is the son of Aaron B. and May (Eastman) Nicholson, and is a grandson of David T. and Ruth Nicholson. David T. Nicholson, who was a native of Ohio, emigrated with his parents to Cass County, Mich., in 1830, and went to Logan County, Ill., in 1856. He was for a number of years a successful farmer of Logan



County, and became quite prominent in Republican politics. He was elected Sheriff of Logan County in 1860, and became State Senator in 1869, serving for six years.

Albert Ranson Nicholson was reared on the farm, and began working for himself in the photo business at the age of seventeen, while attending Lincoln University, and has continued with eminent success to the present time. September 8, 1884, he married Miss Josephine, daughter of Ephraim and Julian La Lone, of Alpena, Mich. By their union a charming girl, now of three summers, has come to brighten their home.

The subject of our sketch commenced at Bloomington, Ill., moving from there to Alpena, Mich., and from there to Decatur, Ill. Having purchased the well-known and well-patronized studio of Mr. Piper, he has not only held the former patronage, but has greatly increased it.

Mr. Nicholson, not being content with the mere profession of photography, has developed his natural talent in portrait work. His portraits in oil, water colors, sepia and crayon rank among the first, while his landscapes and marine paintings are found among the best families of Cleveland, Ohio, Detroit and Jackson, Mich., and other cities outside the State.



**W**ILLIAM ARMSTRONG, who owns and operates two hundred and seventy acres of valuable land on section 27, Friends' Creek Township, claims Virginia as the State of his birth. The place is Pendleton County, and the date is July 23, 1839. His father, James Armstrong, who was born in the same county, is of Scotch descent, and his mother was of German lineage. She bore the maiden name of Sarah Smith, and was a daughter of Christopher Smith. Mr. Armstrong was twice married, and by his second union had thirteen children, all of whom grew to manhood and womanhood, namely: Malinda, wife of Jacob Kesterson, of Wood County, W.

Va.; Jacob, who died January 2, 1889; William, of this sketch; Samuel, of Wood County, W. Va.; Catherine, wife of William P. Gray, of Raymond, Ill.; Eugene Armstrong, who resides in Virginia; Harriet, wife of Samuel Sans, of Wood County, W. Va.; Nancy, who died in 1880; Mary J., who died in 1881; Sarah, widow of Charles Hunter and a resident of Lubeek, W. Va.; Annie, wife of Samuel Braden, a farmer of this county; Christiana F., wife of Silas Smedley, of Waco, Tex.; and James H., an agriculturist of this community. The father of this family followed farming throughout his entire life. He served for six months in the War of 1812, under Capt. Hinkle. His entire life was passed in Virginia, where he was born in 1788, and died at the age of eighty-two. He was a prominent and influential citizen and was a member of the Baptist Church. His widow still survives him and is yet living in Virginia.

Our subject received but limited educational privileges in his youth, attending the subscription schools, which were held in an old log schoolhouse. His training at farm labor was not meagre, for he was early inured to the arduous labors connected with agriculture. On attaining man's estate he left the old home and began working as a farm hand at fifty cents per day. He was thus employed for about four years, after which he rented land, in 1868. In the spring of that year he journeyed Westward to Illinois and took up his residence in Maroa, working in that city and vicinity for three years, after which he rented land for six years, and then purchased the home where he now resides. He first bought one hundred and sixty acres of partially improved land, but the boundaries of his farm he has since extended, until now two hundred and seventy acres yield to him a golden tribute in return for the care and cultivation he bestows upon them. In connection with the cultivation of cereals he is also engaged in stock-raising.

Mr. Armstrong has been twice married. On the 20th of June, 1860, he wedded Miss Elizabeth Gladwell, and unto them were born four children: Edward, a farmer of Champaign County, Ill.; Josephine, who died in 1886; Sarah E., wife of B. Walker, who resides near Lake City, Moultrie

County; and James W., a farmer of Friends' Creek Township. The mother of this family was killed by lightning July 18, 1866, and on the 31st of January, 1871, Mr. Armstrong wedded Mrs. Lizzie James, a daughter of John Chapman, a native of England. She was born in England June 7, 1837, and came to America in 1842, in a sailing-vessel, which made the voyage in forty days. Her family located in St. Charles, Mo. By the second union has been born a son, John H., whose birth occurred December 2, 1871.

The parents are both members of the Methodist Church and take an active interest in all that pertains to its welfare. Mr. Armstrong keeps well informed on the political issues of the day and is a stalwart supporter of the Republican party but has never been an office-seeker. He is now building a block in Argenta at a cost of \$8,000, and also owns residence property in that place. He has achieved success through his own efforts, and his competence is therefore the just reward of his labors.



**WASHINGTON L. WHITLEY**, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits on section 28, Harristown Township, is a native of Kentucky. He was born in Harrison County, on the 8th of March, 1843. His grandparents were natives of Virginia and became pioneer settlers of Kentucky. It is said that the first white child born in the latter State was a Whitley. The parents of our subject, James and Phoebe (Haley) Whitley, were both there born. By their marriage they had a family of three children: Richard T., now a resident of Montevallo, Mo.; Napoleon B., who died in 1859, at the age of seventeen years; and Washington L., of this sketch. In 1846, when our subject was a lad of three years, the parents came with their family to Illinois and located in Macon County.

Ten years previously, Milton Whitley, a brother of James, had come to this State and taken up his residence upon a farm. He also ran a mill and dis-

tillery. He owned some two hundred and forty acres of land, that on his death, which occurred a short time after the arrival of his brother, was purchased by James Whitley, who also bought the Lincoln place. The father of our subject had visited Illinois when a young man, and in 1846, with his wife and family, he again came. At that time he had a yoke of oxen, one horse and \$50 in cash. He traded the oxen for land and at once began the development of a farm. For a number of years he also carried on a mill, which his brother had built. This was known as the Whitley Mill and was one of the old landmarks of the county. It was the only one on the river between Decatur and Mechanicsburg. Mr. Whitley possessed excellent business ability, and at his death, as the result of his labors, he was the owner of six hundred acres of valuable land. In politics, he was a strong Douglas Democrat, but never took a very prominent part in political affairs, especially as an office-seeker. He was born April 1, 1809, and died in 1872. His wife, whose birth occurred December 1, 1805, passed away in 1889.

The subject of this sketch was reared amid the wild scenes of frontier life, and in his youth aided in the labors of the mill and of the farm. On his father's death, in 1872, he assumed charge of the old homestead, which he has since operated. He is now the owner of four hundred and sixteen acres of good land, and his well-developed farm yields to him a good income. In addition to the cultivation of his land, he has engaged in breeding draft horses and has met with good success in this undertaking. He is industrious and energetic, and has therefore become one of the substantial citizens of the community.

On the 1st of September, 1870, Mr. Whitley was united in marriage with Miss Alice J. Peats, a native of Pennsylvania, their union being celebrated at her home in Mercer County, Pa. Like his father, our subject is a stalwart advocate of Democratic principles. In 1890 he was honored with an election as Township Supervisor, and so well has he discharged the duties of the office that he has been twice re-elected. He was Chairman of the Finance Committee for raising funds for the building of the county court house. He favored



home money, and his vote was given to secure the loan and to proceed with the building, and as the result Macon County's fine court house now stands. He is a public-spirited and progressive citizen and has been active in all interests pertaining to the welfare of the community in which he resides.



**N**ELSON F. BROWN is one of the representative farmers of Blue Mound Township, and a prominent and influential citizen. He resides on section 34, where he owns and operates three hundred and twenty-five acres of rich land, that pays a golden tribute to his care and labor. He has placed it under a high state of cultivation, and upon the farm has made many excellent improvements, having good buildings, machinery and all the modern accessories.

Mr. Brown claims Ohio as the State of his nativity. He was born in Ross County, on the 4th of January, 1839, and is a son of Francis A. and Sidney (Barr) Brown. The father was twice married. In 1828 he was united in marriage with Miss Catherine McClintock, of Chillicothe, Ohio, and by their union were born two children, both now deceased. By his second marriage he had four sons and two daughters, the eldest of whom, Thomas W., is a resident of Blue Mound Township; Nelson is the second in order of birth; Wesley M. is now deceased; Sidney M. is the wife of M. C. Livingston, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume; Henry T. is engaged in farming in Blue Mound Township; and one child died in infancy. The father of this family was a farmer by occupation, and followed that business throughout his entire life. He came to Macon County in 1859, and purchased eight hundred and forty acres of land. He then engaged in farming until his death, which occurred on the 15th of May, 1891, at the ripe old age of eighty-six years. He was a successful agriculturist, and left a valuable estate. He could trace his ancestry back to his great-great-grandfather, James Brown, who was

born in Delaware in 1686. The mother of our subject was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, in 1811, and was a daughter of Thomas and Sidney (McMacken) Barr. She passed to the home beyond from the old homestead in this county, August 10, 1893.

The subject of this sketch was reared to manhood on his father's farm, remaining under the parental roof until twenty-one years of age, when he started out for himself to earn his own livelihood. He rented land of his father for a time, and then purchased property. As a companion and helpmate on life's journey, he chose Miss Mildred A. Pasley, their union being celebrated on the 4th of January, 1870. The lady was born in this county in 1852, and is a daughter of Robert A. and Edna (Stith) Pasley, early settlers of Macon County. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Brown has been born one child, a son, Travis, who aids in the operation of the home farm.

As his financial resources were increased, Mr. Brown made other purchases of land, until, as before stated, his possessions now aggregate three hundred and twenty-five acres, and he is ranked among the substantial citizens of the community. On all questions of national importance, he votes with the Republican party, but at local elections supports the man whom he thinks best qualified for the position, regardless of party affiliations. His wife is a member of the Methodist Church. Both Mr. and Mrs. Brown are highly respected citizens, who hold an enviable position in the circles of society in which they move.



**W**ILLIAM O. WILLIAMS, who carries on agricultural pursuits on section 23, Maroa Township, was born in Morgan County, Ill., near Jacksonville, January 19, 1834, and is one of eight children whose parents were John and Margaret J. (Craig) Williams. The father was a native of Kentucky, and served in the



Black Hawk War. In 1827 he came to Illinois, locating in Sangamon County, whence he afterward removed to Morgan County and was married. In 1835 he went to Cass County, and subsequently lived in Menard County, coming thence to Macon County in 1857. He followed farming throughout his entire life. His death occurred April 26, 1862. He was a Republican in politics, and held the office of Assessor in Cass County. He was also a member of the Christian Church, and was a public-spirited and progressive citizen. His wife, who was a member of the same church, passed away in November, 1856. The children of this worthy couple were: William, who is the eldest; James D., who enlisted in the Forty-first Illinois Regiment for the late war, was killed at the battle of Ft. Donelson in 1862, and was buried on Southern soil; John E., who was a member of the same regiment and died in the hospital at Jackson, Tenn., from disease contracted in the service; Mary J., who died in 1872; Anna E., wife of Elisha Holmes, a farmer of California; Sarah, who died in 1863; and David H., who is living in Arkansas.

In the usual manner of farmer lads, our subject spent the days of his boyhood and youth. His primary education, acquired in the subscription schools, was supplemented by study in Eureka College. He remained with his parents until after he had attained his majority, and after his mother's death he came to Macon County, in 1858. Upon the homestead in Maroa Township he resided until 1865, and then purchased eighty acres of land, making his home upon that farm until 1888. That year witnessed his removal to his present place of residence, where, in connection with the cultivation of cereals, he also engages in stock-raising.

On the 3d of July, 1862, Mr. Williams married Emma J. Hedger, who was born in Parke County, Ind., April 23, 1841, and is a daughter of Thomas and Jane (McAllister) Hedger, the former of German, and the latter of Scotch descent. In their family were eight children: Minerva, who died in October, 1890; William, who died in infancy; John, also deceased; Mary, wife of Madison Mayberry, of Kansas; Emma J., wife of our subject;

Harriet, wife of T. S. Collins, of Bement, Ill.; Sarah E., wife of J. H. Russell, of Ft. Scott, Kan.; and Joseph, who died September 6, 1855. The death of the mother occurred October 16, 1865, and the father departed this life in January, 1887. Five children were born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Williams: Addie, who died September 8, 1865; Eva, wife of Robert Englehardt, who makes his home in Allen County, Kan.; Jennie, a teacher of instrumental music; Freddie, who died October 25, 1872; and Grace, who died April 6, 1881.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams hold membership with the Christian Church, and take an active interest in all that pertains to its welfare. In politics, he is a staunch supporter of the Republican party, and has efficiently served in the offices of Constable, Road Commissioner and School Director. At this writing he is serving as School Trustee. The best interests of the community ever find in him a friend, and his pleasant, genial manner has made him highly respected in the community.



THOMAS JEFFERSON SCROGGIN, one of the leading stock farmers of central Illinois, and a prominent and widely-known citizen, resides on section 28, Harristown Township. He has the honor of being a native of this State, his birth having occurred in Logan County August 13, 1837. His father, Carter Scroggin, was a native of Tennessee, and removed to Logan County, Ill., in 1827, becoming one of its pioneers. He died at the age of sixty-five years. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Phoebe Shelby, was called to her final rest at the age of seventy-seven.

The subject of this sketch was the ninth in order of birth in a family of ten children, seven of whom are now living, but he is the only resident of Macon County. His boyhood days were spent midst play and work, and he remained at home until his marriage, which occurred in his twentieth year. On the 1st of January, 1857, he wedded

Miss Rebecca Birks, sister of John V. Birks, of Decatur. The young couple began their wedded life upon land which Mr. Scroggin's father gave him, and started out for themselves with a capital of about \$200. There they resided until 1864, when they came to Macon County and our subject purchased the northeast quarter of section 28, all raw land, except about five acres at the southwest boundary, which had been a part of the old Lincoln Farm, upon which Abraham Lincoln spent his boyhood days. Mr. Lincoln had made it a squatter's claim, but had never entered the land from the Government.

With characteristic energy, Mr. Scroggin began the development of his property, working from early morning until night caused him to end his labors. Owing to his ceaseless industry, his financial resources were increased, and from time to time he has extended the boundaries of his farm, until he now owns one thousand acres of land, all in one body. He has fed and shipped stock, and in 1882 began breeding Hereford cattle. He now has a herd of fifty cows. He began with ten cows, including six imported ones. He has frequently made exhibits of his stock at the fat-stock shows, and at one time had on exhibition a two-year-old weighing seventeen hundred and thirty pounds. Mr. Scroggin is an excellent judge of stock, and in this line of business he has met with excellent success. Although he never advertises, even in the local paper, his reputation as a stock-breeder has extended so widely that he has made sales all over the country. The farm is well watered by the Sangamon River and is well adapted for the purpose for which it is used.

Unto our subject and his wife were born three sons, but two are now deceased: James Russell, who died at the age of twenty years, and Charles Shelby, who died at the age of twenty-three. Neither had ever fully recovered from an attack of diphtheria which they had had when children. Rolla is a farmer and aids his father in business. The mother of this family suffered a stroke of paralysis some five years ago and has never yet fully recovered. Both Mr. and Mrs. Scroggin are faithful members of the Christian Church, take an active part in its work, and for twenty years he has

served as Deacon. In politics, he is a supporter of the Democracy and his party finds in him a staunch advocate. In his dealings he is upright and honorable and throughout the community he is widely and favorably known.



**J**EROME R. GORIN, who is now living a retired life in Decatur, was born in Hopkinsville, Christian County, Ky., October 12, 1817, and is a son of John D. and Mattie (Thomas) Gorin. His father was a native of Virginia, and during his boyhood emigrated to Kentucky, where he attained to man's estate. In the spring of 1828, he came with his family to Illinois, locating in Vandalia, then the capital of the State. He was a merchant and farmer, and was also for some years receiver in the land office. His death occurred in Vandalia April 26, 1846, in the fifty-sixth year of his age. His widow survived him for thirty years, and died July 13, 1876, at the age of eighty-nine.

In 1833 Jerome Gorin came to Decatur, where he had two older brothers and a sister living. One brother, Henry M., was for many years Clerk of the Court, but left the office in 1841. Elvira, who had come to Decatur in 1830, married Gen. Isaac Pugh, and both died in this city after reaching an advanced age. The Gorin family numbered eight children, but the only surviving members are Gladden, now of Kansas City, Mo.; and Mrs. Maria Kirkman, of Winchester, Ill.

Our subject was a youth of sixteen years when he came to Decatur. Soon after he began clerking, and continued to serve in that capacity until 1841. During the succeeding two years he studied law, and was admitted to the Bar before Judge Treat in 1842, after which he spent one winter in Scotland County, Mo. Returning to Decatur, he formed a partnership with Judge Charles Emerson, and later with Judge Kirby Benedict, who was afterward made District Judge of New Mexico. Mr.



Gorin became City Clerk and Attorney in 1860, and held that office for four years. He had previously served for some time as Justice of the Peace. He next formed a partnership with Judge Arthur J. Gallagher, which connection was continued until 1861, when Mr. Gorin entered the bank of Milliken & Odor as its Cashier. The bank was established in 1861, and though he formed a connection with it he continued to serve as City Clerk and Attorney. After about four years he became a partner in the bank, and continued to serve as its Cashier until 1881, when he retired from the business, and the firm of Gorin & Bills was formed. They engaged in banking and the real-estate and loan business for two years. In 1883 the bank of Gorin & Dawson was established, with our subject as President. For several years he devoted his attention to that enterprise, but after a time sold out to L. B. Casner, and a year later it was merged into the Citizens' National Bank, of which our subject was an incorporator and became its first President. After a year he disposed of his interests, and since 1892 has not been in active business. For thirty years he was prominently identified with the banking interests of Decatur and aided in establishing two of the leading financial institutions of this city.

Mr. Gorin was married in Decatur April 1, 1845, to Miss Eleanor D. Faweett, who was born in Virginia, and is a daughter of Isaac and Rebecca Faweett. They have six children: Mary Emma, wife of C. C. Middleton, of Dallas, Tex.; Orville B., Cashier of Milliken's Bank; Ida E., wife of W. C. Armstrong, of Decatur; Jerome P., who is in charge of a patent for weaving carpets in New York City; Mattie A., at home; and Henry Gladden, who at this writing is in a railroad office in Minneapolis, Minn.

Mr. Gorin served one session in the State Legislature in 1856-57, and during that time was made disbursing agent of the Ft. Ridgely Wagon Road, which was building a road for the Government from St. Paul and Ft. Ridgely to the Missouri River. During that time he had an office in St. Paul for about a year, after which the project was abandoned. Mr. Gorin has been an active member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church for many

years, and since 1861 has been officially connected with it. He has given much attention to Sunday-school work, has served as President of the State Sunday-school Association, was on the executive committee, and for ten years served as President of the County Sunday-school Association. He has also taken an active part in the Young Men's Christian Association. In politics he was formerly an old-line Whig; he then for many years voted with the Republican party, but is now a Prohibitionist. He is the oldest member of Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M., which he joined October 18, 1841. He was its Master for seven consecutive years, until elected Grand Master of the State. He was High Priest of Macon Chapter, and Eminent Commander of Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T. In 1867 and 1868 he was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois. He took the Thirty-second Degree of Masonry in April, 1866, in the Consistory Valley of Chicago. He has given much of his time to Masonic work, in which he is deeply interested. He organized the Commandery in Olney, Ill., January 19, 1865, and it was named Gorin Commandery in his honor. They had a three-days session, and nineteen Masons were made Knights Templar. Mr. Gorin has been prominent in social and business life, and perhaps no citizen of Decatur is more widely or favorably known in Illinois than he.



**J**OHN B. CAMP, one of Macon County's practical and progressive farmers now residing in Harristown Township, is a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Canton, Fulton County, April 10, 1849. His father, George W. Camp, was also born in this State, his birth having occurred in Madison County May 8, 1823. In 1825 his parents removed to Scott County, locating near Winchester, and he lived upon the farm with his grandfather, George Camp. This farm has now become the property of the grandson, George W., and comprises three

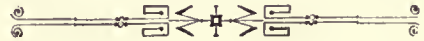


hundred acres of valuable land. He was one of the early settlers and Indians still visited the neighborhood at that time. George W. Camp was one of eight children, two sons and six daughters. After arriving at mature years he wedded Mary J. Campbell, who was born in January, 1845, and is a daughter of John B. Campbell. Her father was a very prominent man, several times served as a member of the State Legislature and was Associate Judge. Mr. Camp was a practical farmer and carried on agricultural pursuits until 1880, since which time he has lived a retired life, he and his wife making their home with their daughter. They hold membership with the Christian Church, and in politics he is a supporter of Republican principles.

We now take up the personal history of our subject, who in his youth acquired an excellent education, the privileges of the public schools being supplemented by a two-years course in Eureka College, of Eureka, Ill. To his father he gave the benefit of his services until 1876, when, on the 15th of February, he was united in marriage with Miss Hattie S. Howsmon, who was born in Lexington, McLean County, Ill., March 24, 1851. Her parents, Joseph and Elizabeth Howsmon, removed from Ohio to McLean County and resided upon a farm near Lexington. They had a family of nine children, four sons and five daughters. Mrs. Camp was also a student in Eureka College, where she remained for four years. By her marriage she has become the mother of three children: George R., who was born October 10, 1879; Harry H., born October 21, 1881; and Lou Nora, born April 14, 1884.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Camp removed to Macon County, locating on a farm two miles south of Harristown, where he purchased one hundred and seventy acres of land, devoting his energies to its cultivation and to stock-raising until 1887. He then removed to his present farm, which comprises five hundred and fifty acres of valuable land and is one of the desirable places of Macon County. The fields are well tilled, and the many improvements on the place indicate the thrift and enterprise of the owner. He also engages in breeding Hereford cattle and has some fine specimens of stock upon his place.

In politics Mr. Camp takes quite an active interest, votes with the Democratic party and is a staunch advocate of its principles. In 1886, he was elected Supervisor and served one term. He and his wife hold membership with the Christian Church. The best interests of the community ever find in him a friend, and public enterprises calculated to promote the general welfare always receive his support. His word is as good as his bond, and to know Mr. Camp is to respect him.

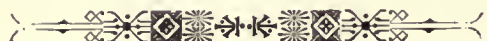


MRS. ELIZABETH J. TRAUGHBER is numbered among Macon County's pioneer settlers, and has the high regard of all who know her. She well deserves mention in this volume. She was born September 29, 1833, in Mt. Zion, and is a daughter of Alexander W. Bell, also one of the honored early settlers of this community. She was educated in the public schools of the county, and the days of her maidenhood were quietly passed under the parental roof, but on the 8th of March, 1853, she left home and gave her hand in marriage to Robert S. Traughber. Two children were born of their union: Henry A., who married Miss Julia Wilson, daughter of Robert Wilson, and resides in Spokane, Wash.; and William S., who resides on the old homestead with his mother, on section 6, Mt. Zion Township.

Mr. Traughber was also educated in the public schools, and for one term attended school in Morgan County, Ill. After the breaking out of the late war, he responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting on the 9th of August, 1862, as a member of Company C, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry. He participated in the battle of Arkansas Post, and was aiding in the siege of Vicksburg when death overtook him on the steamer "City of Memphis," February 7, 1863. His remains were interred at Young's Point, near the city where the army was encamped. He was a worthy citizen of the town and county, was a kind and indulgent husband and parent, and his death

cast a gloom over his family which years have not altogether obliterated.

Mrs. Traughber belongs to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and is one of its consistent and honored members. A lady possessed of many excellencies of character, she has the high regard of all with whom she has been brought in contact. Her life has been well and worthily spent, and her friends are many.



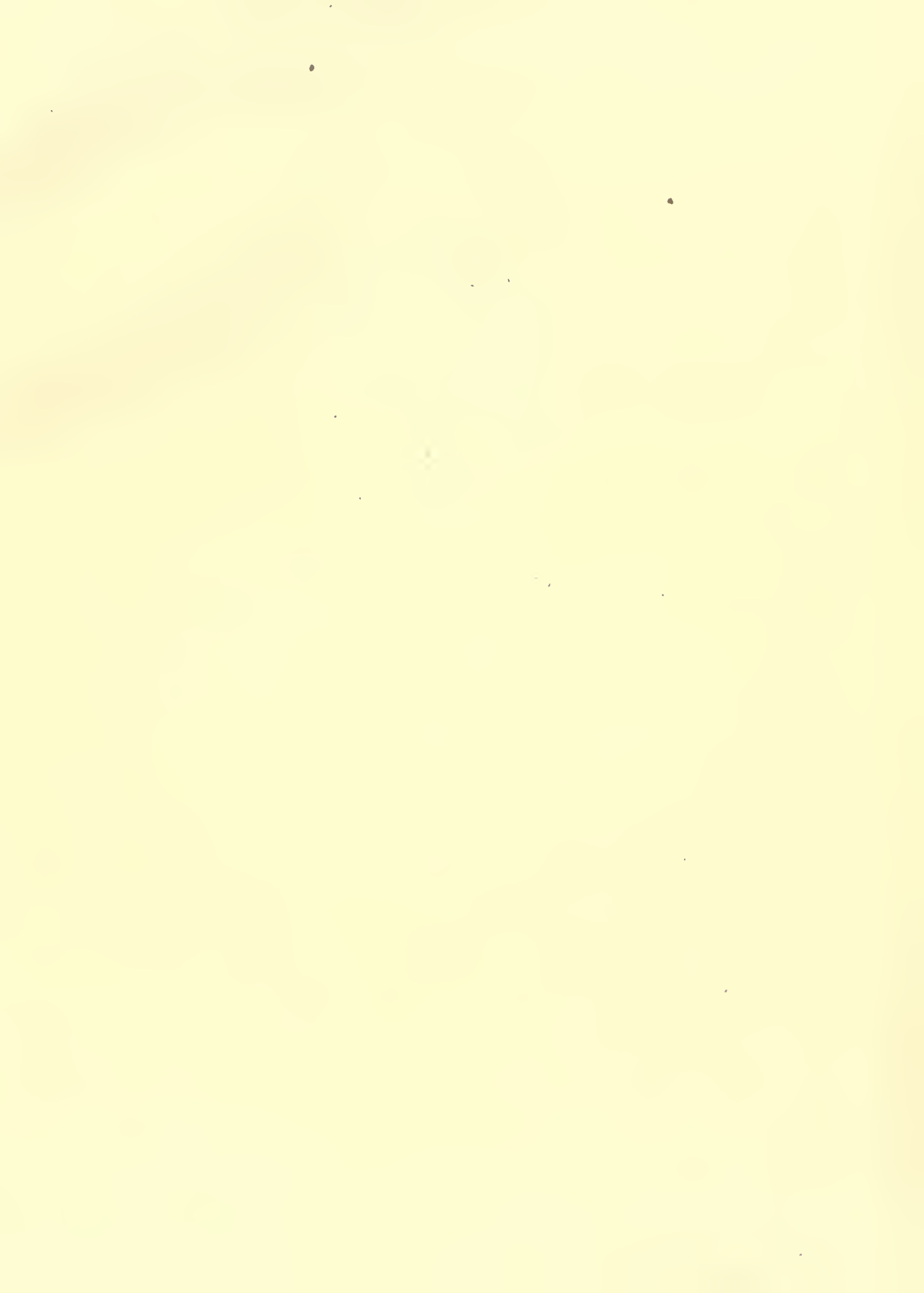
MRS. AMANDA ALLEN, who for many years resided in Macon County, and is well known to many residents of this community, was born in Woodford, Scott County, Ky., on the 29th of December, 1829. Her parents were John and Anna (Dougherty) Risk. They were born, lived and died in Virginia, and were worthy representatives of highly respected ancestors.

Their daughter Amanda spent the days of her maidenhood under the parental roof, aiding in the labors of the household and acquiring her education in the public schools. At the age of sixteen years she gave her hand in marriage to David S. Allen, their union being celebrated on the 16th of September, 1845. Mr. Allen was born near Georgetown, Scott County, Ky., February 8, 1822, and was a son of Joseph and Catherine (Skillman) Allen, who was born, reared and married in Virginia, and then removed to Kentucky, where their remaining days were passed as valued and highly esteemed citizens. David was reared in the usual manner of farmer lads, and was early inured to the labors of the fields, becoming familiar with agriculture in all its details. At the age of twenty-three he was married, after which he continued to superintend his father's farm for ten years, or until 1855, when he determined to try his fortune on the broad prairies of the West. Emigrating to Macon County, Ill., he took up his residence on section 34, Illini Township, where he made his home until his death. When he located upon his land, it was a wild and unimproved tract, which

had been entered from the Government only a short time before. Here he made for himself and family a comfortable home, and his name was honored throughout the community, for his upright life gained for him the respect of all. He carried on general farming, raising all kinds of grain and keeping fine herds of cattle, horses and other livestock, both feeding and shipping for local and distant markets. In his business career he met with excellent success, and accumulated a fine farm of six hundred and forty acres, an elegant home and other valuable property.

In politics, Mr. Allen was a Whig in early life, and on the organization of the new Republican party he joined its ranks and continued to support it until his death. He was a very prominent and active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which he united at an early age. For many years he served as Steward of the church, and gave liberally of his time and means to build a house of worship and maintain its services. Oftentimes he contributed more than half of the pastor's salary. All benevolent and charitable organizations received his aid, and the poor and needy found in him a friend. He proved a blessing to the community in which he resided, and he will long be held in loving remembrance. After an illness of three months, he passed away August 10, 1880, and was laid to rest in the cemetery of Harristown.

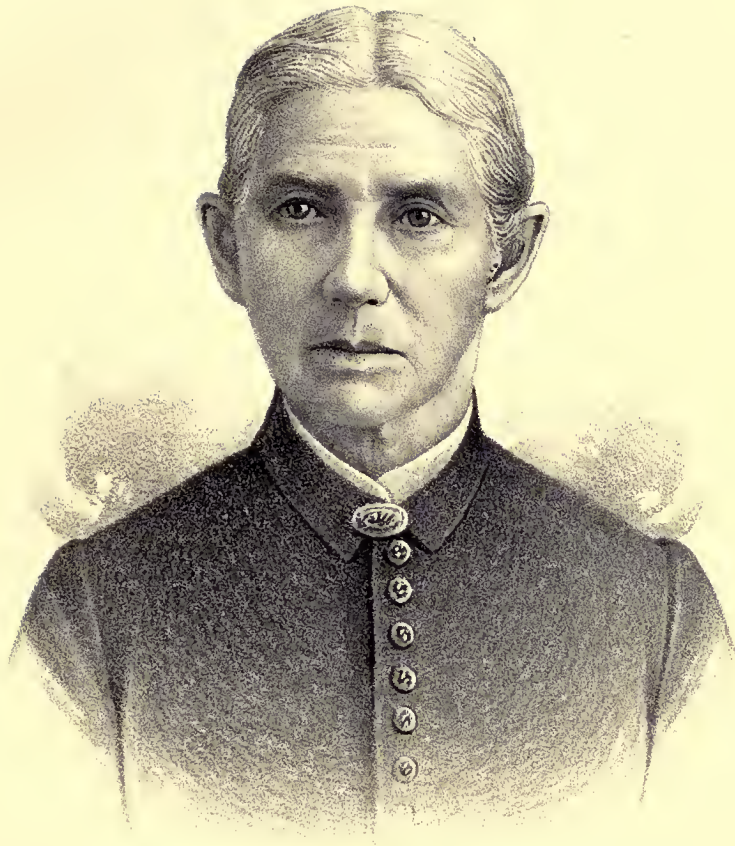
Unto Mr. and Mrs. Allen were born six children. All are worthy members of the Methodist Church, and the sons are stalwart Republicans. Rhodes Allen, the eldest, was born January 19, 1847, and after a three-years attack of rheumatism died in 1889. Louisa C., born December 9, 1850, acquired an excellent education in the State Normal and State University of Illinois, and afterward distinguished herself as an educator, serving as Superintendent of Schools in several of the larger towns of Illinois. She is now the wife of Dr. John M. Gregory, who for many years was President of the State University of Illinois, and now resides in Washington, D. C. They have one child, Alleyne. Henry C. married Fannie Moore, of Kentucky. They reside upon a farm near Georgetown, Ky., with their son, James Henry.







JOHN GOOD



MRS. JOHN GOOD

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



Charles, born October 20, 1852, died July 6, 1880, only six weeks before his father's death. Baseom, born June 16, 1859, resides in Chicago. He is married, and has two children, Louie Talbot and Arthur Skillman. Wright, born October 20, 1861, wedded Mamie Moffitt, and their union has been blessed with three children, Leonora, David Skillman and Marie. Wright is living on the old homestead, and since the residence with all its contents was destroyed by fire in June, 1892, he has erected thereon a fine modern dwelling, complete in all its appointments. He is recognized as one of the enterprising and successful agriculturists of the community. Mrs. Allen, the mother of this family, now resides with her daughter, Mrs. Gregory, in Washington, D. C. She is an intelligent and refined lady, and her sixty-four years rest lightly upon her. Throughout Macon County she has many friends who will be glad to see her history in this volume.



**J**OHAN GOOD, one of the progressive and prominent farmers of Hickory Point Township, residing on section 32, is one of Macon County's honored pioneers, who for more than half a century has been identified with its history. He has always taken an active interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community, and his name is inseparably connected with its upbuilding and development. As he is widely known, we feel assured that this record of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers. A native of York County, Pa., he was born near Strinestown, January 29, 1812, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Keller) Good. Their family numbered eleven children, but only three are now living, namely: John, of this sketch; Daniel, a retired farmer of Whitmore Township; and Rudolph, who is living a retired life in Indiana. Susan, Christian, Peter, Elizabeth, Jacob, Henry, Nancy and Catherine are all deceased.

In the usual manner of farmer lads, John Good spent his early youth. For about three months

during the year he attended the subscription schools, to which he had to walk a distance of two miles. His father died when he was about fifteen years of age, and he remained on the old homestead with his mother, carrying on the farm, until the age of twenty-two. That year witnessed a change in his occupation. Going to Buffalo, N. Y., he commenced working at the shoemaker's trade, having served a two-years apprenticeship, learning the trade before leaving home, and during this time he received no compensation for his services. He continued to follow that business in Buffalo until 1838, when he determined to cast in his lot with the pioneers of Illinois. He knew that land could be obtained cheap in this locality, and thought that he might better his financial condition by taking up his residence here. The trip was made by water and stage to Shelbyville, Ill., whence he came on foot to Deatur. During the first season he worked at any thing he could find to do which would yield him an honest living. Soon after his arrival he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Whitmore Township, a tract of timber and prairie land, upon which there were no improvements. In 1839, he began its development, and built thereon a house, which is still standing, one of the landmarks of pioneer days that yet remain.

On the 28th of January, 1841, Mr. Good was united in marriage with Miss Naney Garber, and in the same year he sold his first farm, removing to Hickory Point Township, where he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 32. This he still owns. A log cabin had been built upon the farm, and a portion of the land had been broken. His labors soon transformed it into a tract of rich fertility, and for many years it yielded him a good income and was his place of residence. In 1885, however, he removed to his present farm, which comprises two hundred and eighty acres of well-improved and valuable land. From time to time he has made judicious investments in farming lands, and his possessions now aggregate fifteen hundred and sixty acres. Of this one thousand acres lie in Macon County, and the remaining five hundred and sixty are in Kansas.

By the first marriage of our subject eight children were born: Susan, now deceased; Mary; Nancy, also deceased; John H., David, Daniel, Jacob B., and one who died in infancy. The mother of this family passed away March 21, 1859, and on the 1st of March, 1860, Mr. Good wedded Mrs. Sarah Weltner, a daughter of Henry Stoffer, and widow of Jacob Weltner, by whom she had two children: Elizabeth, now the wife of David Love, who resides in Greenwood County, Kan.; and Abram J. Weltner, a farmer of Hickory Point Township. Two children graced the second marriage of our subject, but both died in infancy. The family occupies a prominent position in social circles, and their friends throughout the community are many.

In politics, Mr. Good has been a lifelong supporter of the Democratic party, and a warm advocate of its principles. A public-spirited and progressive citizen, his aid has never been withheld from any interest which he believes is calculated to benefit the community. He is liberal and generous and has given freely for the promotion of the county's best works. He has met with remarkable success in life, though at the early age of fifteen years, by the death of his father, he was thrown upon his own resources, and since that time has had to make his own way in the world. He has encountered many obstacles and difficulties, but these he has surmounted by his energy and determination, working his way onward and upward to a position among Macon County's wealthy agriculturists.



**D**ANIEL WHITSEL, a retired farmer and stock dealer now living in Deatur, is a native of Ohio. Ross County is the place of his birth and the date is April 4, 1823. The paternal grandfather, John Whitsel, was a Pennsylvanian farmer and was of German descent. The father, Samuel Whitsel, was born near Gettysburg, of the Keystone State, and when twenty

years of age emigrated to Ohio. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Ruth Crouse, was born in North Carolina. They became the parents of ten children, the following of whom are now living: John, Jeremiah, Daniel, and Minerva, widow of James Boggs, of Ohio. The father of this family died in Ohio, January 14, 1849, in his sixty-eight year. His wife survived him until 1864, and passed away in Ross County, Ohio. She was born January 28, 1787, and was therefore seventy-seven years of age when called to the home beyond. With the Methodist Church she held membership.

Daniel Whitsel, whose name heads this record, spent the days of his boyhood and youth in the usual manner of farmer lads in Ohio. He remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority, and in the old-fashioned log schoolhouse, with slab seats, he conned his lessons and acquired his education. After his father's death he began farming for himself, and in 1855 came to Illinois, renting a farm a mile and a-half northeast of Deatur. There he resided for three and a-half years, after which he removed to the city, where he engaged in buying and selling stock for about twenty years. In the spring of 1870, he opened a meat-market, doing business in that line for about twelve years, since which time he has lived a retired life.

Mr. Whitsel was married April 27, 1854, to Miss Eliza, daughter of Nelson and Maria (Hughes) Brown, natives of Maryland. Her paternal grandfather, White Brown, was born in Delaware. He owned slaves in that State, but set them all free, and afterwards emigrated to Ross County, Ohio, where he was followed by nearly all of his colored people, who desired to work for their old master. His grandfather, James Brown, was born in 1686, and died in April, 1770, at the age of eighty-four years. James Brown, Jr., was born in Dorchester County, Pa., in 1710, and married Priscilla White, daughter of Judge Thomas White, of Maryland, and died in 1794, at the age of eighty-four years. The maternal grandparents of Mrs. Whitsel were John and Sarah (Bass) Hughes, who were born, reared and married in Maryland. They became pioneer settlers of Ohio, where the grandfather



died when quite young. His wife afterwards married again, and lived to the advanced age of eighty-nine years.

Nelson Brown, the father of Mrs. Whitsel, was a farmer and also carried on a woolen mill in Ross County, Ohio. Toward the latter part of his life he engaged in agricultural pursuits and in stock-raising. His death occurred in the Buckeye State, at the age of seventy-three. His wife, who was a member of the Methodist Church, survived him sixteen years, and passed away at the age of seventy-four. Their family numbered four sons and eight daughters, of whom two died in infancy, while Louisa died in her eighth year. Ellen and Sarah are also deceased. White, James and Eliza are still living. Rebecca and Elizabeth have passed away, and Allen and Alice still survive. White married Ellen Cleveland and lives in Perry, Ill. James wedded Sarah Chenoweth, of Perry, and resides in Wellington, Kan. Allen married Miss Kate Mackey, and they live on the old home in Ohio, which, though built in 1836, is still in a good state of preservation. Alice is the wife of John Throekmorton, of Ross County, Ohio.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Whitsel were born eight children, of whom Ella and Daniel, the eldest and youngest, are now deceased. Brown, who married Myrtle Sewell, of Indiana, by whom he has two children, Travis and Helen, is a railroad engineer and lives in Chicago. Adel is the widow of Cyrus B. Prescott, of Decatur, who died March 28, 1893, leaving two children, George and Cyrus. Allen T. married Henrietta Stafford, of New York, and they reside with our subject. Sarah is the wife of Frank Elwood, of Decatur. Frank H., who wedded Rose Grimes, is an engineer on the Wisconsin Central Railroad, with headquarters at Waukesha. William is a plumber of Lincoln, Neb.

The Whitsel family is one widely and favorably known in this community and its members are people of sterling worth, who are held in high regard by all who know them. Mr. Whitsel has long been identified with this county and its interests, and does all in his power to promote the public welfare. He cast his first Presidential vote for Henry Clay in 1844, and supported the Whig party until the organization of the Republican

party, when he joined its ranks. He was a member of the City Council for four years, and served as Commissioner of Highways for three years. His wife is a member of the Methodist Church. Mr. Whitsel is living a retired life, enjoying a well-earned rest, and the competence which he has acquired through good management, perseverance and industry surrounds him with all the comforts of life.



ALEXANDER W. BELL, a retired farmer and honored citizen of Mt. Zion, is a native of Tennessee. He was born in Greene County, May 22, 1812. His father, James Bell, was a native of East Tennessee, and was of German descent. On the 5th of September, 1811, his marriage with Elizabeth Wilson was celebrated. His death occurred in Tennessee, January 31, 1828, and he was buried in Greene County. The family numbered seven children: Elizabeth, who died January 9, 1822, and was buried in Tennessee; William W. and Nancy, both of whom died and were buried in Mt. Zion Township; John A., who was interred in Lincoln, Ill.; Andrew G., who was also buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery; Eliza, who was laid to rest in Texas; and our subject.

During his youth our subject came to Macon County with his widowed mother and her family of young children and remained with her until her death. The family were then scattered. At that time Alexander was about eighteen years of age. He has since been dependent upon his own resources, so that whatever success that he has achieved in life is due entirely to his perseverance and good management. He was married December 4, 1832, to Miss Nancy Brown, a native of East Tennessee, and they became the parents of four children: Elizabeth J., widow of R. S. Traugher, of Mt. Zion Township; Mary A., wife of B. G. Henry, of Decatur; Sarah C., who died and was buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery; and Nancy M., wife of W. H. Prie, of Wheatland Township. The mother of this family died September 13, 1846,



and was buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery. On the 15th of April, 1847, Mr. Bell wedded Mrs. Mary Wilson, widow of Allen Wilson. By this union were born four children: James M., who resides in Kansas; Margaret L., wife of George Outten, a resident of Mt. Zion; Martha A., wife of J. E. Davis, of Mt. Zion; and Robert A., who died in childhood. Eliza E., a step-daughter, is the wife of A. B. Champion, and is living in Mt. Zion Township.

Mr. Bell was a soldier in the Black Hawk War and participated in the famous battle of Stillman's defeat. He is one of the earliest settlers of this county, the year of his arrival being 1825. He has suffered all the hardships and privations incident to frontier life and has borne all the experiences that fall to the lot of the pioneer. He had no school privileges and in consequence is self educated. For many years he toiled hard and success at length crowned his efforts. He has lived an exemplary life, and has been a faithful member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Mt. Zion for sixty-three years, having been one of thirty-five members who organized the church in the year 1830. Mr. Bell and Mrs. Baker are the only ones of the original number now living. His career has been such as to win him universal confidence and esteem and is well worthy of emulation. To his children he will leave the priceless heritage of an untarnished name. In politics, he is a supporter of the Democratic party.



**L**ABAN CHAMBERS, who now makes his home in the village of Cerro Gordo, where he is living a retired life, is ranked among Macon County's prominent citizens and is a worthy representative of one of her pioneer families. His career has been a busy one, and as the result of his industry and good management he can now lay aside all care and enjoy a well-earned rest.

Mr. Chambers was born in Pendleton County,

Ky., April 20, 1823, and came to Macon County with his parents in 1836. His father, James Chambers, was born in the same county in 1791, and was of Irish descent. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Nancy Buoy, was born in Virginia, of Scotch parentage. Mr. Chambers served as a soldier in the War of 1812. On leaving his native State he removed with his family to Dearborn County, Ind., where they remained for about two years, and then became residents of Vermilion County, Ill. After six years passed there they came to Macon County, and here spent their remaining days. Their remains were interred in what is known as Peck's Cemetery, near the Sangamon River.

Our subject is the eldest in a family of five children, but he and his brother Thomas are the only ones now living, James R., Mary and Margaret having passed away. Laban started out in life for himself when eighteen years of age with only a young man's bright hope of the future and a determination to succeed, and he has succeeded. He was married on the 15th of December, 1854, to Miss Isabella Stewart, of Virginia, and on the 21st of October, 1855, there was born unto them a daughter, Mary Ann, their only child. She was educated in the schools of this county, and on Christmas Day of 1872 she became the wife of J. C. Peck, a resident farmer of Oakley Township. Their union was blessed with a family of five children: Robert Eugene, William, Charles W., Josie B. and Laban. The mother was called to her final rest April 30, 1886, and was buried in Peck's Cemetery. She left many friends to mourn her loss. The children are all still with their father except Robert E., who is living with his grandfather in Cerro Gordo.

Mr. Chambers of this sketch has always made farming his life work, and until his retirement from active life carried it on continuously with the exception of about one year's time spent in the service of his country in the Mexican War. He volunteered in 1846, and going to the front saw much hard service. He was in the fourteen days' siege of Vera Cruz, where he and his comrades suffered severely and were nearly starved. He was also in the famous battle of Cerro Gordo, which

cost him his right arm. He was under the command of Gen. Taylor, and on account of disability he received his discharge in New Orleans in 1847. He has always been a supporter of the Republican party since it came into existence and has been a staunch advocate of its principles. He has served his fellow-townsmen in different official capacities, having been both School Director and Supervisor for several terms each.

Mr. Chambers is a man of high character and has lived an upright and honorable life. Although now retired from farming he still is the owner of about four hundred acres of choice land, mostly in Macon County. His present home is about a mile distant from his farm, in the village of Cerro Gordo, where he lives quietly, surrounded by the comforts of life and having the respect and esteem of his friends and neighbors, to which he is justly entitled.



**J**AMES W. BROWN, deceased, was born near Nashville, Lincoln County, Tenn., October 11, 1818, and was a son of Nathaniel Brown, a native of Ireland. The family numbered seven children. Our subject was born and reared upon the home farm and in his youth attended the old-time subscription schools, but his educational privileges were quite limited. He began earning his own livelihood when sixteen years of age by splitting rails for twenty-five cents per day. In 1832 the family came to the West, making the journey by team, and located in Friends' Creek Township, Macon County. The father rented land from the Government on section 23, and all lived in true pioneer style, experiencing many of the hardships and difficulties of the frontier.

Upon the farm where his father had first located, Mr. Brown long made his home. Though he had many obstacles to overcome, he was industrious and energetic, and his untiring labors won him success, so that although he started out in life empty-handed, he became the owner of four hun-

dred acres of valuable land. He also dealt quite extensively in stock. In 1887, in company with S. Gerber, he opened a bank in Argenta, under the firm name of Brown & Gerber, and continued this connection until his death.

Mr. Brown was first married in 1838, the lady of his choice being Mildred Blount. In 1856, he wedded Miss Jane C. McCann, who is now deceased. On the 17th of December, 1869, our subject was joined in wedlock with Elsie M. Ayers, and their union was blessed with a family of four children, namely: Florence E., wife of Dr. C. F. Childs, who is a practicing physician of Argenta; Emmett F.; Orville G., who is clerking in the general merchandise store owned by his mother; and May E.

In politics, Mr. Brown was a Democrat, and his fellow-citizens, appreciating his worth and ability, elected him to the offices of Assessor, Township Supervisor, Township Clerk, School Trustee and School Director. He was a Knight-Templar Mason, and was a public-spirited and progressive man, who took an active interest in all that pertained to the welfare of the community and its upbuilding.

On the 2d of April, 1849, Mr. Brown started from the old homestead to California. There were forty wagons in the colony and our subject was made captain of the company. The journey was made overland and the trip consumed six months. On reaching his destination, he engaged in mining, and while on the Pacific Slope he helped to build the golden gate at San Francisco. He remained in California until 1854, when he returned to Illinois by water. From that time forward he was prominently connected with the business interests of this county. He was a man for whom the people had the utmost respect, and it was amid the sincere sorrow of many friends that he was laid to rest in Cumberland Cemetery, having passed away on the 30th of March, 1892. His life was one well worthy of emulation and he left to his family an untarnished record. His widow, a most estimable lady, still survives him and makes her home in Argenta.

Emmett F. Brown was born on the old homestead and attended the district schools of the neighborhood. When seventeen years of age he



went to Covington, Ind., and was graduated at that place, after which his education was completed in the Gem City Business College, of Quincy, Ill., in the winter of 1892. He was born March 30, 1873, and on his twentieth birthday married Miss Rosella Williams. He is now cashier in Gerber & Sons' Bank, and is a wide-awake and enterprising young man, whose future career will no doubt be a successful one.



**J**AMES T. WINSLOW, one of Macon County's most prominent and progressive citizens, resides on section 15, Illini Township, where he carries on agricultural pursuits. As he is widely and favorably known throughout this community, we feel assured that this record of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers. A native of Merrimac County, N. H., he was born December 21, 1831. He comes of an old family of English origin which was founded in the Granite State at an early day. His father, Josiah Winslow, was born and reared in New Hampshire, as was the lady whom he married, Miss Ruth Tucker. Her father, James Tucker, and two of his brothers were among the first settlers of Merrimac County. Mr. Winslow, who was born in 1797, was a shoemaker by trade, and followed that pursuit in early life, but afterward engaged in farming. His many excellencies of character made him a highly respected citizen, and when called to his final rest, in 1863, his loss was mourned by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. In the Winslow family were two sons and two daughters, who grew to manhood and womanhood and became heads of families. The latter are both deceased. The brother of our subject, Sherburn, is a partner of ex-Governor Tuttle, of New Hampshire, and an extensive manufacturer of and dealer in lumber, with headquarters at Pittsfield, N. H.

James Winslow lived in his youth in Pittsfield,

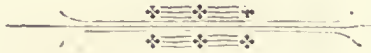
where he had good educational advantages in the public schools and in the Pittsfield Academy. After completing his studies, he learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed in the East for about twenty years, and which he also carried on after coming to Illinois. He first emigrated Westward in 1857, but after a year returned to New England, and worked as a carpenter and joiner in New Hampshire and Massachusetts for three years. In 1861 he again came to Illinois, and made a permanent location in Macon County, where he has since followed farming.

On the 10th of March, 1868, our subject married Miss Frances Hall, a daughter of David S. and Abigail (Grover) Hall, the former a native of Vermont, and the latter of Connecticut. From Massachusetts, he removed to New York, locating in Cayuga County, and in 1855 he came to this State, locating first in Morgan County, whence he went to Sangamon County. Mrs. Winslow was born in Massachusetts, but was reared and educated in this State. One child has been born unto Mr. and Mrs. Winslow, Albert. He was a young man of superior mental endowment, and when quite young manifested a great liking for study. He was graduated from the Decatur High School, and was awarded the honors of his class, when fifteen years of age. He manifested a great taste for mechanics, and when at home was always constructing some mechanical device. After he had graduated from Decatur, his parents sent him to a mechanical college of Worcester, Mass., where he displayed marked ability. His mind seemed to grasp the most intricate subjects, and to see through the hidden mysteries of mechanical science. He spent a year and a-half at that institution, when from close and hard study his health failed and his studies were discontinued.

In early life, Mr. Winslow voted with the Democratic party, but in 1860 supported Lincoln, and has since been a stalwart Republican. He has never sought or desired office, however, preferring to devote his time and attention to his farm and business. His first purchase of land consisted of one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie. About 1865, he located upon this place, and, breaking and fencing the tract, he transformed it into rich and



fertile fields. The farm is enclosed within a neat and well-trimmed hedge fence, and among the many improvements to be found thereon is a substantial residence and good barns and outbuildings. All of the varieties of select fruits are there found, together with a fine orchard and a beautiful grove of walnuts. Mr. Winslow himself planted the seeds, and the trees now stand a monument in green to his labor. From time to time he has increased his possessions, until now four hundred and eighty acres of arable land pay a golden tribute to his care and cultivation. Mr. Winslow has been a resident of Macon County for over a third of a century, and is now numbered among its honored early settlers. He is well known throughout the community as a man of upright character and sterling worth, and he and his estimable wife have the respect and esteem of all.



**G**EORGE M. BARNETT, who is numbered among the prominent farmers of Long Creek Township, resides on section 9, where he owns and operates three hundred and seventy acres of valuable land, constituting one of the fine farms of the neighborhood. It is under a high state of cultivation, and its neat and thrifty appearance denotes the careful supervision of the owner. The fields are well tilled, the buildings kept in good repair, and all the accessories of a model farm are there found.

Our subject is a native of the Keystone State. He was born in Lancaster County January 10, 1833, and is a son of George and Barbara (Muselam) Barnett, who were also born in Pennsylvania, and were of German descent. They used the language of their ancestors during the greater part of their lives. In 1846, they came with their family to the West, forming part of a company of forty-eight, who, with twenty-three two-horse wagons and three two-horse buggies made the trip, arriving at their destination after a journey

of six weeks. Reaching Decatur, Mr. Barnett settled with his family in the Garver settlement. He purchased partly improved land, and throughout the remainder of his life devoted his energies to its cultivation. He died on the old homestead, and his wife, who survived him a number of years, spent her last days with her children. They were members of the Lutheran Church, and the father was a successful farmer. Their family comprised the following children: Jacob, who died on the old home farm; Mrs. Elizabeth Good, who died in Whitmore Township; Mrs. Catherine Eshelman, a widow living in Cerro Gordo; George M.; David, a traveling man of Decatur; John, a farmer of Kansas; and Henry, who served in the late war and now follows farming in Kansas.

Our subject was about thirteen years of age when he came with his parents to Illinois. He attended school in his native State, and in this county would walk three miles to the subscription schools, where his education was completed. His labors promoted the cultivation of the home farm until he was twenty-two years of age, when he began working in his own interest, and for six years was employed as a farm hand. After his marriage, he began renting land.

On the 12th of September, 1858, in Whitmore Township, Mr. Barnett married Miss Samantha McGee, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Norris) McGee, who came to Illinois from Ohio in 1841, when Mrs. Barnett was only a year old. He spent his remaining days in Whitmore Township, and for nearly thirty years served as Constable. He was also Deputy Sheriff, and proved a faithful and efficient officer. His widow is now living in Decatur. Mrs. Barnett has spent nearly her entire life in this county, and in her maidenhood she attended the public schools and assisted in the duties of the household. For twenty-six years our subject and his wife have resided on their present farm, and their home was blessed with eleven children, namely: Matilda Jane, wife of John E. Rucker, a farmer of Long Creek Township; Mollie E., wife of Daniel A. Good, of Stevens' Creek; William, who is in the mines of Colorado; Ulysses Grant, who married Bertha Goodpasture, and carries on agricultural pursuits in this community;

Etta, deceased, wife of Joseph Reavis; John, a farmer of this neighborhood; Clara, wife of Cassius Holeomb, of Oakley Township; Ida, Elsie, Frank and Irvin.

Mr. Barnett cast his first Presidential vote for Fremont, and has since been a stalwart supporter of Republican principles. He is a public-spirited and progressive citizen, who gives liberally in support of churches and other interests calculated to advance the best interests of the community, and is recognized as one of the leading factors in the upbuilding of the township. His business career has been one of prosperity, and for his success he deserves great credit, as it has all been achieved through his own efforts, and is the just reward of arduous labors. In addition to his home farm he owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in Nebraska.



**J**OHN H. MCKINLEY, a well-known farmer of Hickory Point Township, residing on section 12, claims Illinois as the State of his nativity, as his birth occurred in Macon County, November 23, 1843. His father, Samuel McKinley, was born in Ross County, Ohio, and was of Irish descent. Having arrived at years of maturity, he wedded Anna Foren, who was born in Alabama, and was of Irish and Scotch lineage. He made his home in the Buckeye State until 1834, when he came to the West with his parents, the trip being made by team. The family first located in De Witt County, but after a year he removed to Decatur, Macon County, and began learning the carpenter's trade with E. O. Smith. After his term of apprenticeship had expired he continued to work in this place until 1857, when he removed to a farm in Hickory Point Township, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved land. There he resided until within a few years of his death, and devoted his energies to the development and cultivation of his land. He was quite a successful business man and be-

came well-to-do. He was also a public-spirited and progressive citizen, and manifested a commendable interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community. Although he never sought or desired the honors or emoluments of public office, he took quite an active interest in the success of the Republican party, whose principles he warmly advocated. In his youth he and Gov. Oglesby were warm friends. He passed away at the home of our subject October 15, 1892, and his remains were interred in Greenwood Cemetery of Decatur. He had survived his wife about four years, her death having occurred on the 15th of February, 1888.

The family of this worthy couple numbered ten children. William A., the eldest, enlisted for the late war in August, 1861, as a private of Company A, Eighth Illinois Infantry, under Col. Oglesby, and died in the hospital at Memphis, Tenn., in February, 1863, of typhoid pneumonia. He now sleeps on Southern soil. John is the second of the family. Emma is the wife of John Hammond, of Arkansas. Eugene is living in California. Alcie died November 23, 1888. Mary E. died in February, 1886. Jennie is the wife of C. A. Thrift, a farmer of Hickory Point Township. Edward S. died in 1889, and two children died in infancy.

Mr. McKinley whose name heads this record was born on the site of the Grand Opera House of Decatur, and has known no other home than that of Macon County. In his early youth he attended the city schools, and after removing to the farm pursued his studies in the district schools. His education was completed in Mt. Zion Seminary, of Mt. Zion, Ill., and thus having acquired a good knowledge, he started out in life well equipped for its battles. He remained with his parents until twenty-six years of age, and then rented a part of the old home farm, which he operated for four years. He then rented the farm where he now lives, and after continuing its cultivation for eight years he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land. Additional purchases since that time have increased the boundaries of his farm, until it now comprises three hundred and twenty acres of rich land. In connection with general farming, he is engaged extensively in stock-raising, making a

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





W. W. MASON.

specialty of breeding cattle. He also deals in stock, buying both hogs and cattle, and is considered one of the largest stockmen in this section of the county. His business has grown from a small beginning, but now it yields to him a handsome income. His success has been well merited, as his life has been characterized by industry and enterprise and straightforwardness in all his dealings.

Since attaining to man's estate Mr. McKinley has been a staunch supporter of Republican principles, and by his ballot supports its men and measures, but he has never sought public office for himself. Socially, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and also of the Modern Woodmen of America. During his long residence in Macon County he has witnessed much of its growth and development, and in all possible ways has aided in its upbuilding.

Mr. McKinley has been twice married. On the 29th of November, 1869, he was united in marriage with Miss Catherine E., daughter of A. C. and Jane Gher. By their union were born three children, two sons and a daughter: Elwood; Ada, wife of Del Bartlett, a farmer of Hickory Point Township; and Charles, at home. The mother of this family was called to her final rest April 8, 1879, and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery of Deatur. On the 13th of January, 1881, Mr. McKinley's marriage with Miss Laura Weilepp was celebrated. Six children have graced this union, namely: James, Esther, Maud, Walter, Nellie and Ethel. The parents are highly-respected citizens of the community.



**W**ILLIAM W. MASON, the efficient City Marshal of Deatur, has filled the position of Chief of Police for nearly eleven years, and has been connected with the police force for thirteen consecutive years. His bravery and fearlessness have made him a faithful officer, and his prompt performance of duty has led to his frequent re-election.

Our subject has the honor of being a native of Illinois. He was born in Sangamon County October 6, 1839, and is a son of John and Isabella Mason, the former a native of England, and the latter of Virginia. When young people they emigrated to Sangamon County, where they were married. The mother came with her parents through Vandalia, then the capital of the State, on the day on which the first land sales were ever held. The father died at the age of eighty-one years, at his home in Christian County, and the mother reached the age of eighty-four. Their home was situated a mile and a-half from the State capital. Their son William saw the first engine which ever drew a train in this State, and which ran over the old Springfield & Meredosia Railroad. The engine breaking down, the cars were hauled by mules. Mr. Mason also recalls the days of the Mexican War and the assembly of the soldiers in Springfield. At the age of sixteen he went with his parents to Christian County, his father purchasing a large tract of land, which at his death comprised eight hundred acres.

In February, 1859, William Mason started for the mountains of California with a drove of cattle from southwestern Missouri, but about the time he reached Pike's Peak gold was discovered there, and that terminated his Westward travels. He spent two years in Colorado, engaged in mining and herding. On his return he entered the Union army, enlisting August 15, 1861, as a member of Company D, Thirty-third Illinois Infantry. He became First Lieutenant and often commanded the company. His first Colonel was Charles E. Hovey, President of the State Normal, of Normal, Ill., and the Thirty-third was known as the School Teachers' Regiment. The troops took part in the battles of Fredericksburg, Mo., and Ironton, and in the spring of 1862, after the battle of Pea Ridge, joined Curtis at Batesville, Ark., and went to Helena on the famous White River march. In the winter of 1862 they returned to Missouri, and were in pursuit of Gen. Marmaduke until after the opening of spring, when they marched to Vicksburg, Miss. This regiment formed a part of the Thirteenth Army Corps, with McClellan, and was the first regiment to land below Grand Gulf, they



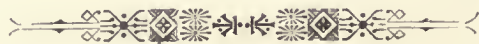
taking gunboats that had run the blockade. The command was in nearly all the actions that led up to the surrender of Vicksburg. Mr. Mason was in charge of the picket guard on the night of the surrender, and after the white flag was exposed he was one of the first to enter Vicksburg, going down the first steamboat that made the trip. After the fall his regiment participated in the second battle of Jackson, and in the Banks' expedition and the Franklin expedition in western Louisiana. They were sent to New Orleans and from there to Texas, participating in the capture of Ft. Esperanza. While stationed at Indianola, Tex., the soldiers veteranized and were granted a furlough, when Mr. Mason returned to his home on a visit. He was afterward sent to Berwick Bay, La., where he acted as Quartermaster. Subsequently he was made Assistant Provost-Marshal of western Louisiana, with headquarters at Brazier City, serving as such until mustered out in October, 1864. While serving as Quartermaster during the Texas expedition the troops were often without food, and on one occasion he had nothing to give out for six days. Mr. Mason was in all the engagements of his regiment. He stood side by side with Joseph Fifer, who afterward became Governor of Illinois, and was with him when he was wounded at Jackson, Miss., and was also present when the Governor's brother George was killed at Ft. Esperanza, Tex.; while the Governor was with Mr. Mason's brother Thomas, who was killed at Coldwater, Miss.

In this connection we take pleasure in reverting to some of the earlier scenes of our subject's career, inasmuch as they were intimately connected with President Lincoln, when Mr. Mason's father and Lawyer Lincoln were neighbors in Sangamon County. Mr. Lincoln was a favorite among the Mason boys, as he proved himself with millions of this nation since. He was known as the generous and kind-hearted lawyer by the boys, because he always gave them a dollar for hunting his horse, which frequently strayed away near the farm; and while he loved Mr. Lincoln, yet when he heard that he was nominated for President of the United States to run against Mr. Douglas, whom everybody then knew to be the greatest living states-

man, he was dumfounded, because he considered Mr. Lincoln only a common, kind-hearted man. This was his opinion as a boy of seventeen years.

On his return from the army Mr. Mason went to Christian County, where he remained until the fall of 1867. He then came to Decatur and engaged in the livery business until joining the police force. On the 20th of January, 1869, he was joined in marriage with Miss Mary L. Shaw, of Christian County. Two children were born unto them, but both died in infancy. Socially, Mr. Mason is a charter member of *Cœur de Lion* Post No. 17, K. P., and in politics is a staunch Republican.

In 1880 Mr. Mason was appointed a member of the police force of Decatur, and served in that capacity for three years, when he was made City Marshal, or Chief of Police. There were then only eight men on the force, including himself. Now there are eighteen, including four merchant police. There are two police stations, and their headquarters are in the new court house that has recently been erected. During the past year about one thousand arrests were made and five thousand fines collected. Mr. Mason was a faithful soldier of his country during the late war, and is alike true in times of peace. He conscientiously discharges every public and private duty, and has therefore won the confidence and high regard of all with whom business or social relations have brought him in contact.



ANDREW J. VEECH, a farmer residing on section 3, Oakley Township, is a native of Illinois, having been born in Macon County, April 13, 1836. His father, Isaac Veech, was born and reared in Shelby County, Ky., and in the spring of 1831 emigrated to this county, becoming one of its honored pioneers. He first located on section 11, Oakley Township. In 1823, in Shelby County, Ky., he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Bond, and unto



them were born six children, John, George, Mary Jane, Martha, Alexander (who died at the age of eighteen years), and Andrew J. of this sketch. The father died in 1864, at the age of sixty-six years, and the mother departed this life in 1883, at the age of seventy-nine. Both lie buried in North Fork's Churchyard. They were of Irish descent. They came to Macon County when it was almost an unbroken wilderness, and knew well what the trials and hardships of a new country are, for they experienced all the difficulties that come to frontier settlers. Mr. Veech was the first white man to haul a loaded wagon up the Spangler Bridge Hill.

In those early days school privileges were limited to the advantages to be obtained in a small log schoolhouse, and our subject there conned his lessons during the winter months when a young lad. As soon as he was old enough to work, he was needed to aid his father and brothers in the battle with the stern realities of life. He has known no other home than Macon County, and has lived in this community an upright, honorable life.

In February, 1879, Mr. Veech's marriage was celebrated with Miss Rebecca J. Heekle. Her father was a native of Germany, and when a young man of twenty-one years crossed the Atlantic to America, locating in Macon County, Ill. He married Miss Elizabeth Hanks, whose father was a cousin and a playmate of the martyred President, Abraham Lincoln. Unto our subject and his estimable wife have been born six children: Minnie E., Maud V., Esther A., Murrill L., Olie A. and Gaines R. The family circle yet remains unbroken, and all are still under the parental roof.

Mr. Veech is a thorough and practical farmer, and is the owner of seven hundred acres of as fine farming land as can be found in Macon County. Of this three hundred and twenty acres are located on sections 10 and 11, Oakley Township; one hundred and thirty-nine acres on section 3; forty acres on section 4; fifty-eight acres in Decatur Township; and one hundred and fifty acres on section 3, Oakley Township. On this last-mentioned tract he resides. His home, a large brick residence, is one of the finest in the neigh-

borhood. Upon the farm are good barns and out-buildings and a fine young orchard of fruit trees, just coming into bearing. These include thirty-five pear trees of a fine variety, and in the spring of 1894 he intends to set out one hundred more choice varieties of pear trees. He also has such small fruit as strawberries, blackberries and raspberries in abundance. In addition to his other interests, Mr. Veech engages quite extensively in stock-raising and ships from two to four carloads of stock each year to Chicago or other markets.

In his political views, our subject is identified with the Democratic party. He is liberal in religious belief and is an honest and careful business man, who has the confidence of all. He is public spirited and enterprising, warm hearted and generous, and justly merits the high esteem in which he is held by his friends and neighbors.



JOHN W. McDONALD, who is engaged in farming in Long Creek Township, Macon County, is one of her native sons and was born on the old homestead where he still resides, on section 20, June 15, 1862. Here he has always lived, with the exception of about a year, which he spent in Kansas at the age of twenty-two. He is a representative of one of the honored pioneer families of the county. His parents were John and Nancy L. (Sisson) McDonald, the former born in Philadelphia, Pa., and the latter in Washington County, Pa. In 1854, they became residents of Decatur, where the father followed his trade of milling. He afterwards purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land and to its improvement and further development devoted his energies throughout the remainder of his days. His death occurred in 1880, at the age of sixty-eight. Further mention is made of him in the sketch of Randall F. McDonald on another page of this work.

In the usual manner of farmer lads, the subject of this sketch was reared to manhood. No event

of special importance occurred during his youth, which was spent in the fields or in attendance at the public schools of the neighborhood, where his education was acquired. He early became familiar with all kinds of farm work and to his father gave the benefit of his services until the death of Mr. McDonald, when John took charge of the home farm, which he has since managed and operated. It is neat and thrifty in appearance, the fields are well tilled, and the improvements are such as are found upon the farm of a practical and progressive agriculturist.

In 1889, in Decatur, was celebrated the marriage which united the destinies of Mr. McDonald and Miss Jennie Clark, a niece of Mr. Hamilton of that city. Her parents died, leaving her an orphan at an early age, and from her seventh year she lived with her uncle. Two children grace this union, Edna and Essie. In the circles of society in which they move, the parents are held in high regard. Both are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Mr. McDonald is a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows' lodges of Decatur, having filled all the chairs in the latter organization. He cast his first Presidential vote for Hon. James G. Blaine and has since been a supporter of the Republican party. In the community in which his entire life has passed, he is widely and favorably known and has many warm friends.



**J**OHNN TOHILL, who carries on general farming on section 9, Mt. Zion Township, is a native of Pennsylvania. He was born in York County June 14, 1816, but did not long remain in the Keystone State, for his parents removed to Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1819. The family is of Irish origin. The father of our subject, Lawrence Tohill, was born March 18, 1793, in County Derry, Ireland. He was married September 16, 1815, to Sarah Baker, whose father came to Philadelphia when eighteen years of age and learned the stone-cutters' trade. After leaving

Pennsylvania, Mr. and Mrs. Tohill remained in Ohio until 1838, when they emigrated Westward to Crawford County, Ill., where the death of the father occurred on the 10th of January, 1868. His wife died in the same county February 30, 1852. They were the parents of six children: John, of this sketch; Daniel, who died in childhood and was buried in Ohio; Mary Ann, widow of John Wesley; Noah and George, both of whom died and were buried in Crawford County, Ill.; and Sallie, who died in childhood and was buried in Ohio.

We now take up the personal history of John Tohill, who was reared to manhood under the paternal roof. He remained at home until twenty-two years of age, when, in October, 1838, he was united in marriage with Miss Martha Springer, of Fairfield County, Ohio, a relative of Congressman Springer, of Illinois. The young couple began their domestic life in Crawford County, this State, and there resided until 1864, when they came to Macon County, locating on section 9, Mt. Zion Township, where they have since made their home. Mr. Tohill is the owner of two hundred and forty acres of arable land, which is under a high state of cultivation and well improved. Indeed it is one of the valuable farms of the township, and its neat appearance indicates the careful supervision of the owner.

Thirteen children were born unto our subject and his wife, as follows: Lewis, who is now living in Crawford County; Noah, who resides in Long Creek Township; John, who died in childhood; Mary, wife of David Booker, who lives in Long Creek Township; Lawrence, a resident of Colorado; Jonah, who makes his home three miles north of Long Creek; Martha Jane, at home; George W., who is located in Colorado; Andrew J., of Crawford County; Eli, of Moultrie County; Sarah Ann, wife of Levi Ault, of Macon County; Ellen, wife of J. I. Winning; and Clara Bell, wife of Lewis Ashermann, of Moultrie County. Lewis and Noah were soldiers in the late rebellion and did honorable service in the Union army as members of the Nineteenth Illinois Infantry.

Mr. Tohill has led a busy and useful life. Idleness is utterly foreign to his nature, and by persistent energy and enterprise he has worked his



way upward, overcoming all difficulties in his path and now has a competency which will supply his wants in his declining years. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the Republican party, with which he has been identified since its organization. Himself and wife are members of the United Brethren Church. The cause of education finds in him a warm friend and he has at times filled the office of School Director. The best interests of the community always receive his hearty support and co-operation and he is recognized as a valued citizen of Mt. Zion Township, and one of her representative farmers.



**C**APT. G. W. THOMPSON, who is numbered among the enterprising and substantial business men of Warrensburg, and among the honored and early settlers of Macon County, dates his residence here from 1858. He is a native of New York, his birth having occurred in Erie County, in 1827. His father, James C. Thompson, was born in Manchester, N. H. When a young man he left the Granite State and went to western New York, where he engaged in teaching for a number of years. He there married Miss Hettie Gould, also a native of Manchester, and, locating on a tract of timber-land about eighteen miles east of Buffalo, he cleared and opened up a farm, and there engaged in agricultural pursuits for a number of years. Wishing to try his fortune in the West, he emigrated to Illinois in 1847, and became one of the pioneers of McHenry County, where he purchased State and Government land and developed a farm of six hundred and forty acres. He made some valuable improvements upon his place, and became one of the leading agriculturists of the neighborhood. His death there occurred in March, 1885, and his remains were interred by those of his wife in Cold Springs Cemetery. She had passed away several years previous. Mr. Thompson took an active part in local politics and served as Justice of the Peace for a number of

years. Originally he was a Jackson Democrat, but became identified with the Republican party on its organization, and frequently served as delegate to its county and State conventions.

Our subject is one of a family of five sons and four daughters, and with the exception of two sisters all are now living. Mr. Thompson grew to manhood in McHenry County, and his education, acquired in the common schools, was supplemented by several terms' attendance at the Marengo Academy. He then began teaching in McHenry County, from where he came to this county with his brother when a young man, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Hickory Point Township. He aided his brother in developing this tract in the summer, and in the winter followed teaching.

On the breaking out of the late war, Capt. Thompson sold his interest in the farm to his brother and entered the service of his country, valiantly aiding in the defense of the Old Flag until honorably discharged after the close of the struggle, September 30, 1865. Returning to this county, he bought a tract of two hundred and forty acres of raw land three miles west of Warrensburg, and with characteristic energy began improving the place, draining it, building fences, etc. His labors made of it one of the fine farms of the county. Mr. Thompson continued its operation until 1887, when he rented his land and came to Warrensburg, where he has since engaged in general merchandising. He has carried on business here for sixteen years, during which time he has built up an extensive trade and established a reputation for fair dealing which might well be envied. He has also an improved residence property in the village.

The Captain has been honored with a number of local offices of trust, in all of which he has discharged his duties with promptness and fidelity. In 1889, he was appointed Postmaster under President Harrison, and efficiently served in that office until 1893, when he resigned. He cast his first Presidential vote in 1860 for Abraham Lincoln, whom he knew personally, and has supported each candidate of the Republican party for the office since that time.



In Mechanicsburg, Ill., April 10, 1866, Capt. Thompson was united in marriage with Miss Mary G., daughter of James W. Langston, one of the pioneer settlers of Sangamon County. She is a cultured and intelligent lady, and prior to her marriage engaged in teaching school. Unto them have been born the following children: Harriet M., wife of Rev. Gilman Cunningham, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, located at Humboldt, Ill.; Laura, who died at the age of eleven years; Lillian, a graduate of the Normal Institute and now successfully engaged in teaching; Gertrude, a teacher of music; Flora, who is attending the High School in Normal, Ill.; George, who attends the Wesleyan University and aids his father in the store; Frank, Clarence and Sherman. The parents are prominent and active members of the Waverly Methodist Episcopal Church, and give their support to all benevolences and interests of the church which are calculated to upbuild and benefit humanity. The Captain possesses good business and executive ability, is straightforward and honorable in all his dealings, is public-spirited and progressive, has led an upright and honorable life, and is a valued citizen, whom Warrensburg could ill afford to lose.



**J**AMES E. HILL, a retired farmer now residing in Decatur, is numbered among the honored pioneers of the county, having for many years here made his home. In fact he claims Macon County as the place of his birth, which occurred in Blue Mound Township, April 21, 1842. He is the youngest in a family of nine children, numbering four sons and five daughters, of whom four are now deceased. His parents were Francis G. and Rachel (Wilson) Hill. The father was born September 19, 1800, in Virginia, and when quite young went with his parents to Tennessee, where he remained until twenty-seven years of age. During that time he was married, and in October, 1827, he came with his wife to Illinois, lo-

eating in Macon County. He entered land in Blue Mound Township, opened up a farm and thereon made his home until his death, which occurred on the 5th of June, 1885. He was one of Macon County's earliest settlers and was prominently identified with its upbuilding and development for many years. In an early day he was offered forty acres of land where the city of Decatur now stands for a horse. The enterprising county seat had not then sprung into existence, and the settlements throughout the entire county were very few. The mother of our subject, who was a native of Tennessee and was of Irish extraction, died in this county in 1844, when our subject was only about a year old. The surviving members of the family are: Caroline, widow of M. McDonald, of Elwin, Ill.; Robert, a successful agriculturist of Edgar, Neb.; Margaret, wife of W. F. Muirhead, a farmer of Macon County; and Hannah, wife of Josiah Widick, an agriculturist of Greenfield, Mo.

The subject of this sketch remained upon the home farm until nineteen years of age, when, on the 13th of February, 1862, he was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Elizabeth Ellen Warwick. She was born May 16, 1846, in Macon County, and is a daughter of Ira Warwick, an honored pioneer of this locality. Five sons and three daughters graced their union, but two of the number are now deceased. Ira S. owns a part of the old homestead which his grandfather entered in 1827, and follows farming. Rachel L. is the wife of C. E. Ward, a carpenter. Francis G. follows farming on the old homestead. Anna P. is the wife of James E. Cattle, a prosperous farmer of Macon County. Charles H. and Georgia E. are still at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Hill rented a part of the old home farm. On his father's death he inherited a portion of the land and, purchasing the remainder of the other heirs, he came into the possession of the home. To its cultivation and further improvement, he devoted his time and attention until 1892, when he determined to lead a retired life, and came to Decatur, where he is now residing in the entire enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. He still owns two hundred and twenty acres of land in Blue Mound Township,

and a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Clay County, Neb., besides his pleasant residence in this city, which is the abode of hospitality. In his political views, Mr. Hill is a Democrat. He has served as Assessor of his township for one year, and as School Director for a number of years. Himself and wife are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Mr. Hill is now one of the oldest native citizens of Macon County, and is a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family. During his fifty years' residence here he has watched the growth and development of Macon County, has seen its wild land transformed into beautiful homes and farms, has seen its thriving towns and villages spring up, and has watched the onward march of progress that has transformed Macon County from an almost unsettled wilderness to one of the leading counties of this commonwealth.



**G**EORGE GILMAN is an enterprising agriculturist of Illini Township, residing on section 29. He has made his home here since 1868, and the farm which he has improved is considered one of the best in the county. It comprises two hundred acres of valuable land, and although it was in its primitive condition at the time it was purchased, it has been transformed into rich and fertile fields, which yield a golden tribute to the owner. The improvements include a neat and substantial residence, a large barn, a granary and other outbuildings, together with the latest machinery and a good orchard. This valuable and desirable place is as a monument to the enterprise and progress of the owner, whose possessions have all been acquired through unaided efforts.

Mr. Gilman is a native of Maine. He was born in York County January 4, 1831, and his parents, Josiah P. and Betsy (Hannafor) Gilman, were also natives of the Pine Tree State. The father

was a tanner and currier by trade, and also a shoemaker, at which business he worked for many years. From Maine, he removed to New Hampshire, and the year 1846 witnessed his emigration Westward to Marshall County, Ill., of which he became a pioneer settler. He bought land in La Prairie Township, and there made his home until 1868, when he sold out and came to Macon County. In Illini Township he opened up a farm, upon which he spent his remaining days, his death occurring in 1887. His first wife having died in Maine, Mr. Gilman was again married, in Marshall County, to Mary S. Sherman, who survived him three years.

George Gilman was the only son of his parents. He accompanied his father on his various removals until after he had attained to mature years, and gave to him the benefit of his services. His educational privileges were afforded by the Pine Tree and Granite States. He began farming for himself in Marshall County, and afterwards went to Bureau County, where he bought a farm, which he operated for three years. Selling out in 1868, he came to Macon County, and in company with his father purchased a-half section of land, the farm on which he now resides. The land was then unimproved, but with characteristic energy he began its development, and the result is now manifest in his handsome property.

October 8, 1856, Mr. Gilman returned to Great Falls, N. H., and was there united in marriage with Sarah Goding, a native of Maine, and a daughter of Luther Goding. Her grandfather, Rev. William Goding, was one of the pioneer preachers of her native State. Four children have been born unto our subject and his wife: G. Fred, a representative farmer of Illini Township, living on his grandfather's old homestead; Bessie, a school teacher of recognized ability; Richard E. and Sadie G., at home.

Mr. Gilman has been a resident of Illinois for forty-seven years, and during a-quarter of a century has made his home in Macon County. He has gained the respect of all with whom business or social relations have brought him in contact, and his friends throughout the community are many. With the Congregational Church he holds membership. His wife, who was also a member of



the same church, was called to her final rest August 25, 1892, and her death was widely and deeply mourned. Mr. Gilman cast his first Presidential vote for John P. Hale in 1852, and was a supporter of the Republican party for a number of years, but since 1884 has been a Prohibitionist, his views on the temperance question leading him to make the change in his party affiliations.



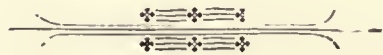
**J**AMES H. WIKOFF, who resides on section 31, Long Creek Township, is a native of Peoria, Ill., his birth having occurred in that city, September 23, 1848. His paternal great-grandfather, Peter Wikoff, was a native of New Jersey, and died in the Buckeye State at the age of seventy-eight years. He was a tailor by trade and served as a soldier in the War of 1812. The maternal great-grandfather, Peter Monfort, was born in New Jersey, and was a hero of the Revolution. He followed farming throughout his entire life. Removing to Ohio, he there spent his last days, dying at the age of eighty-one.

The father of our subject, Peter Wikoff, removed from Ohio to Peoria County, Ill., and there died during the boyhood of James. He was a farmer and carpenter in early life. He married Gertrude Monfort, who like himself was a native of New Jersey, and they became the parents of three children, but the only one now living is Peter M., whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. The mother died in 1831, and for his second wife Mr. Wikoff chose Miss Louisa Clemens, who became the mother of eight children, four sons and four daughters. Sarah is the wife of Lemuel Wikoff, of Maroa; Mary Ann, deceased, was the wife of John Graham; William, Jacob and James are the next younger; Rebecca is the wife of Hiram Estlinger, of Elmwood, Ill.; Helen is the wife of John Berkett, of Elmwood; and Oscar completes the family. In 1847, the father came to Illinois, locating in Trivoli, sixteen miles from Peoria, where his

death occurred in 1861, at the age of sixty-eight years. He was a member of the Universalist Church. His second wife died in 1887, at the age of seventy-two.

Our subject was educated in the public schools of Peoria, and remained with his mother until he began learning a trade, in 1856. Coming to Decatur, he learned the butchering business with his brother, and worked at that business for ten years, being in Decatur a part of the time, in Elmwood for about three years, and in Canton, Ill., for a year and a-half. On the 23d of December, 1875, in Decatur, he was united in marriage with Miss Cordelia Casner, a daughter of L. B. Casner. She was born on the farm which is now her home and was educated in this city. A short time after their marriage they removed to the farm and have here lived since 1876, with the exception of a period of four years. That time was spent in Decatur in order to better educate their children.

Unto our subject and his wife have been born four children, Jesse L., John, Peter and Clinty. All were born and reared in this county. The family has a pleasant home in the midst of a fine farm of three hundred acres, which yields a golden tribute in return for the care and cultivation of the owner. Mr. Wikoff devotes his entire time and attention to agricultural pursuits and has won success in this line of business. He has never sought or desired the honors or emoluments of public office, but has been a staunch advocate of Republican principles since casting his first Presidential vote for Gen. Grant. Socially, he is a member of the Woodmen's society.



**B**RADBURY CLARK, who for many years followed farming but is now living retired on section 20, Illini Township, was born on the 24th of October, 1821, in Belknap County, N. H. The Clark family was originally of Scotch origin, and its representatives living in this country formed one of three families that set-



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*William H. Carmean*



*Mary M. Cushman*



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

tled Barnstead, N. H. The father, grandfather and great-grandfather of our subject were all named Jonathan Clark, and all were born and reared in Belknap County. The father spent his entire life and reared his family in Barnstead. His death occurred in 1825, when Bradbury was only four years of age. His wife survived him many years and was called to the home beyond in 1883, at the advanced age of eighty-four years.

We now take up the personal history of our subject, who spent the days of his boyhood and youth in the old Granite State, and remained with his mother until after he had arrived at years of maturity. He then located upon a farm near the old home, where he carried on agricultural pursuits for some years. It was in 1865 that he bade adieu to home and friends in the East and came to Illinois, where he has since resided. Locating in Macon County, he purchased a tract of eighty acres of land, a part of which had been broken, and to its cultivation he devoted his energies for several years. He was successful in his undertakings, and with the capital he had acquired he afterward purchased an additional tract of eighty acres, so that now one hundred and sixty acres yield to him a golden tribute. The improvements upon the place stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise. In connection with a substantial residence there are other improvements and a good orchard. The place has been thoroughly tiled and its neat and thrifty appearance attests the careful supervision of the owner.

Ere leaving his native State, Mr. Clark was married, in 1852, the lady of his choice being Mary Proctor, who was also born in Belknap County and is a daughter of Thomas Proctor. Five children were born of their union, four of whom are now living, namely: Anna Belle, wife of E. L. Roberts, a resident of Bloomington, Ill.; Mary J., wife J. C. Tucker, of Warrensburg, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work; and Addie F., wife of T. G. Wilson, who resides on the old homestead and operates the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have a daughter, Irene B., a bright little girl of two summers. Mrs. Clark had been previously married before her union with our subject, having been the wife of John K. Kaime, by whom she had two

children, one living, George W., a resident of McCook, Neb. Mr. and Mrs. Clark also lost two children, one who died in infancy, and Emma F., who died at the age of seven years.

Our subject affiliates with the Democratic party but has never been an office-seeker, preferring to devote his time and attention to his business interests and the enjoyment of home life. In 1888 he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 28th of February, and was interred in Illini Cemetery, where a monument marks her last resting-place. Since coming to this county Mr. Clark has prospered, and by good management, perseverance and industry, he has acquired a competence which now numbers him among the substantial citizens of the community and enables him to live a retired life.



**W**ILLIAM H. CARMEAN, who for many years was connected with the agricultural interests of Macon County, but is now living a retired life in Decatur, claims Ohio as the State of his nativity, his birth having occurred in Pickaway County, August 24, 1829. His grandfather, John Carmean, was a native of Holland and crossed the Atlantic, becoming the founder of the family in America. Locating in Maryland, he there married Nancy Grayless, a native of that State. They became pioneer settlers of Ohio.

James Carmean, the father of our subject, was born near Baltimore, Md., December 17, 1799, and when about twelve years old accompanied his parents to Ohio. He acquired a limited education in the subscription schools, and throughout his entire life carried on agricultural pursuits. He emigrated from Ross County to Marion County, and on the 3d of July, 1849, entered Illinois. On the 20th of June he left Ohio, and after thirteen days located in Moultrie County, Ill., remaining with his mother's brother until after harvest. In the fall he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 25, Long Creek Township, Macon

County, and began the development of the farm which he operated until his death. He passed away March 10, 1888, at the age of eighty-eight years, and his wife died June 13, 1878, at the age of eighty-five. Their marriage was celebrated February 22, 1820, in Pickaway County, and the lady's maiden name was Mary Miller. She was born in Pennsylvania, and removed to West Virginia and later to Ohio. Her father, Peter Miller, was born in Germany, and when eight years of age started with his parents to the United States. His mother died on the voyage and was buried in the ocean, and the father died a few weeks later. Peter Miller was then bound out to a Mr. Brown, who was drafted as a soldier for the Revolutionary War, and who offered Mr. Miller his freedom from further service if he would go to the war as a substitute. This Mr. Miller did, and as the war closed soon afterward he was mustered out and, returning, married Mary, the daughter of Mr. Brown.

James Carmean and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, were always prominent in church work, and their home was headquarters for ministers. In politics, he was a Whig and afterward a Republican. The children of the family were: Nancy, who died in childhood; Sarah, wife of George Q. Baker, of Long Creek Township; John, who died in Ohio, although his home was in Kansas; Mrs. Eliza Jane Sites, who is living on the old homestead; William Henry; and Jacob, who died in infancy.

The subject of this sketch was reared in Ross and Marion Counties, Ohio, and at the age of twenty came with his parents to Illinois. His school privileges were meagre, but his training in farm labor was not limited, for as soon as he could handle the plow he began to work in the fields. He remained at home until twenty-four years of age and was then married, April 10, 1853, to Mary, daughter of John Scott. She died April 16, 1865. Three children were born of that union, but George W. is the only one now living. He married Eliza Gott and resides on the old homestead.

On the 2d of November, 1865, in Long Creek Township, Mr. Carmean wedded Mary M. (Davis) Spaulding, a native of Macon County, and a daughter of James Davis. Her first husband, John Spaul-

ding, who was a native of Lake County, Ill., was a soldier of Company C, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, and died at Vicksburg, leaving a daughter, Mrs. Mary Myers, of Long Creek Township. A daughter has been born of the second marriage, Grace, wife of Henry P. Clarke, a prosperous farmer of Long Creek Township. The parents hold membership with Grace Methodist Episcopal Church of Decatur, and have both been members of the Methodist Church from early childhood. They take an active interest in church work, and the cause of temperance finds in them warm friends. Mr. Carmean is a member of the Good Templars' society, and his wife is an ardent worker in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

Our subject cast his first Presidential vote for John C. Fremont, and supported the Republican party until 1884, since which time he has voted the Prohibition ticket. When he began business for himself he purchased railroad land, which he at once began to improve, transforming it into one of the best farms of the township. He carried on farming and stock-raising for many years and was very successful in his undertaking, acquiring four hundred and eighty acres of valuable land, a part of which he has since given to his children. In 1891, he removed to Decatur and is now living retired in his fine and attractive home, being there surrounded with all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life. Honorable and upright in all his dealings, his word is as good as his bond. In the development of the county he has aided, working for its interests in all possible ways, and is therefore numbered among its valued citizens.



**D**AVID L. SCHROLL is now living a retired life in Warrensburg, Ill., enjoying a well-earned rest. Since the fall of 1865 he has been numbered among the leading and influential citizens of the community, and it is therefore with pleasure that we present to our readers this record



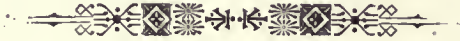
of his life work. A native of Ohio, he was born in Ashland County December 24, 1840, and is a son of David Schroll, who was born in Lancaster County, Pa., in 1812, and came of an old family of German origin that was founded in the Keystone State at an early day. The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Nancy Lehman. She too was born in Pennsylvania in 1812. In 1832, the family emigrated to Ohio, locating in Ashland County, and in the midst of the forest Mr. Schroll hewed out a farm. Upon the old homestead in that locality he lived for almost half a century, and in 1881 passed to the home beyond. His wife survived him for about three years, and departed this life in 1884.

Our subject was the third in order of birth in a family of six sons and one daughter, all of whom reached adult age, are yet living and are now heads of families. In his youth, David received good school privileges, and remained upon the home farm until twenty years of age. The country found in him a valiant defender in her hour of peril. He enlisted in September, 1861, as a member of the Forty-second Ohio Infantry, and served until his term had expired. He was with the regiment in all its engagements except when ill with the measles. In an engagement near Picketon, Ky., the troops drove the rebels from the field. They took part in the battle of Arkansas Post, the siege and capture of Vicksburg and the battle of Jackson, after which they marched to New Orleans. At Columbus, Ohio, in the fall of 1864, Mr. Schroll was honorably discharged, after three years of service.

In the spring of 1865 our subject went to Indiana, where he worked on a farm until the autumn, when he came to Illinois. In the spring of 1866 he made a permanent location in Macon County. For two years he worked as a farm hand by the month, and then rented land for two years, after which he bought a tract of fifty acres, half of which had been broken. To its further development and improvement he at once turned his attention, and as his financial resources increased he extended the boundaries of his farm, until it comprised two hundred and forty acres, all of which he placed under a high state of cultivation.

In December, 1869, Mr. Schroll wedded Miss Emma Watkins, a native of this State, and a daughter of James and Sarah Watkins. One daughter was born of their union, Alice, wife of George Faith, who carries on the old homestead. They have one son, David, a bright little boy of two years. In 1872, Mrs. Schroll died, and in the following year Mr. Schroll wedded Miss Mary Beall, daughter of Hillary and Jane Beall, pioneer settlers of Macon County.

In politics our subject was formerly a Democrat, but now supports the men and measures of the Prohibition party. Himself and wife are members of the Warrensburg Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he serves as Trustee. His life has been in keeping with his profession, and his upright, honorable career has won him universal confidence and esteem. In 1891, he left the farm, and, having built a substantial and pleasant residence in Warrensburg, he came to this place, where he is now living a retired life, enjoying the rest which he has so truly earned and richly deserves.



MARTIN V. LONERGAN, M. D., who is engaged in the practice of medicine in Casner, and is a well-known citizen of the community, was born on the 4th of February, 1852, in the City of Brotherly Love. His father, Michael Lonergan, was born in County Waterford, Ireland, there learned the trade of carpentering, and when a young man crossed the Atlantic to Philadelphia. In that city he married Margaret Donahue, a native of County Tipperary, Ireland, who came with her parents to the United States. In 1856, Michael Lonergan came to Illinois, locating in Jacksonville, where he worked at his trade, there making his home until 1870, when he sold his property and bought a farm in Sangamon County, where he spent his remaining days, dying in 1888, at the age of seventy years. His widow still resides on the old homestead. She is a member of the Catholic Church, to which her husband

belonged. He was a Democrat and took great interest in politics. The children of the family are Martin; John, who resides on the old homestead; Mauriee and Maggie, both at home; and two who have passed away.

The Doctor has been well fitted for the practical duties of life by a liberal education. He attended the public schools of Jacksonville until fourteen years of age, when he entered a store, but after a time he became a student in Whipple Academy, and subsequently was in Brown's Commercial College. He worked in a store during the daytime and attended school at night. The ambition and pluck thus shown by the boy have characterized the business career of the man, and thus made his life successful. For five years he engaged in teaching school in Sangamon County, holding a first-grade certificate, and in the meantime began reading medicine with Dr. David Price, of Jacksonville. He then attended a course of lectures at Long Island Hospital College, in Brooklyn, and in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York. His exchequer then being greatly diminished, he again taught school in order to replenish it, and subsequently completed his course of medicine, graduating in 1877. Through the influence of his room-mate, J. A. Dawson, he came to Casner in March, 1878, and has since been engaged in practice. His mother-in-law was one of his first patients. From the beginning his patronage has constantly increased, and he is now doing a large and lucrative business.

On the 14th of November, 1878, the Doctor was united in marriage with Miss Mary Wilson, daughter of William Wilson, one of the early settlers of this county. She was born and reared in Mt. Zion Township. Their union has been graced with four children, three of whom are now living, namely: John M., Ellis C. and Bertha May. Bertie, the eldest, died at the age of four years. Dr. Loneragan's partnership with Mr. Dawson continued until November, 1883, since which time he has been alone in business. He now owns a good drug store, and his profession nets him a good income. Socially, he is a member of Ionic Lodge No. 312, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter No. 12, R. A. M.; and Decatur Council No. 21, R. & S. M.,

all of Decatur; and is Noble Grand of Casner Lodge No. 463, I. O. O. F. The Doctor is an inflexible adherent of the Prohibition party, with which he has been identified since casting his first Presidential vote. Himself and wife are members of the United Brethren Church and take an active and commendable interest in all that pertains to the welfare of the community and its upbuilding.



JOHN Y. BRADEN has for many years been engaged in farming on section 26, Hickory Point Township, and is numbered among the pioneer settlers of the county. He is a native of Tennessee, his birth having occurred in Williamson County, near Franklin, on the 22d of March, 1818. His parents were Samuel and Nancy (Young) Braden, the former a native of Ireland, and the latter of South Carolina. Mr. Braden was a carpenter by trade and also followed the occupation of farming. He crossed the Atlantic in a sailing-vessel about the close of the Revolutionary War, and located in Philadelphia, Pa., from where he went to South Carolina. After his marriage he removed to Kentucky, and later to Tennessee, coming from there to Macon County, Ill., in 1829. His death here occurred in 1834, and he was laid to rest in Wheeler Cemetery. In politics he was a Democrat. His wife survived him for a number of years, and at her death, in 1843, her remains were interred in Greenwood Cemetery.

The subject of this sketch is the youngest and only surviving child of the family of seven children. He was a lad of eleven years when, with the family, he came to Illinois. Amid the wild scenes of frontier life he was reared to manhood, and shared in the hardships and trials which fall to the lot of the pioneer. As the family was in limited circumstances, and there were none but subscription schools in the neighborhood, his educational privileges were quite limited. He remained at home until after his father's death, in 1834. His mother was again married, in 1836,



and he then started out in life for himself with nothing but a pair of willing hands and a determination to win success.

Mr. Braden began by working as a farm hand, receiving \$14 per month as a compensation for his services. He was thus employed for four years, and during this time spent one winter in Louisiana, chopping cordwood. In 1839 he began farming for himself upon rented land. He made his home in Decatur, but operated the land, and in this way he acquired some capital, which, in 1848, he invested in real estate, purchasing eighty acres of the land on which he now resides. It was then a tract of wild prairie, upon which he erected a small log cabin, 15x15 feet, making it his home for two years. It was then replaced by a more commodious frame residence. His land he at once began to improve, transforming the raw tract into rich and fertile fields. The boundaries of his farm he has extended until it now comprises two hundred acres of valuable land, all under a high state of cultivation.

On the 23d of January, 1840, Mr. Braden married Miss Laura A. Hunting, a daughter of Luther and Phoebe A. (Leonard) Hunting. The lady is a native of Vermont, her birth having occurred December 12, 1819. Their union was blessed with a family of nine children. Sidney, who was born November 15, 1840, served as a soldier in the late war, and died January 11, 1875, from the result of wounds received at the battle of Vicksburg; John Edwin is a farmer of Hickory Point Township; Alzina P. died September 13, 1863; Jerome O. is living in Colorado, where he follows agricultural pursuits; Thomas J. is a resident farmer of Whitmore Township; Mariette died April 11, 1872; Flora A. is the wife of William L. Bear, of Hickory Point Township; George A. carries on the home farm; and Cora A., the youngest of the family, is the wife of William T. Dillehunt, a farmer of Decatur Township.

Mr. Braden takes quite an active interest in political affairs and votes with the Democratic party. He has been honored with a number of public offices of trust, having first been called upon to serve as Constable, filling that position for eight years. He was the first Supervisor of Hick-

ory Point Township, and for six years held that office. For the long period of twenty-six years he served as School Treasurer, and for thirteen years has been Justice of the Peace. He was also a member of the County Board of Agriculture for twenty-five years. In the various positions which he has been called upon to fill, he has always discharged his duties with a promptness and fidelity that have won him high commendation and led to his repeated elections. With the Masonic fraternity he has held membership for a half-century. His first recollections of Decatur are of a hamlet, containing six log cabins. He helped to organize his township and lay out the roads, and has aided greatly in the development and upbuilding of the county and the promotion of its best interests. Few have longer been residents of Macon County than Mr. Braden, who for sixty-four years has lived within its borders.

On the 23d of January, 1890, Mr. and Mrs. Braden celebrated the anniversary of their fiftieth wedding day, or golden wedding, when two hundred and ten guests sat down to dinner with them. They were the recipients of a number of handsome and valuable presents, among them a gold-headed cane and gold-mounted umbrella.



PROF. JACOB H. CONRADT, who is teacher of natural sciences in the High School of Decatur, and one of the well-known instructors of the State, is a native of New York. He was born in Rensselaer County on the 24th of October, 1847, and is a son of David and Catherine (File) Conradt. His father was born in the Empire State in 1815, and the greater part of his active business life was spent on farms in New York and Michigan, but he is now living retired in Paola, Kan.

The Conradt family numbered twelve children, of whom our subject is the sixth in order of birth. Three are still living, but he is the only one who resides in Illinois. The first ten years of his life



were spent in the State of his nativity, after which he accompanied his parents on their removal Westward. The family located in Albion, Mich., and he acquired his education in its public schools, and in the State Normal School, located in Ypsilanti, from which he was graduated in the Class of '76, having pursued the teachers' course and made a specialty of the study of Latin and the sciences.

Mr. Conradt began teaching in 1871, and paid his own way through the Normal School with the money which he earned as a teacher. After his graduation he became principal of the school in Belleville, Mich., and acceptably filled that position for five years. The succeeding year of his life was devoted to his duties as principal of the public schools of Litchfield, Ill., which he left to accept the position of special teacher of the sciences in the High School of this city. The Decatur school had made application to the Ypsilanti Normal for a teacher, and Mr. Conradt was recommended to them as being specially adapted for scientific work. He accepted the position tendered him and entered upon his duties in 1881. He found poor facilities—an illy-equipped laboratory in a gloomy basement. A great change has been wrought under his direction, and the Decatur High School is now said to be the finest equipped school for scientific work in the State outside of Chicago. There are four hundred pupils enrolled in the school, and of this number one hundred and seventy are taking the scientific course. Every facility is offered, and the equipments of the department are lacking in no particular. During three years of the High School course special attention is given to sciences.

On the 20th of September, 1871, in Albion, Mich., was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Conradt and Miss Frances Robinson, a native of New York. Two children have been born of their union, both sons: Lewis E., who is a student in the dental department of the Michigan University; and William, who is now attending the High School. The parents are members of the First Baptist Church and are prominent people in the community, holding a high position in social circles where true worth and intelligence are received as the passports into good society. During the summer vacations, Mr.

Conradt is generally engaged in institute work, as scientific instructor. He is one of the leading educators in his branch in Illinois, and his reputation is well deserved. Socially, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias. He also belongs to the State and National Teachers' Associations, in which he takes an active part.



**A**LBERT LAWRENCE COLLINS, M. D., who is engaged in the practice of medicine in Decatur, came to this city in 1890, and has since been engaged here in the prosecution of his profession. He is a native of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Holmes County on the 2d of July, 1860. He was reared to manhood, however, in Illinois, to which State he came when six years of age with his parents. His father, Rev. Alexander Collins, was a prominent minister of the United Brethren Church, and died in Westfield, Clark County, Ill., in 1885. He had been Presiding Elder of that district for seventeen years, and for thirty-seven years his life had been devoted to the ministry. He passed away at the age of sixty-eight, his birth having occurred in Pennsylvania. His friends were many and his death was deeply mourned.

Under the parental roof the Doctor spent the days of his boyhood, and his early education, acquired in the common schools, was supplemented by a partial course in Westfield College. Wishing to enter the medical profession, he began reading medicine under the direction of Dr. Joseph Hall, of Westfield, being then a young man of nineteen years. In September, 1881, he became a student in the Medical College of Indiana, located in Indianapolis, and after pursuing his studies for two years was graduated from that institution in March, 1883, with the degree of M. D.

Dr. Collins began practice in Isabel, Edgar County, Ill., and in 1886 he came to Macon County, locating in Mt. Zion. In the fall of 1888 he received a commission, issued by the Mission-

ary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to go to Pekin, China, as superintendent of the Methodist Hospital. He accepted, giving up a fine practice, and for his work he fitted himself by becoming familiar with Chinese customs. Finally, however, he concluded to abandon this plan, and after an interruption in his practice of some months he located in Niantie, where he remained for a short time. In 1890, he came to Decatur, as before stated.

On the 3d of June, 1890, Dr. Collins was united in marriage with Dr. Naomi Picree, also a medical practitioner. A sketch of her life appears elsewhere in this work. Our subject belongs to the Capital District Medical Society, the Central Illinois District Medical Society, the Esculapian Medical Society, and the Sydenham Medical Society. He is the medical examiner for the lodges of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Home Forum, and takes an active interest in these lodges. He served as delegate to the head camp in Omaha in 1892. Although the Doctor's residence in Decatur has been of short duration, he has already succeeded in building up quite a practice, which is constantly increasing. He is highly esteemed in social as well as professional circles, and is a gentleman worthy of the high regard in which he is held.



**A**NGUS L. STEWART, who carries on general farming and stock-raising on sections 23 and 24, Hickory Point Township, is numbered among the early settlers of Macon County, his residence here, which dates from 1848, covering a period of forty-five years. During the days which have come and gone since his arrival, he has witnessed a wonderful transformation. He has seen the once wild prairie transformed into rich farms, and the little hamlets grow into thriving towns and cities, with their many industries and enterprises and all the improvements, inventions and conveniences known to the

civilized world. In the work of developing the county he has borne his part, and his name well deserves enrollment on the list of honored pioneers.

Mr. Stewart was born near Youngstown, in Trumbull County, Ohio, March 14, 1820, and comes of an old family of Irish origin, which in early Colonial days was founded in America. His father, Robert Stewart, was a native of Pennsylvania. His mother, who bore the maiden name of Catherine Sinclair, was also born in the same State, and was of Scotch descent. This worthy couple had a family of eleven children, but with the exception of Angus (who is the third in order of birth), Catherine and Malvina, all are now deceased. They were: Alexander, Armstrong, William, James, Eleanor, Annie M., Elizabeth and Mary.

The subject of this sketch obtained his education in a log schoolhouse, which was three miles distant from his home. The advantages of his youth were not very plentiful. His work upon the farm, however, was not meagre. As soon as old enough to handle the plow, he began to labor in the fields, and to his father gave the benefit of his services until he had attained his majority, when he began working as a farm hand by the month. He also worked at the carpenter's trade, which he followed a number of years, both in Ohio and Illinois. In 1848, he bade adieu to home and friends and emigrated Westward with the hope of improving his financial condition. The journey was made by team. At length he reached Macon County, Ill., and located in Decatur, where he began work as a carpenter. As the county was then becoming quite rapidly settled, there was a demand for his services, and he did a good business in that line until 1857, when he determined to resume farming.

Mr. Stewart was married in 1850, the lady of his choice being Miss Mary Krone. Their union was blessed with thirteen children, who in order of birth were as follows: Nettie; Ida and Ruth, both deceased; Mary; David; Robert; Almoth, deceased; Edward O.; Ray, deceased; Samuel; Frank; and Loa and Albert, both of whom have passed away.

When he came to Decatur, Mr. Stewart had no



capital save about \$5 and his kit of carpenter tools, but he was ambitious and energetic and not afraid of work, so he easily secured employment, and as the result of his untiring labors he acquired enough capital with which to purchase land. In 1857, he entered from the Government one hundred and sixty acres of land on sections 23 and 24, Hickory Point Township. It was all a wild tract, upon which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made, but he at once began plowing and planting, and in course of time rich harvests rewarded his labors. His farm now comprises one hundred and eighty-two acres of rich land, which yields to him a golden tribute. He is a self-made man, and his worth and ability are widely recognized by his fellow-townsmen, who hold him in high esteem.



**G**EORGE CONOVER, a member of the banking firm of Crocker & Co., of Maroa, is one of the wide-awake and progressive citizens of this community, being prominently identified with many of its leading interests. Such men as our subject have been the leading factors in the up-building of Maroa, and go to form the substantial element which is now the main support of the city. Mr. Conover claims Ohio as the State of his nativity, his birth having occurred in Shelby County, June 6, 1855. The family name was originally written Covenhoven, but has been contracted to its present spelling. The grandfather, Timothy Conover, was a native of New Jersey, and a carpenter by trade. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812 and reached the ripe old age of four-score years.

Tylee Conover was one of his six children. He too was born in New Jersey, and in an early day followed carpentering, but afterward carried on farming. In Ohio, he married Hester Ann Bond, a native of that State, and in 1858 came with his family to Illinois, locating upon a farm in Logan

County, where he remained until 1865, when he removed to Maroa. That year he built the steam flouring mill at this place and carried on milling until 1880, when he sold out and retired from active business life. In 1874 he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died in August, at the age of fifty-two. She was a member of the Christian Church. In the fall of 1876 he was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Susan Henry, widow of John Henry, and a daughter of John Deever.

Our subject is one of six children, but Eliza and Seth are now deceased. His brothers are William H. and Governor. His sister, Mary Alice, is the wife of Warner J. Compton, of Maroa. He is the youngest of the family, and was only three years old when with his parents he came to this State. Since the age of ten he has lived in Macon County, and the greater part of his education has been here acquired. After his school life was ended he became weigh-master and book-keeper in the elevator of Emery & Compton, with whom he remained for three years, and subsequently was with C. F. Emery, real-estate and loan agent, as book-keeper from 1880 until 1888. In 1884 he formed a partnership with his employer, and they engaged in the banking business under the firm name of C. F. Emery & Co., Mr. Conover serving as book-keeper. In 1888 the bank was consolidated with that of Crocker & Co., under which name business is now carried on. In February, 1889, Mr. Crocker and Mr. Conover purchased Mr. Emery's interests and with the estate of John H. Crocker are the present proprietors.

On the 1st of February, 1883, Mr. Conover was united in marriage with Mary Sanderson, daughter of Alexander and Ann (Dent) Sanderson, of Decatur. Two children were born unto them, Bessie May and Charles Sanderson. The mother, who was a member of the Episcopal Church, died June 4, 1890, and on the 28th of June, 1892, Mr. Conover wedded Miss Christina H. Sanderson, a sister of his former wife. She too holds membership with the Episcopal Church, and Mr. Conover is a member of the Christian Church.

In his political affiliations our subject is a Republican, and in his social relations is connected



with Maroa Lodge No. 314, I. O. O. F. He owns two hundred and forty acres of good land in South Dakota, besides his comfortable residence in Maroa, and together with his interest in the bank, he owns an interest in the city electric-light plant. In business circles he has gained high regard, and in social circles he and his wife hold enviable positions, having won the esteem of all with whom they have been brought in contact.



**J**OSEPH RORK, a well-known farmer of Long Creek Township, residing on section 29, was born in 1823, in County Kildare, Ireland, fifteen miles from the city of Dublin. His parents, John and Elizabeth (Connell) Rork, were both natives of the same locality, and were farming people. They held membership with the Catholic Church, and were highly respected by all. Seven children were born unto them: Ann, who died in Ireland; Joseph, of this sketch; James, who died in Ireland; Mary, who is still living in that country; Elizabeth, who was accidentally drowned in her native land; Catherine, who died in New York; and John, who is still living in the Empire State.

Upon the home farm Joseph Rork was reared to manhood, and the common schools afforded him his educational privileges. He began earning his own livelihood by working as a farm hand, and was thus employed in his native land until he had attained his majority, when he decided to try his fortune in the New World, and sailed from Liverpool to New York. The voyage of thirty-six days was a very stormy one, the main mast being carried away, and water and food were exhausted ere reaching port. For seven years Mr. Rork was employed as a farm hand in New York, remaining with one gentleman during all that period, which indicates faithfulness and trustworthiness on his part. In 1854, he came to Illinois and cast his lot with the early settlers of Macon County. He had borrowed \$55 to bring him to America, and

he labored assiduously until the indebtedness was paid off, working for seventy-five cents per day.

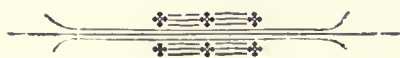
In his native land, our subject had plighted his troth to Miss Ellen Murray, and three years after his emigration she also crossed the briny deep, and they were married in New York. Together they came to the West, and, purchasing fifty-five acres of land in Blue Mound Township, which had not then been organized, began life in Illinois. In 1865, Mr. Rork purchased eighty acres of land in Long Creek Township—a swampy, unimproved tract—and began the development of a farm. All of the improvements upon the place are the work of his hands, and are monuments to his busy and well-spent life. He has erected a pleasant residence and good barns, has planted trees, and made of his home one of the finest farms of the county. He has been very successful in his undertakings, and is now the owner of six hundred acres of valuable land, which yields to him a golden tribute.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Rork have been born the following children: Joseph C., who is mentioned below; Curtis, who aids in the operation of the old home farm; and Elizabeth, who became the wife of James Foley, and died in September, 1891, leaving one child. All were reared and educated in this county, and are worthy members of society. The parents and family are members of the Catholic Church. Mr. Rork cast his first Presidential ballot in 1860, supporting Lincoln, and has since been identified with the Republican party. One of the early settlers of the county, he has witnessed much of its growth and upbuilding, and has ever borne his part in its advancement. He has the high regard of all who know him, for his life has been well spent.

Joseph C. Rork, the son, is recognized as one of the wide-awake and progressive young farmers of Long Creek Township. He was born in Blue Mound Township in 1859, and was reared upon his father's farm. The history of frontier life in Macon County is familiar to him. He conned his lessons in the district schools of the neighborhood, and was early inured to the arduous labors of the farm. He remained with his parents until twenty-five years of age, and then started out in life for himself.

Mr. Rork married Elizabeth Dunn, a native of this county, her parents being then residents of Mt. Zion Township, although they now reside in Decatur. Their union was celebrated September 9, 1884, and the lady died January 31, 1890, leaving two children: Willie, born July 7, 1885; and Frank, born September 27, 1887. On the 25th of February, 1892, Mr. Rork was joined in marriage with Elizabeth Breen, a native of Edgar County, Ill., and a daughter of Patrick and Mary Breen.

Our subject is a successful farmer, and now operates four hundred acres of land, which he has under a high state of cultivation, and which is thereby made to yield to him a ready return for his labor. He cast his first vote for James G. Blaine in 1884, and still exercises his right of franchise in support of the Republican party. He keeps well informed on all questions of the day, and takes an active and commendable interest in everything that pertains to the welfare of the community in which his entire life has been passed. Himself and wife are members of St. Patrick's Catholic Church.



**J**AMES K. PECK, a leading and influential citizen of Oakley Township, who follows farming on section 20, is a native of Ohio. The place of his birth is in Piekaway County, and the date is March 8, 1844. His father, Daniel Peek, was born in Virginia in 1810, and was of German descent. In May, 1833, he married Miss Hettie Roek, and in 1850 emigrated with his family to Macon County, Ill., settling on a farm on section 17, Oakley Township, where he remained until his death, which occurred in 1870. His wife was called to her final rest in 1861. Unto this worthy couple were born twelve children, but Mary, Isabel, John, Jacob, Delilah and Isaac are now deceased. The parents and children were all buried in Peek's Cemetery. The living members of the family are Hanson, Martha, James K., Jane,

Catherine and George. In 1868, Mr. Peek was again married, his second union being with Susan Leslie, who survives her husband and is now living in Cerro Gordo.

Our subject was a lad of six summers when with his parents he came to this county. Upon the home farm the days of his boyhood and youth were spent, and he remained with his father, aiding in the labors of the field, until 1863, when he enlisted as a soldier in the service of his country. When the war was over he was honorably discharged, in August, 1865, having been a valiant defender of the Union. He participated in the engagements at Resaca, Big Shanty, Kenesaw, Jonesboro and Bentonville, and was twice hit by a bullet-shot in the battle of Resaca, but was not seriously wounded. For some time he was Orderly of the division ambulance train, and at length was mustered out at Little Rock.

Mr. Peek then returned home and remained with his father until his death in 1871, when he and his brother Hanson purchased the old homestead. Here he has since engaged in farming and has also engaged in the manufacture of tile near the Sangamon River for three years. He has been a careful, hard-working business man and has been remarkably successful in his ventures. One farm after another he has added to his possessions, until he is now the owner of six hundred and twenty acres of good land, all of which lies in Macon County, with the exception of eighty acres in Piatt County. His home farm is a part of the old homestead which his father first purchased. It is pleasantly located and is supplied with a comfortable residence and good outbuildings. The farm is well watered, and there is an abundance of fruit trees and berries. He has also dealt quite extensively in stock and this branch of his business has yielded him a good income.

In 1871, Mr. Peek was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Doyle, who died about a year later. October 8, 1877, he was joined in marriage with Miss Margaret Chambers, a daughter of Thomas Chambers, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. Three children graced their union: Arthur, Russell and Marge M. The mother died in October, 1891, and was buried in Peek Cemetery.



Mr. Peck is a member of the United Brethren Church, and in politics has been identified with the Republican party since its organization. He has never been an office-seeker, but has at different times served as School Director and Overseer of Highways. Socially, he is a member of Post No. 210, G. A. R., of Cerro Gordo. He is a social, genial gentleman and his friends throughout the community are many.

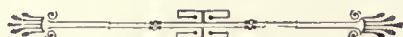


**J**OHIN P. HOLMES, who resides on section 9, Harristown Township, has lived upon his present farm since 1864. He is a native of Indiana, his birth having occurred in Tippecanoe County, August 6, 1853. His parents were Archibald and Margaret Holmes. The father was a native of Ohio, and in 1864 he came to Macon County, Ill., locating upon a farm which is now the home of our subject. It then comprised eighty acres of land. There he resided until his death, which occurred in 1874, at the age of forty-four years. His widow still survives him, and is now living in Kansas with her daughter.

The subject of this sketch is the only member of the family who still resides in Macon County. No event of special importance occurred during his boyhood and youth, which were quietly passed upon the old homestead farm. After his father's death he turned his attention to other pursuits than that of agriculture and embarked in merchandising. In connection with I. F. Peck, of Harristown, he opened a general mercantile establishment, investing a capital of about \$2,000 in the enterprise. As a member of the firm of Peck & Holmes, he diligently and successfully carried on operations for eight years. The firm made money during that time, their sales amounting to \$25,000 per year, of which Mr. Holmes received \$1,000 per year as his share of the profits. At length he determined to remove to the farm, and, having acquired some capital, he bought back the old homestead, paying \$40 per acre for the same.

He also added to this two hundred acres, for which he paid about \$50 per acre. His property is now one of the finest farms of the community, being well improved and highly cultivated. In the spring of 1881, Mr. Holmes brought the first herd of Hereford cattle to the county. He started with three cows and a bull, for which he paid \$1,500. In connection with the breeding of fine cattle he also raises trotting horses.

On the 23d of April, 1884, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Holmes and Miss Clara Reynolds, of Chicago, a daughter of C. F. Reynolds, formerly a stock-shipper of Decatur. However, he left Macon County some twenty years ago and became a commission merchant of Chicago. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Holmes have been born two children, Gertrude and Floyd. Mrs. Holmes is a member of the Christian Church and is a most estimable lady. Our subject ranks among the leading farmers and stock-dealers of the county, and well deserves to be classed among the self-made men, for his indefatigable labors and well-directed efforts have gained him a comfortable competency.



**S**AMUEL WEAVER, who resides on section 22, Hickory Point Township, is one of the representative farmers and most extensive land-owners of Macon County. He may truly be called a self-made man, his possessions having been acquired entirely through his own efforts. His industry and good management gained for him prosperity, which is the just reward of his labor.

Mr. Weaver was born in Lancaster County, Pa., near Lancaster City, in October, 1824. His father, Conrad Weaver, was a native of the Keystone State and was of German descent. Throughout his entire life he followed the occupation of farming. His death occurred in 1841. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Rebecca Senseman, survived him for many years and passed away in 1862. Of their family of ten children, John is now deceased;



Daniel is a retired farmer living in Cumberland County, Pa.; Anna Elizabeth is the next younger; Samuel follows in order of birth; Rebecca, Fannie and Lena are all deceased; and Mary is living in Cumberland County, Pa.

We now take up the personal history of our subject, whose boyhood days were quietly passed upon the home farm and in attendance at the district schools, where he acquired his education. He remained at home until after the death of his father, which occurred when he was seventeen years of age. He then began learning the blacksmith's trade in Carlisle, Pa., serving a two-years apprenticeship, during which time he received no compensation for his services except his board and clothing. On the expiration of that period he returned to the farm and carried on the homestead for his mother for a period of six years. Hoping to better his financial condition by removing Westward, in the fall of 1850 he started by team for Illinois, making a location in Macon County.

Ere leaving the Keystone State Mr. Weaver was united in marriage, in 1844, with Miss Sarah Seiler. Unto them have been born five children and the family circle remains unbroken. The eldest, Alfred, aids in the operation of the home farm; Charles is engaged in farming in Hickory Point Township, on the land where our subject first settled; Nancy is the wife of John Keister, a farmer of Macon County; Catherine is the wife of Jacob Lehman, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Hickory Point Township; and Susan is the wife of Asa Crossman, a resident farmer of Austin Township.

On coming to this county Mr. Weaver purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 16, Hickory Point Township, an unimproved tract, which he immediately began to develop. There he made his home until 1864, since which time he has resided on section 22. His home farm now comprises six hundred and eighty acres of good land, and in connection with its cultivation he carries on stock-raising. His fields are well tilled, and in his pastures is a good grade of horses and cattle. He has substantial buildings upon the place, the latest improved machinery, and all the accessories and conveniences of a model farm. As

his financial resources have increased he has made judicious investments in land, and his possessions now aggregate some thirty-five hundred acres, the greater part of which lies in Macon County, although a portion of it is in Piatt County. Since the age of seventeen years he has made his own way in the world, and all that he now possesses stands as a monument to his thrift and industry. He possesses excellent business ability, is correct in his judgment and careful in his investments. In politics he is a Democrat and has held the office of Commissioner of Highways. He always takes an active interest in those enterprises calculated to benefit the community.



**F**RANCIS A. SITES, a farmer residing on section 25, Long Creek Township, is another of the worthy citizens that has been furnished to Macon County by Ohio. He was born in Fairfield County of the Buckeye State, August 6, 1824, and is of German descent. His grandfather, Peter Sites, was a native of Virginia, and in 1809 removed to Fairfield County, Ohio, where he followed farming. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was a Whig in politics. Frederick Sites, father of our subject, was born in the Old Dominion in 1880, and at the age of nine went to Ohio, where, in the midst of the forest, he was reared to manhood. He was a great reader, and although he was educated in the primitive log schoolhouse, with its mud and stick chimney and paper windows, he became a well-informed man. When twenty-two years of age he began driving a six-horse team in the winter season, hauling produce and salt to Philadelphia and Baltimore, and returning with dry goods for the merchants. He followed that business for twenty-five years, when, the railroads being built, his trade was taken from him. He lived upon the same farm for nearly a century. He was a man of strong constitution and led a busy and useful life. He cleared acre after acre of timber land with his own

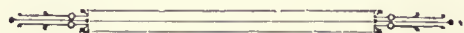
hands and placed a large farm under cultivation, successfully carrying on agricultural pursuits and stock-raising.

In November, 1822, Frederick Sites wedded Mary Copp, who was born in Greenbrier County, Va., May 11, 1804, and died in Fairfield County, Ohio, June 9, 1888. She lived the life of a devoted Christian, and was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for seventy-two years. Mr. Sites was a member for seventy-five years. In the early days church services were held in their home and they were always active in benevolent work. The father passed away February 25, 1892. In the family were the following children: Francis A., of this sketch; Eleanor, who died in Ohio; Henry F., who crossed the plains to California and there died; Peter, a soldier of the late war, living in Columbus, Ohio; Samuel and Catherine, both deceased; George, a Methodist minister in New York City; and Mrs. James C. Belt, who resides on the old homestead.

Upon the old farm in his native State, our subject spent the days of his boyhood and youth, and in his early life besides his labors in the fields, he also worked at the carpenter's trade. On attaining his majority he started out in life for himself and for a time ran a threshing-machine. In 1852 he arrived in Illinois after a nine-days journey on horseback, and began raising sheep in Long Creek Township. He and his brother each had a horse, but their joint capital was less than \$100, so they bought their sheep on time and paid for them in wool.

Upon the farm which is still his home, Mr. Sites was married in 1853 to Miss Eliza Jane Carmean, who was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, in 1826, and with her parents came to Illinois in 1849. She learned to spin flax and wool and the other duties of the household were made familiar to her, but her educational privileges were limited. For six years the young couple lived upon the Hale farm and then returned to the Carmean homestead, where Mr. Sites now owns one hundred and twenty acres of rich land and a fine home. He devotes his energies to general farming and stock-raising, and his career has been one of prosperity. Mr. and Mrs. Sites have no children of their own, but

have adopted several, including John N., who came to them at the age of nine; Nancy Jane Phipps, now the wife of Stanley Tucker; George, who operates the home farm; and Grace, who is also yet upon the farm. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sites have been members of the Methodist Episcopal Church for many years and he serves as Trustee. He cast his first vote for Henry Clay, and was then a Whig until the organization of the Republican party, with which he has since been identified. Through his own unaided efforts he has achieved success and is now the owner of a fine farm, while throughout the community he is well known and highly respected.



**J**OSEPHUS ASH, a well-to-do and representative farmer of Harristown Township, residing on section 8, claims Indiana as the State of his nativity, his birth having occurred in Tippecanoe County on the 4th of March, 1845. His parents, Payton and Sarah J. (Oglesby) Ash, were both natives of Virginia, where they were reared and married. On leaving the Old Dominion, they emigrated Westward to Indiana, and became early settlers of Tippecanoe County, where Mr. Ash secured raw land and began the development of a farm. From that time on he was one of the leading agriculturists of the community, and for many years he made his home in Tippecanoe County, passing away in 1885, respected by all who knew him. His wife survived him for several years, and was called to the home beyond in January, 1892.

Josephus Ash is the seventh in order of birth in a family of nine children, numbering four sons and five daughters, all of whom attained to years of maturity. Our subject grew to manhood under the parental roof, and in the public schools acquired a fair English education. After arriving at man's estate, he was married, November 7, 1866, to Miss Mary A. Powell, who was born in Boone County, Ind., and is a daughter of Hiram Powell,



one of the pioneers of Indiana. For about four years after their marriage they remained in the Hoosier State, and in the spring of 1870 came to Illinois, locating in Macon County, where Mr. Ash purchased eighty-six acres of land. There was a small house upon the place and the land was partially improved, but he at once began its further development and has now transformed it into rich and fertile fields, which yield a golden tribute to the care and supervision of the owner. As his financial resources were increased he bought seventy-six acres adjoining, and afterwards added another eighty-acre tract, so that he now has two hundred and thirty-two acres. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ash were born the following children: Charlie; Eliza; Oley D.; Jesse, who died at the age of two years; Hiram P.; Myrtle, wife of Abram Birks, a farmer of Harristown Township; and Eva, wife of Sheldon Parks, of Niantic Township.

The parents hold membership with the Christian Church of Harristown and are active workers in its interests. In politics Mr. Ash is a stalwart supporter of the Republican party and has been a warm advocate of its measures since attaining his majority. He has, however, never been an aspirant for official preferment, desiring rather to devote his time and attention to the care of the farm, which is one of the best in the township, being supplied with all necessary buildings and all the conveniences and accessories of a model farm of the nineteenth century. As a citizen, Mr. Ash is public-spirited and progressive and does all in his power to promote the best interests of town and county.



**G**EORGE G. HARNSBERGER is now living a retired life on his farm on section 19, Whitmore Township. He there owns a valuable property and is numbered among the prosperous agriculturists of the community. A native of Ohio, he was born near Springfield, Clark County, on the 3d of March, 1825, and is a son of Jacob and Catherine Harnsberger. The

family is of German origin. Unto his parents were born ten children, as follows: Abraham, now deceased; Wesley, a retired farmer living in Iowa; Philip A., a resident farmer living in Clinton County, Ind.; Conrad, deceased; Henry M., who lives in Sangamon County; George G.; Jacob S., deceased; Polly, who became the wife of Moses Fudge, but has now passed away; Liza, who became the wife of Aaron Blystone, and is now deceased, as is also her husband; and Barbara J., wife of William Edwards, of Indiana.

Our subject was born and reared upon a farm, and his educational privileges were those afforded by the subscription schools, to which he had to walk long distances. His mother died when he was a little lad of five years, and by his father's death he was left an orphan at the age of fourteen. The year previous he had begun earning his own livelihood, working at general farm labor at twenty-five cents per day.

Mr. Harnsberger, who had removed with his parents to Clinton County, Ind., in the fall of 1829, remained in the Hoosier State until the year 1839, when he determined to seek a home and fortune in Illinois and located in Sangamon County, where he worked at farm labor until 1844. As the result of his economy and industry during that period he accumulated some property, and in that year purchased a farm near Salisbury, Sangamon County, a partially improved tract which he continued to cultivate until 1865, when he came to Macon County and located in Whitmore Township, on the farm which is now his home. He purchased three hundred and twenty-six acres of partially improved land, but its present thrifty and neat appearance is due to his untiring labors. He carried on general farming and stock-raising, and his business proved a successful one, so that by his well-directed efforts he gained a competency which now enables him to live a retired life.

On the 14th of March, 1850, Mr. Harnsberger was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Scott, and by their union were born five children: James J., who is engaged in the livery business in Champaign, Ill.; Belle, wife of H. O. Acom, of Montgomery County, Kan.; William H., an attorney-



at-law now employed in the Pension Department in Washington, D. C.; John A., who died in February, 1867, and Minnie, wife of D. L. Hardy, who resides on the old homestead with our subject.

Mr. Harnsberger is a public-spirited and enterprising citizen, who gives his support to all worthy interests calculated to prove of public benefit or advance the general welfare. In politics he is a staunch Prohibitionist, and the cause of temperance finds in him a warm friend. He has served his township as Supervisor for two terms, was Road Commissioner for a number of years, and has held all the school offices. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as was his wife, who departed this life September 5, 1890, and was laid to rest in Greenwood Cemetery, of Deatur. The path of Mr. Harnsberger was not a flowery one in early life. Starting out for himself a poor boy, only thirteen years of age, he had many hardships and difficulties to encounter and trials to overcome, but his persistent energy and diligence have been the foundation upon which his success rested.



**C**HARLES S. BULLARD, a well-known farmer of Illini Township, residing on section 14, is prominently identified with the agricultural interests of Macon County, and is numbered among her honored pioneers, his residence here dating from 1859. He is a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Morgan County July 6, 1843. His father, William C. Bullard, was a native of New Hampshire. His parents having died when he was a small child, he was brought by an uncle to Morgan County, this State, in 1832, when twelve years of age. He there met and married Miss Margaret L. Patterson, a native of Kentucky, and a daughter of William Patterson. Mr. Bullard became a contractor and builder and carried on business in Jacksonville for a number of years. In 1859, he came to Macon County, and bought the tract of land on which our subject now resides.

When it came into his possession it was raw prairie, but his labors soon made of it rich and fertile fields. Upon the farm which he there developed the father made his home until his death in 1864. His wife survived him for nineteen years, when she was called to the home beyond, in 1883.

Unto that worthy couple were born nine children, five sons and four daughters, and with one exception all reached adult age. William, who enlisted for the late war as a member of the Eighth Illinois Infantry, gave his life in defense of the Union at the battle of Ft. Donelson; Eliza died at the age of fourteen; Charles is the third in order of birth; John died in 1864; James is married and resides with his family in Deatur; Frances, widow of George Watkins, makes her home in Hickory Point Township; Margaret P. is the wife of John Beall, of Illini Township; Warner T. is a farmer of this community; and Effie is the wife of William S. Black, who lives near Defiance, Iowa.

Mr. Bullard spent the first sixteen years of his life in the county of his birth, and then came with the family to Macon County. He too was a loyal soldier, joining the boys in blue of Company E, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, in July, 1862. He went South with his regiment, engaging in the battle of Arkansas Post and the siege and capture of Vicksburg. His brigade ran the blockade down the Tennessee River, and participated in the engagement at Missionary Ridge and afterwards went to the relief of Burnside at Knoxville. He was under fire at the battles of Kenesaw Mountain and Atlanta, and his last engagement was at Jonesboro. Although he participated in many hard-fought battles, he escaped without wounds, and was discharged at Camp Butler in May, 1865, after nearly three years of faithful service.

Immediately returning to his home, Mr. Bullard took charge of the old farm, which he operated for several years. He was married in Piatt County, September 23, 1868, to Miss Eliza Willard, a native of Morgan County, and a daughter of A. C. Willard, who came to this county when Mrs. Bullard was a maiden of twelve summers. Three children came to bless the home: Clara, now the wife of Prof. J. E. Underwood, of Warrensburg; Maggie and Lenora, both at home. After his mar-

riage our subject rented land for several years, and subsequently, purchasing the interest of the other heirs in the old homestead farm, he again took up his residence at the old place, in 1884. The farm which has so long been his home, and which pleasant memories and associations have made very dear to him, is valuable and desirable property, well improved and highly cultivated. In addition to farming, Mr. Bullard is the Vice-President of and a stockholder in the Warrensburg Butter and Cheese Factory.

The family is one of prominence in the community and its members rank high in social circles. In politics, Mr. Bullard supports the men and measures of the Prohibition party, and the cause of temperance finds in him an earnest advocate. Himself and wife are faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and take an active interest in all the means that that organization puts forth for the upbuilding of morality.



**S**AMUEL TROUTMAN, who carries on general farming and stock-raising on section 29, Hickory Point Township, where he owns and operates two hundred and eleven acres of good land, is also a grain-dealer of Bearsdale. A native of Indiana, he was born near Rochester, Fulton County, on the 1st of March, 1843, and is a son of Peter and Mary (Bruee) Troutman. The father was born in Kentucky and is of German lineage. He is still living and makes his home in Mitchell County, Kan. His wife was called to her final rest in March, 1876. Their family numbered eight children, as follows: Elizabeth, who married J. H. Cox, of Whitman, Kan.; Joseph W., who died November 22, 1884; Samuel, of this sketch; Phebe, wife of Jeremiah Miller, of this county; Levi, who died October 25, 1875; Jacob; Julia; and John.

Our subject was reared to manhood upon a farm and attended the district schools, where he acquired a good English education. The year

1856 witnessed his arrival in Macon County, whither he came with his parents when a lad of thirteen. He was still upon the home farm at the time of the breaking out of the late war. Prompted by patriotic impulses, he enlisted in 1862, when nineteen years of age, and was elected Corporal. He was mustered into service at Decatur, as a member of Company B, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, and going to the front participated in the battle of Chickasaw Bayou. He afterward took part in the engagements at Harris Bluff, Arkansas Post, Grand Gulf and Raymond. He was all through the siege of Vicksburg, and after the surrender of that city he went to Jackson, Miss., from where he was transferred to Paducah, Ky., where he was made Ward Master in general hospitals, Nos. 1 and 2, at that place. In all his service, Mr. Troutman was never wounded or taken prisoner, but was always found at his post of duty and did much arduous service for the Union cause. When the war was over he was honorably discharged in Springfield, Ill., June 9, 1865.

Mr. Troutman immediately returned to Macon County, and during the succeeding two years was engaged at farm labor in the employ of others. He then began farming for himself, and has since followed the occupation to which he was reared. He now owns a fine farm of three hundred and nineteen acres, which yields to him a good return for the care and labor he bestows upon it. He also carries on stock-raising and has a good grade of horses, cattle and hogs upon his place. He is also a grain and stock dealer of Bearsdale, and owns a grain elevator at that place.

The lady who now bears the name of Mrs. Troutman was in her maidenhood Miss Elizabeth A. Bear, a daughter of Jacob and Martha (Bowman) Bear. The union of our subject and his wife, which was celebrated January 10, 1867, has been blessed with three children: Ella, who died October 30, 1868; Mary E. and Frank S., who are still with their parents. The Troutman household is a hospitable one and the members of the family have many warm friends throughout the community. The parents hold membership with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mr. Troutman belongs to

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





*J. R. M. per*

the Grand Army of the Republic. Although he has never been an office-seeker, he takes quite an active interest in politics and always votes with the Republican party, the principles of which he warmly advocates. He is enterprising and progressive, and has been a successful business man. In all his dealings he is upright and honorable, and has therefore gained the confidence and good-will of all with whom he has been brought in contact.



**J**OSEPH RITNER MOSSER was a native of New Cumberland, Cumberland County, Pa., where he was born February 24, 1837. His father was the Rev. Joseph Mosser, who passed away at a ripe old age a few years ago, and lies at the side of his wife in Greenwood Cemetery.

Mr. Mosser, when but fifteen years of age, began teaching school in Pennsylvania, and from 1852 was self-supporting. He came to Decatur from his native State thirty-five years ago, arriving here April 1, 1856. On his arrival in Decatur he soon secured a position as teacher, and for several years had charge of the Sulphur Springs School near Mt. Zion, eight miles southeast of Decatur, which distance he thought nothing of walking to and from his school. Subsequently he was a teacher in the public schools of Decatur, teaching in the old brick building still standing at the corner of North Broadway and Sangamon Streets, and also at the Church Street School, in the Second Ward.

During a brief period preceding 1861, our subject was connected with the Haworth general store on North Morgan Street, and shortly afterward he became connected with the old *Illinois State Chronicle*, then located over the Boston Store, and which was published by William J. Usrey. In 1862, when Mr. Usrey enlisted, Mr. Mosser and B. K. Hamsher, who was then a compositor in the office, leased the *Chronicle* and published the weekly paper for a year. In 1863 Capt. Usrey returned home and took charge of the paper, when

Mr. Mosser entered the employ of Mr. Cass, publisher of the Decatur *Gazette*, and was his book-keeper and local editor for a while, or until the consolidation of the *Gazette* with the *State Chronicle*.

August 1, 1867, Mr. Mosser and W. M. Stanley founded the Decatur *Weekly Republican* in the old building that then stood on the site of the building now occupied by the Linn & Scruggs Dry-Goods and Carpet Company. In October, 1867, Mr. Stanley retired, and was succeeded by B. K. Hamsher, and the publication of the *Republican* was conducted by Mr. Hamsher and Mr. Mosser from that time up to October, 1890, when, on account of failing health, Mr. Mosser sold his half-interest in the establishment to Hon. W. F. Calhoun. In 1872 Hamsher & Mosser started the *Republican*. From 1867 up to the time of his retirement in 1890, a period of twenty-three years, Mr. Mosser was prominently identified with the business interests of Decatur, and that he was faithful to the city and the welfare of its people his spotless record will attest. He was ever quick to uphold the right and condemn the wrong, and while he rejoiced with the people in their successes and joys, he also sympathized with them as a brother and friend in their sorrows and times of adversity. No man in the community enjoyed a larger personal acquaintance in the city and county than Mr. Mosser. He was generally honored for his noble attributes as a man, and for his scholarly attainments. In him every honest man had a true friend.

While our subject was not an official leader in the political affairs of Macon County and the city, he ever took an active personal interest in all that affected the welfare and advancement of the Republican party. He was present at all party conferences of importance, and with his pen in the columns of the *Republican* presented the principles of Republicanism effectively in many an exciting campaign, aiding in no small measure in securing the victories which came year after year; and while he was an earnest and hard worker in the party ranks, he never sought political preferment, and steadily refused to be a candidate for any office.



When Gen. Johu M. Palmer was the Republican Governor, from 1868 to 1872, Mr. Mosser was the Pardon Clerk in the Governor's office. In 1872 he was a delegate to the National Republican Convention, held at Philadelphia, when Gen. Grant was renominated for the Presideney. In May, 1880, he was the Secretary of the Republican State Convention held at Springfield, when Senator Cullom was nominated for Governor. Two years before his term of office expired, Governor Oglesby appointed Mr. Mosser State Printer Expert, which position he resigned in the spring of 1889. Besides these positions he had at an early date been officially identified with the Illinois Press Association, was President of the Decatur Republican Campaign Clubs, and was frequently chosen to serve as Chairman at township and county conventions.

Mr. Mosser died February 1, 1891, leaving one daughter, his only child, Mrs. Maggie Robinson, wife of A. S. Robinson. Our subject's wife, Sarah Jane (Beistline) Mosser, died in Decatur, January 8, 1874. Mrs. Mosser was interred in Greenwood, and by her side rests the remains of her husband. Mr. Mosser was one of a family of ten children, only three of whom survive.



**H**ON. THOMAS N. LEAVITT, a recognized leader in business and political circles of Macon County, is a resident of Maroa, and is now serving as Representative of the State Legislature from the Forty-first District of Illinois. His public career has made him widely known throughout the State as well as in this community, and we feel assured that many will receive this record of his life with interest. He was born in Roekingham County, N. H., October 6, 1838, and is a grandson of Thomas Leavitt, a leading and influential citizen of the Granite State, who served as Representative and Senator in the General Assembly. His brother was one of the heroes of the Revolution. The grandfather followed

farming throughout his life, and reached the advanced age of seventy-five years. The family is of Scotch descent.

Anthony B. Leavitt, the father of our subject, was a wholesale fish merchant in Boston for many years and afterward followed carpentering in Peoria. He came from New Hampshire to Illinois by wagon in 1844, and remained in Peoria until 1849, when, attracted by the discovery of gold, he went to California, where he died the following year. His widow is still living at the age of seventy-eight and makes her home with her children in Henry, Ill. Mr. Leavitt was a member of the Christian Church, to which his wife also belongs. She bore the maiden name of Fannie F. Lamprey, was a native of New Hampshire and was of English descent. By their union were born four children, the eldest of whom is our subject. Hannah Frances is the widow of William Finney, of Marietta, Ohio, and makes her home in Henry, Ill. John F. resides in the same place. Fannie E. married T. H. Abbott, and after his death wedded J. C. Kingsley, who is also deceased. She makes her home in York, Neb.

The subject of this sketch was only six years of age when with his parents he came to Illinois. He was reared in Peoria and Marshall Counties and acquired his early education in Henry, taking a collegiate course in the Northern Illinois Institute. He was reared to farm life, and continued to carry on agricultural pursuits until the early summer of 1862, when he enlisted in Company C, Sixty-sixth Illinois Infantry, known as Burgess' Sharp Shooters. He enlisted at Corinth and served for three years, and was wounded in the siege of Atlanta, being struck on the top of the head with a ten-pound shell. He was in the battles of Corinth and Resaca and the Atlanta campaign, and saw much hard service.

Ere going to the war, Mr. Leavitt was married, October 31, 1858, to Catherine A., daughter of Moses and Salina (Stauffer) Crowell. One child was born unto them, Clara F., now the wife of James F. Harris, of Maroa.

Returning to his family in Maroa at the close of the war, Mr. Leavitt has here since made his home. For two years he engaged in farming, then oper-



ated a corn-sheller and threshing-machine for three years, after which he opened a grocery in connection with A. D. Wysong under the firm name of Wysong & Leavitt. That connection continued two years, when our subject sold out and formed a partnership with H. B. and I. N. Smith under the style of Smith Bros. & Leavitt. After seven years he again sold out, and spent one summer in the West. Returning to Maroa, Mr. Leavitt purchased the lumber-yard of Lowe & Russell, which he still owns. In 1881 he added a stock of implements, and in 1892 the business was incorporated under the name of the Leavitt & Oglevee Company. They have an extensive business and several branch houses. In Maroa they handle lumber and implements, in Clinton they have a hardware and implement store, and in Weldon and Cisco they deal in implements. Mr. Leavitt is President of the company, and under his able management business has been so conducted that a large and flourishing trade rewards his efforts. He is also President of the State Bank of Clinton.

Mr. Leavitt and his wife are members of the Christian Church, and he belongs to Maroa Lodge No. 454, A. F. & A. M.; Maroa Chapter, R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T., of Decatur. He is also a member of Royal Lodge No. 109, K. P., and was the first Chancellor-Commander. In politics he was a stalwart Republican and one of the leaders of his party. He served for seventeen years as Postmaster of Maroa, in 1890 was Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and was Chairman of the Republican County Central Committee for a number of years. In 1892 he became candidate for the office of Representative, and in the primaries received the unanimous vote of his own township and carried all the districts of Decatur. Having been elected, he is now ably serving as Representative. He is making an effort to extend the time of chattel mortgages in the State, and the bill which he introduced has had a second reading. In connection with his other interests, Mr. Leavitt owns the Maroa Tile Works, besides his home and other city property. He is a man of most excellent business ability. By careful attention to all details, by able management and strict and honorable dealing he has become a

wealthy citizen. He was a valiant and faithful soldier during the late war, has proved himself an efficient officer, who acts for the best interests of his constituents, and to every public and private trust he is alike true.



**J**OHN T. MARKLEY, who is now practically living a retired life on his farm on section 14, Long Creek Township, was born in York County, Pa., November 21, 1830. His grandfather, Nicholas Markley, served in the Revolution and was one of Washington's soldiers at Valley Forge. During the struggle he was wounded. He was a miller by trade and died at the close of the eighteenth century, leaving three children: John, who died in Ohio; Samuel, father of our subject; and Mary, deceased.

Samuel Markley was born in York County, Pa., November 24, 1803. He was a mechanic by trade and also followed farming, owning a small tract of land. He was married in 1826 to Mary E. Bowers, who was born in 1806, and was of German and French descent. She died in her eighty-third year. Unto them were born the following children: Catherine, who died at the age of fourteen; Elizabeth, wife of D. N. Baker, of York County, Pa.; Frederick, who served throughout the war and is now a farmer and carpenter of Van Wert County, Ohio; Henry C., a blacksmith of York County, Pa.; Samuel, who served for three years as provost guard at Carlisle, Pa., and is now a farmer of York County; and John T.

Our subject is the eldest of the family. He was reared under the parental roof, and in the winter acquired his education in the subscription schools. At the age of eighteen he began learning the wagon-maker's trade, serving an apprenticeship of a year and a-half in Dauphin County, Pa., receiving only his board in compensation for his services. He then followed his trade and worked on railroad bridges. When twenty-two years of age he went to Ohio, where he remained until 1854. He

then returned to his native State, after which he carried on a wagon and plow shop in Kalida, Putnam County, Ohio, until October, 1868, when he removed to Decatur. The following spring he located upon his present farm of eighty-five acres, which has been transformed under his cultivation into one of the best tracts of land in this locality.

In York County, Pa., Mr. Markley was united in marriage with Harriet, daughter of Henry and Lydia Starr. Her father died in the Keystone State, but her mother came West and spent her last days in Decatur. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Markley have been born the following children: Clara, wife of Henry Houseworth, a farmer of Cherokee County, Kan.; Alice, deceased, wife of N. S. Gripe, of the same county; Clayton R., who married Ella Wheeler, daughter of Hiram Wheeler, and is a farmer and mechanic of Long Creek Township; and Samuel B., who was born in this State and now has charge of the home farm, thus relieving his father of its care.

In politics Mr. Markley first supported the American party, then voted for Bell and Everett, afterward for Lincoln, and has since been a Republican. His wife is a member of the North Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church. They are people of sterling worth, and their many friends hold them in high esteem. Mr. Markley is a self-made man, who by his own efforts has risen from an humble position to one of affluence, and for his success in life he deserves great credit.



**H**ENRY S. CULP, an energetic and prosperous farmer living on section 8, Illini Township, is a native of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Auglaize County June 20, 1851. His father, James A. Culp, was born in Ross County, and after arriving at years of maturity he married Ann Crouse, who was born in the same locality. Subsequently they removed to Auglaize County, where Mr. Culp purchased

and operates a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He has been very successful in his undertakings and now owns about one thousand acres of valuable land, his success having been achieved through his good management and perseverance.

The subject of this sketch is one of a family of eight children who grew to mature years, including six sons and two daughters. Jerome, George W., John W. and H. S. are all substantial farmers of Macon County. Theodore carries on agricultural pursuits in Van Wert County, Ohio, and Jacob is living near his father. Susan, wife of Nels Bowsher, and Emma J., wife of Nelson Beeler, both reside in Auglaize County.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in the county of his nativity and acquired his education in its public schools. Throughout his life he has carried on agricultural pursuits. He assisted his father until after he had attained his majority, and then began farming for himself. It was in 1870 that he came to the West and located upon the farm which is still his home. He purchased one hundred acres of land, of which nearly the entire amount was in its primitive condition. It was unfenced and untilled, so that the handwork of Mr. Culp is shown in the neat and thrifty appearance of his farm and the many excellent improvements to be found thereon. The entire place is surrounded by a well-trimmed hedge fence. There are good barns, a carriage and tool house and a pleasant residence, which is the abode of hospitality, and which is pleasantly located four miles from Warrensburg.

Returning to Ohio after beginning his preparations for a home, Mr. Culp was married, January 10, 1875, Miss Alice R. Stinebaugh, a native of the Buckeye State, becoming his wife. They have two children: Ferdinand L., aged eighteen years; and Della May, aged fourteen years. The parents intend that they shall be liberally educated, and both are now studying music. They lost one son, Melvin E., who died at the age of four years.

In connection with his other possessions, Mr. Culp owns one hundred and twenty acres of valuable and well-improved land in Piatt County, together with two residences in Decatur. Himself and wife are consistent and faithful mem-



bers of the Warrensburg Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics he is a Republican. His father was an old-line Whig and voted for William Henry Harrison, and he and his six sons voted for Benjamin Harrison. Our subject has never been an office-seeker, preferring to devote his time and attention to his business interests. In the line of general farming he has met with success. It proved a fortunate day for him when he came to Illinois, as his career here has been a prosperous one, and he has become the owner of a valuable property.



**J**OHAN A. MYERS, who for many years has been identified with the upbuilding and progress of Macon County, now owns and operates a good farm of one hundred and thirty-two acres on section 36, Long Creek Township. He was born on the Taylor Farm, on section 35, March 18, 1837, and is a son of Jacob Myers. His grandfather, Abraham Myers, emigrated from Germany, his native land, to South Carolina, and thence to Kentucky, where he spent his remaining days. He had a brother who was killed at Ft. Moultrie in the Revolutionary War, and a son who was killed in Missouri in an Indian raid. Jacob Myers was born in Daviess County, Ky., in 1802. Although his school privileges were quite limited he acquired a good practical education through business experience and contact with the world. In 1829, he emigrated Westward to Illinois, and after journeying for six weeks arrived at his destination in Macon County. He settled on section 35, Long Creek Township, in the midst of an unbroken wilderness, and entered land from the Government. There he built a log cabin, which still stands, one of the mementos of pioneer days. From time to time he kept adding to his possessions, until at his death he owned one thousand acres of land. It was in 1854 that he was called to the home beyond. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Wood, was born in Kentucky, and went with her parents to Moultrie

County, Ill. She died in 1846, when our subject was only nine years of age. Her children were: Joseph, who was killed on the railroad at Long Creek; John A.; Mary A., wife Amos T. Davis, of Decatur; James W., deceased, who served throughout the war as a member of the Twentieth Illinois Infantry; and Sarah C., who died at the age of sixteen. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Myers wedded Mrs. Melinda (Widiek) White, a native of Christian County. They had a daughter, Nancy L., who died in Decatur. The parents were both faithful and earnest members of the Methodist Church, and in politics Mr. Myers was a Democrat.

The only educational privileges afforded our subject were those that could be obtained in the old subscription schools, which convened in a log house. He early became familiar with all kinds of farm work, and after the death of his father he worked by the month in sawmills and on different farms in this locality. Arriving at man's estate, he chose as a companion and helpmate on life's journey, in 1861, Miss Mary A., daughter of Valentine and Mary Hartman. She was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, and came to Illinois about 1854. The young couple began their domestic life upon a part of the Myers estate, where Mr. Myers has since resided. In 1872, his wife died, leaving three children: Charles W., a farmer of Oneida County, Iowa, who married Eveline Davidson; Jennie E., wife of Charles Winings, of Decatur; and Nelson, who married Estella Gough, and operates the home farm.

For his second union, Mr. Myers chose Miss Effie Hartman, a sister of his first wife. The wedding was celebrated in 1879, and unto them has been born a daughter, Ruth, who is now a year old. They have a pleasant home and many warm friends throughout the community where they have so long resided. Fifty-six years have passed since Mr. Myers was born in this county, and in this long period he has aided materially in the advancement of the best interests of the county. He has long been a member of the Methodist Church. He cast his first vote for President in 1860, supporting Douglas, and has since been identified with the Democratic party. He has often served as delegate to his party and has filled the offices of Town-



ship Clerk, Supervisor, Commissioner of Highways and School Director. Socially, he is a member of the Odd Fellows' society of Casner. Mr. Myers is recognized as a man of sterling worth and integrity, and it is with pleasure that we present his life to our readers.



**J**OSEPH S. TAIT, who now carries on farming on section 28, South Macon Township, and who is also engaged quite extensively in stock-raising, is numbered among the early settlers of Macon County, and has the honor of being one of her native sons. He comes from a pioneer family, his parents, James D. and Susan (Spangler) Tait, having here located at an early day. A sketch of their lives appear elsewhere in this work. Our subject was born in Decatur, March 28, 1843, and when he was a lad of seven summers his parents removed to a farm, upon which he remained until he had attained his majority. The common schools afforded him his educational privileges.

After arriving at man's estate, Mr. Tait rented land and began farming for himself. After a few years, he purchased land in Hickory Point Township, where he made his home until 1882, when he removed to Decatur. After two years spent in the county seat, he purchased the farm on which he now resides, in 1884, and has since made his home in South Macon Township. As a companion and helpmate on life's journey, he chose Martha E. Dillehunt, daughter of Benjamin and Martha Dillehunt, a record of whom is found elsewhere in this work. The union of our subject and his wife was celebrated January 24, 1871, and unto them were born four children, but only three are now living: Daniel W., Benjamin F. and Susan E., who are still under the parental roof.

In 1879, Mr. Tait embarked in the manufacture of the Tait check-rower in Decatur, under the firm name of Tait Brothers & Co. This machine is the

invention of his brother, F. B. Tait. Our subject continued business in that line for about four years, when, in 1883, he sold his interest to A. W. Conklin. He now owns one of the best farms in the town of South Macon, comprising four hundred and sixty acres of highly cultivated land. He raises considerable stock, making a specialty of breeding Polled-Angus and Durham cattle and Percheron-Norman horses. His farm adjoins the corporation limits of Macon and is supplied with all modern conveniences and accessories. The owner is accounted one of the prosperous agriculturists of the county, and to this position he has attained through his own untiring and well-directed efforts. He began life for himself with no capital save a young man's bright hope of the future, but perseverance and good management have stood him instead of fortune, and have been the stepping stones on which he has arisen to a place among the wealthy citizens of the community. In politics, he is a supporter of the Democracy, and is now acceptably serving as School Trustee of his township. Socially, he is a member of South Macon Lodge No. 362, M. W. A., and himself and wife are members of the Universalist Church. This worthy couple have by their many excellencies of character won the warm regard of all, and in social circles they hold an enviable position.



**M**RS. VIRGINIA GREENFIELD, who resides on section 6, Long Creek Township, is a native of Wythe County, Va. Her father, John Flora, was a native of Pennsylvania, and in that State wedded Mary Ott, who was of Dutch and Irish descent. In 1829 he came with his family to Illinois, reaching his destination in the latter part of December. He moved his family and effects in four wagons drawn by horses, and at length reached John's Hill. Decatur had just been laid out, and Springfield was a market at that time. Mr. Flora entered land from the Government, and in a log cabin the

family lived in true pioneer style, dressing in buckskin and wearing coonskin caps. Their beds were made on poles inserted between the logs, and clapboards were placed upon these. There were thirteen children in the family, hence the household was a large one. In Virginia the father owned a saw and grist mill, but after coming to the West he carried on agricultural pursuits. He became well-to-do, and, although he had served in the Revolutionary War and was granted a pension, he would never draw the money.

The members of the family were Sarah and Henry, who died in this county; Katie, on the old homestead; Cynthia and David, both deceased; Eleanor, who died in Long Creek Township; Polly, deceased; Mary Ann; Rhody; Jonathan, a farmer who died in Arkansas; Israel, who died in Urbana, Ohio; Cyrena, who died near Macon; Jackson, who died in this county; Isaac, who died in Virginia; and Mrs. Greenfield. About 1825, David, Henry and Cynthia came to Illinois, and in 1829 the rest of the family joined them. This was the winter before the deep snow. They suffered all the experiences and hardships of pioneer life, having to go to Springfield and St. Louis to trade, and they ground their hominy by scooping a hole in the end of a log and making a sweep to pound the corn.

Mrs. Mary Ann Querry, sister of Mrs. Greenfield, was born in Virginia January 4, 1810, and remained at home until her marriage in October, 1830, when she became the wife of George W. Querry, a native of the Old Dominion and a carpenter by trade. He died on his farm in this county some eighteen years ago. Their children were Lueretia J., wife of John Shaffer, of Blue Mound Township; Louisa Ann; Armena Maranda and John Wesley, who died in childhood; Mrs. Rosanna Terry, of Arkansas; William, of Renwick, Iowa; James, who died in 1861; Angeline, deceased, wife of George Martin; Emeline, deceased; Virginia, wife of Jack Booker, of Blue Mound; and Joseph, who married Clara Frey and operates the home farm for his mother. Joseph has a little daughter, Nellie May. Mrs. Querry is a consistent member of the Methodist Church, as was her husband. For sixty-four years she has made

her home in this county, and has been an eyewitness of all the changes that have transformed it from an unbroken tract of land, uninhabited, into one of the best counties of the State.

Mrs. Virginia Greenfield, who is numbered among Macon County's pioneer settlers, was not quite five years of age when she came with her parents to Illinois. At that time Indians were still living in the neighborhood. The long prairie grass waving in the wind looked like the undulations of the ocean. There were wild deer, wolves and all kinds of game that were used for food. Mrs. Greenfield attended the subscription schools for a short time, and became familiar with all the ways of the household, learning to spin and weave and care for a home. She remained with her parents until their death, caring for them in their old age as they had done for her in her childhood. In February, 1851, she became the wife of Ambrose Greenfield, a native of Ohio, who when a young man came to Illinois, and in Decatur enlisted for the Mexican War. His wife now receives a pension in recognition for his services. They continued to reside upon the old Flora homestead, where their marriage was celebrated, and Mr. Greenfield carried on farming and stock-raising. He was an industrious and enterprising man, a good citizen and a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics he was a supporter of the Democracy. He passed away June 22, 1890, at the age of sixty-four.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Greenfield were born the following children: Martha Ellen, who became the wife of David Chamberlain, and died at the age of twenty-one years, leaving one daughter, Minnie, who was reared by her grandmother, but is now married; Drusilla Jane, who was the wife of Ringgold Martin, of Missouri, and died, and her two children, Bertha Ella and George A., are living with Mrs. Greenfield; Mathias C., who operates the home farm; Sabra Ann, wife of J. S. Vowel, a farmer of Mt. Zion Township; John William, a farmer of Dade County, Mo.; Walter, who married Elsie Myers and follows farming; and Charles, who completes the family. The children were all born and reared upon the old homestead and have been provided with good educational advantages. The



## PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

ily is one highly respected and widely known throughout the community. Mrs. Greenfield has a life in harmony with her professions, and many excellencies of character have won her love and esteem of all.



MARCUS L. GOURLEY is an enterprising and progressive farmer of Hickory Point Township, now residing on section 35, where he owns a valuable farm of seventy acres, pleasantly located two and a-half miles to the north of Deatur. He is a native of Tennessee. He was born in Carter County, April 19, 1831, and is a son of Charles and Nancy (Morgan) Gourley. His father was a native of Scotland, and the mother was of German descent. Charles Gourley was educated in Edinburg, becoming a civil engineer and Government surveyor. He was a man of more than average intelligence and ability, and in the community where he made his name he was recognized as a prominent citizen. While fording a river on horseback in Tennessee, in 1837, he was drowned. The mother died the following year and thus at the age of seven our subject was left an orphan. In the family were seven children, the eldest of whom is Mary; Harriet and William are both deceased; Marcus is the next younger; David died at the battle of Chukcross Roads, Tenn., during the late war, and was killed on the battlefield; Charles M. and Lavina complete the family. William was also a soldier in the late war and held the rank of Captain of Company C, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry. He was killed in Marion, Va., and his remains were interred at the scene of the conflict which cost him his life.

After the death of his parents, Marcus Gourley lived with an aunt until sixteen years of age, when he began to earn his own livelihood. His educational privileges were quite limited and few advantages of any kind were afforded him. He secured work on a farm at \$6 per month, and was

thus employed for about five years, when he began renting land in Tennessee. There he carried on farming until 1856, when he emigrated to Illinois, locating upon a rented farm in Sangamon County, near Springfield, where he made his home until 1868. He then purchased a farm in that county, to the development and cultivation of which he devoted his energies until 1882, when he came to Macon County, locating in Illini Township, near Harristown. He purchased a farm of eighty acres, but in 1883 removed to his present farm in Hickory Point Township. It is under a high state of cultivation and well improved and is considered one of the best farms in the community.

Ere leaving his native State, Mr. Gourley was married, in 1852, the lady of his choice being Miss Julia A. Edens, and unto them were born three children. Two, however, are now deceased. Lavina died in infancy; and John E. died on the 11th of April, 1890. Martha is now the wife of Butler Simpson, a farmer of Niantie Township, Macon County. The mother of this family was called to her final rest September 11, 1887, and her remains were interred in Boiling Springs Cemetery, where a monument has been erected to her memory.

In politics, Mr. Gourley is a Republican, but has never been an office-seeker. When he landed in Illinois, he had only fifty cents, and a wife and two children depending upon him for support, but he possessed energy and enterprise and a determination to win success if possible. He worked hard in those early years and as the result of his labor he has acquired a handsome competence, which he has justly merited.



ISAAC JENNINGS, who resides on section 4, Oakley Township, is numbered among Macon County's honored pioneers, his residence here covering a period of forty years. He has therefore witnessed much of the growth and de-



## PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

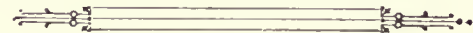
velopment of the county, has watched the progress and advancement made, and has seen its wild lands transformed into beautiful homes and farms, while hamlets have grown into thriving towns, and progress has been carried steadily forward. Mr. Jennings was born in Somerset County, N. J., July 10, 1825, and is a son of Benjamin and Sarah (Drake) Jennings, of that State. His father held the offices of Constable and Justice of the Peace. He was a Whig in politics and a great admirer of Henry Clay. Himself and wife were members of the Baptist Church. They had a family of four children: Isaac; Augustus T., of Rahway, N. J.; Jacob, of Plainfield, N. J.; and Maria F., of Colorado. After the death of his first wife Mr. Jennings was again married, and a son, Benjamin M., now of St. Louis, was born of that union.

The early youth of our subject was quietly passed upon the home farm, and at the age of seventeen years he was apprenticed to a mechanic, serving a four-years term, and since that time he has made his own way in the world. He followed his trade in New Jersey until 1850, when he decided to try his fortune in Illinois and located in Morgan County. Three years later he went to Decatur, where he worked as a mechanic until August, 1862, when he joined the boys in blue of Company B, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry. When the company was organized he was made First Sergeant. The first engagement in which he participated was the battle of Arkansas Post, and there he was wounded in the hand and head by a piece of shell and sent to the hospital in Memphis. When he rejoined his regiment, he was made Commissary-Sergeant, and served as such until the close of the war. He participated in the siege of Vicksburg and the battle of Champion Hills, the Atlanta campaign, and went with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea. At Washington he participated in the Grand Review and was mustered out at Camp Butler in July, 1865, after three years of arduous and faithful service.

Returning to Decatur, Mr. Jennings then worked at his trade until the spring of 1866, when he was elected and served as Street Commissioner for a year. In 1867 he was City Marshal, in 1868

and 1869 was Coroner, and in 1872, and again in 1876, filled the office of Sheriff. In these various positions he discharged his duties with promptness and fidelity that won him high commendation. His first Presidential vote was for Zachary Taylor, and he supported the Whig party until 1856, since which time he has been a warm advocate of Republican principles. He has taken a prominent part in political work and is acquainted with many of the leading men of the party. Gov. Oglesby and Mr. Jennings carried the two rails into the convention which started the boom for Lincoln. Socially, he is a member of Decatur Post No. 1, G. A. R.

Mr. Jennings has been twice married. In Jacksonville, Ill., he wedded Miss Caroline Hunt, who was born and reared in Morgan County, and died in Decatur May 4, 1888. Unto them were born two children: Mrs. F. W. Hayes, of Decatur, whose husband controls the opera house; and F., a farmer of Long Creek Township. For his second wife Mr. Jennings chose Miss Ellen M. Hawkins, daughter of Rodney C. Hawkins and a native of Vermont. They have one child, Isaac Howard. Mr. and Mrs. Jennings are highly respected people of this community, and their friends are many.



**B**AXTER W. DAVIDSON, a retired farmer of Mt. Zion, now enjoying a well-earned rest after many years of arduous labor, has the honor of being a native of Illinois. He was born in White County on the 13th of February, 1813, and in 1830 came to Macon County with his parents, Samuel and Elizabeth (Mason) Davidson. His father was born in South Carolina in 1774, and died in 1844. His wife, who was also a native of South Carolina, and was of Scotch Irish descent, passed away in 1843. Both lie buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery. Their family numbered ten children: John, Andrew, Sally, Naney, Elizabeth; Cynthia, who died and was buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery; Polly, who was buried

Moultrie County; Margaret, who was buried in Effingham County, Ill.; and Baxter W., of this sketch.

When our subject came to this county in 1830 it was an almost unbroken wilderness, containing few white settlers. The nearest neighbors were miles apart, and the schools, if there were any, were primitive in character, affording but limited advantages, so that our subject had no chance for an education; but he was a strong and willing young man and worked faithfully at home, helping his father and mother in the arduous task of rearing and caring for a large family in a new country, away from the friends of their youth, and almost away from civilization. With them he remained until twenty-five years of age, when an important event in his life occurred, his marriage with Miss Elizabeth Harbaugh, of Kentucky. Seven children were born of their union, as follows: David L., now a practicing physician of Hutton Valley, Mo.; John A., a stock-farmer of Brown County, Kan.; Marion R., a lawyer, and now County Judge of Piatt County; Arminda, wife of Rev. J. N. Funston, a Methodist minister of the South Kansas Conference; Calvin L., who died and was buried in Shelby County; Naomi, wife of Austin Hostetter, of Anderson County, Kan.; and Francis M., who died and was buried in Kansas. All of the children were educated in Macon County, and most of them engaged in teaching school. In 1867 the mother of this family died and was laid to rest in Mt. Zion Cemetery. On the 29th of April, 1869, Mr. Davidson was again married, his second union being with Miss Lavina Lash. They became the parents of one child, Cora George, who died in infancy.

Throughout his business career, Mr. Davison followed the occupation of farming, and although he has left his farm, he still owns one hundred and thirty-seven acres of land, one hundred of which are under a high state of cultivation, while the remaining thirty-seven acres are timber-land. Since attaining his majority he has been identified with the Democratic party and warmly advocates its principles. He has held the office of Supervisor of his township for two years, was Treasurer for twelve years, and Road Commissioner for several

years, discharging his public duties with a promptness and fidelity that won him high commendation. Socially, he is a member of the Odd Fellows' society, and himself and wife hold membership with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, in which he has been an Elder for several years. They have a comfortable and pleasant home in Mt. Zion, where they have resided for the past twenty years. They are highly respected citizens of the community and have the warm regard of all who know them.



**G**EORGE T. FARRON, a practical and progressive farmer residing on section 9, Friends' Creek Township, claims Indiana as the State of his nativity. He was born in Jefferson County, near Madison, on the 4th of April, 1848, and comes of a family of Irish and English origin. His father, William Farron, was a native of Ohio, and after attaining to mature years wedded Eliza Dunn, by whom he had a family of five children, namely: Eliza, wife of James E. McClelland, a resident farmer of Jefferson County, Ind.; George, of this sketch; William H., who carries on agricultural pursuits in Macon County; Martha J., wife of Samuel Lukins, of Decatur; and Joseph, a farmer of Jefferson County, Ind.

When our subject was a lad of about six years, his father removed to Greensburg, Ind., and then lived in various places until George was a youth of fourteen. At that time our subject started out in life for himself, and has since been dependent upon his own exertions. He began working on a farm by the month and was thus employed for seven years, or until he had attained his majority. The year 1869 witnessed his removal to Morgan County, Ill., where he remained for two years, working on a farm. In 1871 he came to Macon County, locating in Maroa Township, where he carried on farming in connection with his father and brother for six years. From 1877 until 1892, he operated rented land, and then with the capital which he had acquired purchased the farm on



which he now resides, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of arable land on section 9, Friends' Creek Township.

An important event in the life of Mr. Farron occurred on the 1st of February, 1877, when was celebrated his marriage with Miss Triphena Grady. Their union has been blessed with seven children, as follows: Ollie M., Ida M., Joseph R., Janette, Maud (who died on the 9th of June, 1889), Nellie J. and Grace. The family is one widely and favorably known in the community.

The Farron home is a pleasant residence and the place is supplied with many modern conveniences and accessories. The well-tilled fields indicate the careful supervision of the owner and yield to him a golden tribute. A good grade of stock is found upon the farm, including fine cattle and hogs. Mr. Farron has led a busy and useful life, devoting his time exclusively to his business interests. He votes with the Republican party, but has never been an aspirant for political preferment. He holds membership with the Methodist Church, and is a friend to all interests calculated to promote morality and aid in the general welfare of the community.



**D**AVID A. MAFFIT, who is extensively engaged in business as an ice dealer in Decatur, is numbered among the prominent and influential citizens of Macon County. His name is inseparably connected with the history of this city, and its upbuilding and development are due in no small measure to his enterprise. He resides in Riverside, a suburb of Decatur, and was there born December 28, 1848. He is one of eight children, six of whom are now living. The father, Robert Maffit, was a native of Ireland. After coming to this country, he married Elizabeth Miller, and from York County, Pa., they came to Illinois in 1838, locating in Piatt County, near Monticello. After a year they took up their residence

where our subject now makes his home. The father died in January, 1862, at the age of fifty-two years, and his wife passed away July 18, 1883, at the age of seventy-two. He had purchased eighty acres of land for \$1,000, now owned by his son David. It was a mill site, and the father rebuilt a saw and grist mill upon it, following milling during the remainder of his life. The mill was operated for a number of years, when it was abandoned. A part of the old gristmill is still standing, and is now used as a barn by our subject. This was one of the first mills in the county. People came from the surrounding country for a distance of fifty miles to have their wheat made into flour. As the process was slow and customers many, they would camp out near the mill and wait to take their flour home with them.

David Maffit was a lad of thirteen years at his father's death. His education was acquired in the district schools, supplemented by one term in the city schools. Throughout his earlier life he worked in the mill, until it was abandoned, in 1865, when he became an ice and milk dealer. He carried on the latter business for about twelve years, since which time he has engaged exclusively in dealing in ice, in connection with his real-estate business. He began with only about twenty loads of ice, but in 1892 he sold over seven thousand tons, and in the present year will probably dispose of ten thousand. The business has constantly increased, until it has now assumed extensive proportions. In summer he employs from ten to twenty men, and in the winter season from sixty to one hundred.

On the 15th of December, 1878, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Maffit and Miss Flora, daughter of William J. Usery, the pioneer newspaper man of Decatur. Her birth occurred on the site of the Grand Opera House. Four children grace their union: Robbie, who is now in his fourteenth year; Leslie, a maiden of eleven; Georgia, aged eight; and Marguerite, the youngest of the family.

For the past five years, Mr. Maffit has been engaged in the real-estate business. He laid out the Amman & Maffit Addition to the city, comprising nine acres, and the Amman Addition of six acres.



He has also bought and sold other tracts, including five acres which he bought for \$1,200 and sold in nine months for \$3,000. Riverside Park lies largely on his land, and thirty-five acres of this are comprised within the eighty-acre tract which his father purchased on coming to the county. Mr. Maffit takes an active interest in politics and votes with the Republican party. He is now serving his eighteenth year as Commissioner of Highways, having been repeatedly re-elected to that office. The Board now consists of himself, C. M. Caldwell and Charles Wheeler. He holds membership with the Masonic fraternity and is a Knight Templar. His entire life has been passed in this locality and those who have known him from his boyhood are numbered among his staunchest friends, a fact which indicates an honorable career. His life has been a busy and useful one, idleness being utterly foreign to his nature. He has given to all his interests his personal supervision, and in the legitimate channels of business he has acquired a handsome property.



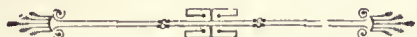
**A** H. EYMAN is a leading agriculturist of Illini Township. He resides on section 32, where he owns and operates a good farm, the old homestead of the Eyman family. There he was born on the 28th of March, 1857, and in consequence has the honor of being one of the native sons of Macon County. The great-grandfather, Abraham Eyman, was a native of Virginia, and became one of the first settlers of St. Clair County, Ill. There his son Abraham was born January 6, 1803, and Capt. Lewis J. Eyman, the father of our subject, was born in the same county July 2, 1827. Abraham Eyman, Jr., married Clarissa McGuire, a native of Pennsylvania, and in 1856 removed with his family to Macon County, where he opened up a farm. During his last years he lived a retired life in Harristown, his death occurring on the 20th of April, 1891.

Capt. Eyman was reared to manhood in St.

Clair County, and on coming to Macon County in 1856 made a claim of one hundred and sixty acres of land, securing the same with a land warrant which he had received for services in the Mexican War. Transforming the raw prairie into a good farm, he engaged in its cultivation for several years. On the breaking out of the late war, he enlisted in the service and raised a company in this county. He was commissioned Captain of Company E, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, and was killed in one of the first battles of the war, laying down his life on the altar of his country January 11, 1863, at Arkansas Post. He was twice married. After the death of his first wife, Sarah Stookey, he married Mrs. Martha D. Green, widow of John L. Green, of Sangamon County, and a daughter of Henry Geiger, an honored pioneer of this State. Mrs. Eyman still survives her husband and resides with her elder son, A. H. Her younger son, E. O. Eyman, is a successful business man of Galesburg, Ill.

After her husband went into the service, Mrs. Eyman removed to Meehaniesburg, Ill., where she resided for several years. In 1873, she went to Eureka, Woodford County, in order to provide her children with better school privileges, and in Eureka College our subject acquired a good education. After completing his studies he was united in marriage, October 24, 1877, with Miss Sarah F. Arnold, a most estimable lady, and a daughter of J. W. Arnold, of Eureka. She is a native of McLean County, Ill., was educated at Eureka College and is a cultured lady. In the spring of 1878, Mr. Eyman returned with his wife to the old homestead farm, which he operated for ten years. The following year he purchased one hundred and sixty acres adjoining the old place, where he has successfully carried on agricultural pursuits. He has to-day one of the best improved farms in Illini Township. The fields are well tilled and all the accessories and conveniences of a model farm are there found. His home, a beautiful and substantial residence, is heated by a furnace, and is tastefully furnished and supplied with all the comforts that go to make life worth the living. It is also the abode of hospitality, where all friends are sure to secure a hearty welcome.

In local elections, Mr. Eyman is independent, supporting the man whom he thinks best qualified, but at Presidential elections he has cast his vote for every nominee of the Republican party since depositing his first ballot for James A. Garfield. Himself and wife are members of the Harristown Christian Church, and are highly respected people, who hold an enviable position in social circles. Mr. Eyman has passed nearly his entire life in his native county, and an honorable and useful career has gained for him the good-will and confidence of all with whom he has been brought in contact.



**J**OHAN RAU, who carries on general farming on section 7, Austin Township, is a well-known citizen of this community, and it is with pleasure that we present to our readers this record of his life. He has the honor of being a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Logan County on the 6th of January, 1856. He is a son of Christian Rau, who was born and reared in Germany, and after arriving at man's estate was united in marriage with Miss Rachel Gritz, who was also a native of that country. In 1850, they bade adieu to home and friends and sailed from the Fatherland, across the broad Atlantic to America.

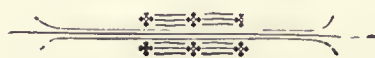
In the family were eleven children, namely: John, Lizzie, Charlie, William, Sophia, Henry, Christ, George, Annie, Lillie and Mollie. The two last-named are still at home with their parents. Mr. Rau is a blacksmith by trade, but has been engaged in farming for the past twenty-five years, during which time he has been a resident of Macon County.

The subject of this sketch acquired his education in the public schools of his native State. He was reared to manhood under the parental roof, and remained at home until he had attained his majority, when, at the age of twenty-one years, he started out in life for himself. He has always followed the occupation of farming, and is now the

owner of one hundred and sixty acres of arable land, constituting one of the best farms in this neighborhood. It is all under a high state of cultivation, is divided into fields of convenient size by well-kept fences, is supplied with good buildings and none of the accessories or equipments of a model farm are lacking. The place is neat and thrifty in appearance and shows the passer-by the careful supervision of the owner.

An important event in the life of Mr. Rau occurred February 1, 1877, when was celebrated his marriage with Miss Rachel Davison, who came to Illinois with her parents when a maiden of ten summers. Their union has been blessed with a family of five children, three sons and two daughters, namely: Pearl A., Emma J., Robert, Roscoe C. and Orville. The family circle yet remains unbroken by the hand of death, and the children are still with their parents.

By his ballot, Mr. Rau supports the Republican party, with which he has been identified since attaining his majority, but public office has no attractions for him. Himself and wife are consistent and useful members of the United Brethren Church. They are people of sterling worth, and their many excellencies of character have made them honored citizens of this community.



**W**ILLIAM TRAVER, who is now living a retired life in Decatur, is a native of the Keystone State. York County is the place of his birth and the date is November 5, 1834. His parents, David and Sarah (Baileys) Traver, were also born in Pennsylvania. The father was a shoemaker by trade. In the family were nine children, of whom two died in childhood. Four of the number are still living. The subject of this sketch is the sixth in order of birth and the only one residing in Illinois. He remained in the vicinity of his birthplace until twenty-six years of age. At the age of eighteen, he became an appren-



tice to the trade of manufacturing crockeryware and served a three-years term. His educational privileges were those afforded by the common schools, and after attaining his majority he engaged in teaching for three years. In 1860, he came to Decatur and established the crockery business on a small scale, doing nearly all the work alone, but his trade increased and ere the seven years had expired in which he carried on that trade he was compelled to hire several assistants. His next venture was as a manufacturer of drain tile. In 1868, he secured a plant, and hiring about fifteen employes carried on business along that line for some time. He also opened a branch business in Harristown (which he conducted for five years), one in Kenney, another in Atwood and still another in Mendota. He did a business of about \$40,000, and employed some forty men. For a time he was associated with George Stair and Robert Sipe in carrying on the branch businesses. After some years, however, he closed up his factories one by one and in 1889 sold out all of his interests in that line. He had been quite successful and had acquired a handsome competency as the result of his well-directed efforts.

On the 30th of May, 1861, in this city, Mr. Traver was united in marriage with Miss Ann Eliza Sipe, whom he had known in York County, Pa. Their union was blessed with one son, Charles S., who formerly aided his father in business, and is now traveling in Europe.

Since attaining his majority, Mr. Traver has been a supporter of the Republican party and warmly advocates its principles. Socially, he was connected with the Masonic fraternity. He has always devoted the greater part of his time and attention to business affairs, and his enterprise and perseverance have brought him a well-merited success. He has dealt considerably in farm lands, and now owns two good farms in Macon County, also one in Moultrie County and a fourth in Piatt County. He erected the factory occupied by the United States Wire Mattress Company and the adjoining machine shop, and has other city property, including the building at the corner of Wood and South Main Streets and his elegant residence, which was erected in 1889. He has ever been a

public-spirited and progressive citizen and does all in his power to promote the best interests of Decatur and aid in its upbuilding. The years which he devoted to his business brought him in an ample return that now enables him to live a retired life. His long residence in the county, covering a period of a third of a century, has made him widely known, and his sterling worth has gained him many friends.



JACOB W. MAJOR, one of the well-to-do citizens of Macon County, who is now living retired in Warrensburg, has lived a busy and useful life, and now in his declining years can rest in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil, knowing that this respite has been well earned. A native of Ohio, he was born in Harrison County December 20, 1826, and is a son of John and Edith (Webb) Major. His father was a native of the Keystone State, and when a young man emigrated to Harrison County, Ohio, where he met and married a daughter of Jacob Webb, one of the early settlers and an extensive farmer of that county. After his marriage, Mr. Major cleared a tract of land and developed a good farm. After engaging in agricultural pursuits for a number of years in Harrison County, he removed to Franklin County and bought a farm near Columbus, where he passed his remaining days, his death occurring about 1858. His wife survived him for some years, and, coming to Illinois, made her home with her sons in Macon County, where she died about 1881.

In Harrison County, Ohio, Jacob Major spent the days of his boyhood and youth. Through the summer season he aided in the labors of the field, and in the winter months attended the common schools, thus acquiring a good English education. He remained with his father until he had attained to man's estate, and then spent about two years in farming with an uncle, after which he rented land and carried on agricultural pursuits in his own in-



terest for several years. At length he purchased one hundred acres of timber-land, and locating upon the same began the development of a farm. Beneath the sturdy strokes of his axe the trees fell, and as the ground was cleared he plowed and planted the land until fertile fields yielded to him a golden tribute.

On the 10th of February, 1848, in Harrison County, Ohio, Mr. Major wedded Miss Rachel Worley, a native of that county, and a daughter of Wesley Worley. Their union has been blessed with seven children: John W., who is now married and is a substantial farmer of this county; Susan, deceased, who was the wife of August Stein; Martha, who resides with her father in Warrensburg, and is the widow of Malvin Beall, who died leaving a little son, Jesse, a bright boy of four years; George, who is married and follows farming in Macon County; Maria, the wife of Andrew Moore, of Butler County, Neb.; Cyrus, an agriculturist of this county; and Taylor, who is married and follows farming in Piatt County. They also lost a daughter in infancy. The mother passed away January 26, 1887, and her remains were interred in Illini Cemetery, where a monument marks her last resting-place. She was a most esteemed and worthy lady and died deeply mourned by many friends.

In 1865, Mr. Major came with his family to Macon County and located in Illini Township, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of raw land. After improving it for a few years he added an additional tract of sixty acres. The raw prairie was transformed into rich and fertile fields, a pleasant home was built, and all the accessories of a model farm were added. This property was sold two years ago, when our subject purchased a fine residence in Warrensburg and has since made his home here.

In politics, Mr. Major first affiliated with the Democracy, but in 1860 he joined the ranks of the Republican party, with which he continued to vote for a number of years. He is now, however, a supporter of the men and measures of the Prohibition party. He has never been an office-seeker, though he was elected and served one term as Justice of the Peace, when, content with that

honor, he declined all further public preferment. He and his daughter are faithful and leading members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which he united when seventeen years of age. His life has been one which has gained him the respect of all. He has been true to every trust, straightforward in all business dealings, and has made the Golden Rule the motto of his life. Mr. Major has many friends and few, if any, enemies. In his declining years he can look back over the past with no regret, for a life of usefulness and truth should bring nothing but pleasant memories.



AUGUST STEIN, who owns and operates three hundred acres of arable land on section 26, Maroa Township, was born in Germany on the 8th of April, 1838, and is a son of Lewis and Louisa (Osthof) Stein, natives of the same country. This worthy couple had a family of seven children, six sons and a daughter, the eldest of whom is August. He was followed by William; Charlie, who was killed at the battle of Nashville, Tenn., and sleeps on the Southern battlefield; Lewis, Henry, John, and Augusta, wife of Adam Sibert.

Mr. Stein of this sketch spent the first eleven years of his life in the Fatherland and then came with his parents to America. The voyage across the Atlantic was made in a sailing-vessel, which, after eleven weeks and three days spent on the briny deep, dropped anchor in the harbor of New Orleans. The family made a location in St. Clair County, Ill., where our subject was reared to manhood amid the wild scenes of frontier life. He remained with his parents until twenty-seven years of age, and on leaving home came to Macon County, in 1865. He took up his residence in Illini Township, where he began farming for himself, and where he made his home until 1885. At that time he removed to Kansas, where he spent one year, which satisfied him that he preferred Illinois as a place of residence.

In 1870, Mr. Stein was united in marriage with Miss Susan J. Major, and by their union has been born a family of four children, namely: Louisa, who died February 20, 1884; Charley; Lusetta and George. The three younger children are still at home. The family is held in high regard throughout the community, for its members are people of sterling worth. The mother died June 23, 1884, and was laid to rest in the Boiling Springs Cemetery. She was a most estimable lady, a member of the Methodist Church, and her excellencies of character won her many friends.

In 1886, Mr. Stein returned to Macon County, and purchased a part of his present farm in Maroa Township. He first bought two hundred and twenty acres on section 26, but has since extended the boundaries of the place, until now three hundred acres pay to him a golden tribute in return for his care and cultivation. All the improvements of a model farm are there found, and together with the rich and fertile fields they stand as monuments to the thrift and enterprise of the owner, who is numbered among the representative agriculturists of the community. Mr. Stein is a member of the German Lutheran Church, and in politics is a stalwart supporter of the Democratic party. He has filled the office of School Director, but has never been an aspirant for public preferment. We see in Mr. Stein a self-made man who began life for himself empty-handed, but he possessed diligence and a determination to succeed and has therefore won prosperity in his business career.



**D**AVID BRETT is one of the representative farmers and stock-raisers of Macon County. He resides on section 35, Hickory Point Township, where he has made his home for a period of forty-one years, having located thereon in 1852. He at first purchased only forty acres of land, but by additional purchases from time to time he has extended the boundaries of his home farm until it now comprises one hundred and

twenty acres, that yield a golden tribute for the care and labor bestowed on it. The place is not only highly cultivated, but is well improved with all the accessories of a model farm. He also owns forty acres in the northern part of the township, eighty in Maroa Township, and fifty in Decatur Township.

The owner of this desirable place was born in Prince William County, Va., December 21, 1817. His father, Richard A. Brett, was also born in the Old Dominion, and was of English descent. His mother bore the maiden name of Margaret Lee. In the family were fifteen children, all of whom grew to manhood and womanhood, though only three of the number are now living, namely: Penelope, wife of Frank Montgomery, who is located in Decatur; David, of this sketch; and Alexander H., a farmer of Kansas.

The subject of this sketch was reared to manhood in the usual manner of farmer lads, and in his youth, during the winter season, he attended the subscription school, which was held in a log cabin. The greater part of his education, however, has been self acquired. Mr. Brett remained with his parents until twenty-two years of age, and on the death of his father took charge of the old homestead, which he operated for several years. He remained in Virginia until 1835, and then emigrated Westward, locating in Macon County, Ill. The journey was made by team. He took up his residence in Decatur Township, where he rented land for two years. On the expiration of that period, he removed to Hickory Point Township, where his father had made a claim, entering the land from the Government at the usual price of \$1.25 per acre. This tract comprised a quarter-section of land. Throughout his entire life our subject has been engaged in agricultural pursuits, and in his undertakings has met with good success. Having lived upon the old homestead until 1848, he then purchased property of his own, and since 1852 he has resided upon his present farm.

Mr. Brett was married in 1847, Miss Elizabeth P. Wheeler becoming his wife. The following children have been born of this union: Annie M.; Richard, who now manages and carries on the home farm; Frances L., wife of John Christie, a well-

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA





*James Pingman*



*Emily Dingman*

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



known agriculturist of Hickory Point Township; and David E., who is also engaged in farming in this county. The mother of this family was called to her final rest October 7, 1864, dying in the faith of the Christian Church, of which she was a consistent member.

Mr. Brett is a member of the Baptist Church, and in politics has been a stalwart supporter of the Republican party since its organization. The cause of education has ever received his hearty co-operation, and he has filled the offices of School Director and School Trustee. No enterprise calculated to promote the public welfare seeks his aid in vain, in fact, he is always found in the front ranks of any interest that tends to upbuild the community. He is numbered among Macon County's pioneers, having located here fifty-seven years ago. He has seen Indians passing through the country, and can remember when this entire community was almost an uninhabited region.



JAMES DINGMAN, who resides on section 14, Niantic Township, is one of the extensive land-owners of the county, owning more than a thousand acres. He is also numbered among the enterprising and progressive farmers, and his name deserves to be enrolled among the honored pioneers, for since 1845 he has lived in this county, and since November, 1833, has been a resident of Illinois. A native of Ohio, he was born in Shelby County, January 7, 1820, and is descended from one of the Revolutionary heroes. His grandfather, Capt. James Dingman, was a native of Pennsylvania, and for seven years and three months fought for the independence of the Colonies, being for four years under the command of Washington. His title was won in that conflict. When he died he had some \$14,000 pension money due him, but he would never draw a cent. His remains were interred in New River-ton Cemetery, in Sangamon County, Ill., where a monument marks his last resting-place.

Abraham Dingman, father of our subject, was a native of Pennsylvania, and when a lad went with his parents to Ohio, where he was reared and married Miss Jemima Bobo, a native of Virginia, and a daughter of Townsend G. Bobo. In 1833, Mr. Dingman emigrated with his family to Sangamon County, Ill., locating on what was known as German Prairie, six miles east of Springfield. He bought five hundred acres of land, quite a large portion of which was a timber tract along the Sangamon River. The present town of Riverton was situated on the old homestead. He there spent his remaining days, dying July 2, 1835, at the age of forty-eight years. His remains were interred by those of his father. His wife survived him for a number of years, and passed away August 12, 1881, at the age of seventy-eight, being laid to rest in Long Point Cemetery, in Niantic Township.

Our subject is the eldest and only survivor in the family of four sons and three daughters, though all grew to mature years. He came to Illinois when a lad of thirteen and grew to manhood upon the old homestead in Sangamon County, remaining with his mother and operating the farm for her for a number of years after his father's death. Our subject was married in Sangamon County, in May, 1841, to Miss Emily Danley, daughter of Samuel Danley, of that county, who removed there from Kentucky in 1817. A brother, Levi Danley, aged ninety years, has lived with Mr. Dingman for the past ten years. Mrs. Dingman was born in Sangamon County in 1824. Two years after their marriage, the young couple came to Macon County, and Mr. Dingman purchased three hundred and twenty acres of improved land in Niantic Township, known as the Strickland Farm, and his home became the stopping-place for all travelers. From time to time more land was added to the farm, which now comprises one thousand and five acres. It is situated only a half-mile from Niantic, and, being improved with all modern conveniences, is a very valuable and desirable place.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Dingman were born seven children: Richard R., who was married and lives on the old homestead; Elizabeth, wife of John S. Kiser, who is also living on the old home farm; Abraham, a farmer of Iroquois County, Ill., lo-

cated four miles east of Watseka; Mary Ann, the wife of Samuel Van Hook, who is living on the old homestead; William, an agriculturist residing in Niantic; Melissa E., who is the wife of William Tilley, who lives on the old home farm; and John H., who is still with his parents.

In politics, Mr. Dingman was first an old-line Whig, and in 1860 voted for Stephen A. Douglas. He was personally acquainted with both Douglas and Lincoln, the latter having resided on a farm only four miles from the home of our subject. Mr. Dingman has never sought public office, but was elected and served two terms as Supervisor, discharging his duties with the same faithfulness and promptness that have characterized his entire career. He and his wife are prominent and consistent members of the Long Point Christian Church, which was established in 1856, and are highly respected citizens, their upright lives having gained for them warm regard. For sixty years, Mr. Dingman has been a resident of Illinois, and for almost half a century has lived in Macon County. He has been a witness of the growth of the county since the days of its infancy, has watched its progress and upbuilding, and has aided in its development. Although he has never been prominent in public affairs, yet in his quiet and unassuming manner he has borne his part in the promotion of the best interests of the community, and well deserves to be ranked among those to whom the county owes a debt of gratitude for what they have done in her behalf.



**G**EORGE JOHNSTON, one of the enterprising and public-spirited citizens of Austin Township, who carries on agricultural pursuits on section 19, was born in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, on the 18th of March, 1846, and when a lad of five summers crossed the Atlantic to America with his parents in 1851. His father, James Johnston, was born in Dumfriesshire in 1805, and in 1835 married Miss Mary Rodgeron, who was

born in the same county in 1808. They became the parents of eight children, namely: James, Janet, John, George, Elizabeth, William, David and Thomas. In 1851, Mr. Johnston, accompanied by his family, bade adieu to his old home and sailed for the New World. Making his way to Illinois, he took up his residence in Sangamon County, and, being a first-class mason, he was employed on the State capitol in Springfield, which was at that time being built. His death occurred in 1853, and he was buried in the Johnston family cemetery near Springfield.

Our subject acquired the greater part of his education in the common schools of this country. He began life for himself when twenty-three years of age, as a school teacher, being employed in that capacity for one term in Sangamon County and two terms in Macon County. On the 20th of January, 1870, he was united in marriage with Miss Jane Wright, who was born and reared in Sangamon County. Two children were born unto them: Robert E., born December 16, 1871; and Mary E., born November 9, 1874. Having attended the common schools, their educations were completed by a course in the normal and business departments of the Normal College of Valparaiso, Ind., and both are at home.

Mr. Johnston is to-day the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres, under a high state of cultivation, and in connection with general farming he carries on stock-raising, making a specialty of the breeding of horses. At this writing he has some forty head of horses and colts upon the place. He raises principally draft and driving horses.

We see in our subject one of Macon County's best citizens. He is prominent and influential and has been honored with a number of official positions in his township, including that of Justice of the Peace, which he has held continuously for sixteen years, a fact which attests his prompt and faithful discharge of duty. In politics, he is a stalwart Democrat, and has for many years been identified with the interests of the Democratic organization of the county and State. At this writing he is a candidate for the position of Consul to Dundee, Scotland, and for this position he



is supported by the county officers of Macon, Logan and Sangamon Counties and the State officers of Illinois. He also has the endorsement of a majority of the Democratic members of the Illinois Legislature, the members of Congress and the United States Senators. That he is well qualified for the position to which he aspires is a fact unquestioned by those who know him. Mr. and Mrs. Johnston are worthy and consistent members of the Presbyterian Church. They now have a pleasant home, which through the enterprise and industry of the owner is supplied with all the comforts that go to make life worth the living.

John Johnston, the eldest brother of our subject, was born in Scotland June 4, 1844, and in 1875 married Miss Agnes Irvin, a resident of Sangamon County. They have five children: Bertha H., Mary A., Margaret L., John T. and a baby not yet named. John Johnston is also prominently identified with the Democratic party, and is looked upon by all who know him as a man of sterling qualities and honest motives, who well deserves the confidence in which he is held. He has filled various official positions with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his constituents. His fine farm adjoining that of his brother George is a beautiful and attractive home, and its owner well deserves mention in the history of his adopted county.



**S**AMUEL E. BEAR is engaged in business as a grain and stock-dealer in Bearsdale. The place of his birth is in Newville, Cumberland County, Pa., and the date is February 13, 1856. The Bear family is of German origin. The parents of our subject, Samuel and Magdelene (Sawyer) Bear, were both born in the Keystone State. There were two children born of their union, but the elder died in infancy. The father was three times married and his family numbered nine children. During the greater part of his life he followed the occupation of farming, but

for a few years before coming to Illinois he was engaged in the hardware business. His death occurred in 1880, and he was laid to rest in Boiling Springs Cemetery. He held membership with the Lutheran Church, and was a highly respected citizen. The mother of our subject died in 1858, and was buried in Pennsylvania.

Samuel Bear, whose name heads this record, was only two years old when his mother died. He remained in the Keystone State until 1860, when he came to Illinois with his father, who located in Hickory Point Township, and two years later purchased eighty acres of farming land, which he at once began to develop and improve. He gave the land upon which the town of Bearsdale is now located, and the place is named in his honor.

The subject of this sketch attended the public schools and acquired a good practical education. He remained upon the home farm until twenty-one years of age, when, having attained his majority, he began to earn his own livelihood. As a companion and helpmate on life's journey, he chose Miss Minerva J. Cox. By their union, which was celebrated in September, 1879, four children have been born, namely: Ernest R., Bessie A., Lena and Sylvan R. All are yet living and are still under the parental roof.

It was in the year of his marriage that Mr. Bear made his first purchase of land, becoming owner of one hundred and sixty acres on section 30, Hickory Point Township. He removed to the farm in 1881, and by his earnest and untiring labor he placed it under a high state of cultivation, and by the improvements which he has made upon it has greatly increased its value. In addition to the cultivation of the fields, he carried on stock-raising, having a good grade of horses, cattle and hogs. He was thus employed until 1893, when he built a residence in Bearsdale, and removed to the town, where he is now living. In the spring of 1880, he began buying grain, and has since carried on that industry in connection with stock-dealing. He also erected a store, in which he now carries on general merchandising. He has a good stock and from Bearsdale and the surrounding country receives a liberal patronage. Other business enterprises also claim a share of his attention, for he



deals in farm implements and is the owner of an elevator at this place. He is an enterprising and progressive citizen, whose well-directed efforts have gained him a handsome property. He manifests a commendable interest in all that pertains to the welfare of the community, and his name is inseparably connected with the upbuilding of this neighborhood. In politics he votes independently. Socially, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.



**H**ARDY DALY, a farmer residing on section 15, Illini Township, well deserves mention in the history of this county, for he is numbered among its honored pioneers, dating his residence here from 1840. In the years that have since come and gone he has witnessed the growth and development which have wrought such a great transformation, and has borne his part in its upbuilding and advancement. He has seen the wild lands transformed into beautiful homes and farms, towns and villages have sprung up, churches and schools have been built, and by the onward march of progress Macon County has been placed in the front rank in Illinois.

Mr. Daly is a native of Juniata County, Pa. He was born July 2, 1830, and there spent the first ten years of his life. He then came to Illinois with his father, George Daly, who emigrated with his family Westward and cast in his lot with the early settlers of this county. He was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, however, his death occurring in July, 1841. The family numbered four sons and four daughters who grew to mature years, but two brothers are now deceased: William and Austin. Albert, the other brother, resides near Belle Plaine, Kan.

Hardy Daly was reared to manhood amid the wild scenes of frontier life. During his youth he worked by the month for Samuel Powers for several years, and then engaged in breaking prairie for some years. In the fall of 1852, he purchased

a quarter-section of raw prairie, the farm upon which he now resides, and though the land was then in its primitive condition, he has evolved a fine farm, one of the best in the community, well improved and highly cultivated. From time to time he has made additional purchases, until his landed possessions now aggregate five hundred and twenty-seven acres, comprised within four farms. The neat appearance of his home place and the well-tilled fields with their golden grain all indicate his faithful enterprise.

Mr. Daly started out in life empty-handed, but though he possessed no capital he had a strong determination to succeed, and by his labor and enterprise he has worked his way steadily upward to a position of wealth and affluence. He to-day ranks among Macon County's substantial farmers. In 1856, he cast his first Presidential vote for John C. Fremont, and since that time has never failed to deposit his ballot for the Presidential candidate of the Republican party. In local politics, however, he is independent, supporting the man whom he thinks best qualified for the office, regardless of party affiliations. He has never been an office-seeker, however, preferring to devote his time and attention to his business interests, in which he has met with signal success. His life has been an upright one and he has the confidence of all who know him.



**A**LFRED A. COOPER, a practical and progressive farmer residing on section 17, Decatur Township, comes not from the East, as the greater part of the citizens of Macon County do, but first saw the light of day beyond the Mississippi. He was born in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, on the 14th of September, 1856, and comes from the old Pilgrim stock, his Puritan ancestors having crossed the Atlantic in the "Mayflower" from England. The family is one noted for longevity, and the grandfather of our subject

reached the advanced age of ninety-eight years. He was a cousin of Peter Cooper, the philanthropist.

The father of our subject, Thomas Cooper, was born in Washington County, Pa., December 13, 1818, and spent his boyhood days upon the home farm, while in the common schools he acquired his education. At the age of twenty-four he wedded Mary A. Auld, a native of Washington County, Pa., and a daughter of Archibald Auld, a farmer of that locality. Upon his marriage, Mr. Cooper was given a farm of one hundred acres by his father, upon which he made his home until, selling out, he removed to Iowa, where he carried on a large farm and fed cattle. In 1868 he removed to Winfield, Henry County, Iowa, and after a time came to Macon County, Ill., purchasing a farm south of Decatur, on which he located. He afterward bought one hundred and forty acres of land, and upon that farm passed the remainder of his days. He was quite a well-to-do citizen and owned considerable property in Decatur. His death occurred December 27, 1882, and his remains were interred in Wycle Cemetery. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was highly respected for his many excellencies of character. In politics, he warmly advocated the principles of Republicanism. His widow still survives him and is living on the old homestead in Decatur Township, at the age of seventy-three. She is a member of the Baptist Church. The Cooper family numbered four children. George, who was born in Pennsylvania, married Margaret McDaniel, and is a farmer of Harristown Township; Sarah Jane became the wife of William Parker, and is now deceased; Alfred is the third in order of birth; and John Franklin wedded Mary McCauley, and is a cigar-maker of Decatur.

Our subject was a lad of seven years when with his parents he came to Macon County, where he was reared and educated. His school privileges well fitted him for the practical duties of life. He went through the Wood Street School of Decatur, and afterward pursued a business course in the Bryant & Stratton College, of Chicago. Since his youth he has followed farming. He remained upon the home farm until the death of his father,

and then assumed management of the homestead, which he cultivated and improved for several years.

On the 11th of May, 1887, in Springfield, Ill., Mr. Cooper was united in marriage with Miss Katie, a daughter of Michael and Katie Holland. The father is now deceased, but the mother lives with her children. Three children brighten the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cooper by their presence: Nellie May, Freddie Thomas and Alfred.

Mr. Cooper cast his first Presidential vote for James G. Blaine in 1880, and has since been a supporter of Republican principles. Socially, he is a member of Decatur Lodge No. 186, I. O. O. F., and his wife is a member of the Catholic Church. He is now engaged in general farming and stock-raising on section 17, Decatur Township, where he owns and operates one hundred and eighty-one acres of land. His farm is well improved and highly cultivated, and the owner is a successful agriculturist. Almost his entire life has been passed in Macon County, and his many friends know him to be a man of upright character and sterling worth.



**J**OHN MARSH, a retired farmer and stock-dealer, now living in Maroa, is one of the worthy citizens which Ohio has furnished to Macon County. He was born in Warren County July 12, 1823, and on the maternal side is of Irish descent, his grandfather having emigrated from Ireland to America in 1810. His paternal grandfather, Daniel Marsh, was a native of New Jersey, and in an early day emigrated to Ohio. The father of our subject, Jesse Marsh, was also born in the same State, and throughout his entire life followed the occupation of farming. He married Ann Sloan, who was also born in Ireland, and they became the parents of four children: Daniel, deceased; John, of this sketch; William, of Champaign County, Ill.; and Jane, who has also passed away. The father died in



deals in farm implements and is the owner of an elevator at this place. He is an enterprising and progressive citizen, whose well-directed efforts have gained him a handsome property. He manifests a commendable interest in all that pertains to the welfare of the community, and his name is inseparably connected with the upbuilding of this neighborhood. In politics he votes independently. Socially, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.



**H**ARDY DALY, a farmer residing on section 15, Illini Township, well deserves mention in the history of this county, for he is numbered among its honored pioneers, dating his residence here from 1840. In the years that have since come and gone he has witnessed the growth and development which have wrought such a great transformation, and has borne his part in its upbuilding and advancement. He has seen the wild lands transformed into beautiful homes and farms, towns and villages have sprung up, churches and schools have been built, and by the onward march of progress Macon County has been placed in the front rank in Illinois.

Mr. Daly is a native of Juniata County, Pa. He was born July 2, 1830, and there spent the first ten years of his life. He then came to Illinois with his father, George Daly, who emigrated with his family Westward and cast in his lot with the early settlers of this county. He was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, however, his death occurring in July, 1841. The family numbered four sons and four daughters who grew to mature years, but two brothers are now deceased: William and Austin. Albert, the other brother, resides near Belle Plaine, Kan.

Hardy Daly was reared to manhood amid the wild scenes of frontier life. During his youth he worked by the month for Samuel Powers for several years, and then engaged in breaking prairie for some years. In the fall of 1852, he purchased

a quarter-section of raw prairie, the farm upon which he now resides, and though the land was then in its primitive condition, he has evolved a fine farm, one of the best in the community, well improved and highly cultivated. From time to time he has made additional purchases, until his landed possessions now aggregate five hundred and twenty-seven acres, comprised within four farms. The neat appearance of his home place and the well-tilled fields with their golden grain all indicate his faithful enterprise.

Mr. Daly started out in life empty-handed, but though he possessed no capital he had a strong determination to succeed, and by his labor and enterprise he has worked his way steadily upward to a position of wealth and affluence. He to-day ranks among Macon County's substantial farmers. In 1856, he cast his first Presidential vote for John C. Fremont, and since that time has never failed to deposit his ballot for the Presidential candidate of the Republican party. In local politics, however, he is independent, supporting the man whom he thinks best qualified for the office, regardless of party affiliations. He has never been an office-seeker, however, preferring to devote his time and attention to his business interests, in which he has met with signal success. His life has been an upright one and he has the confidence of all who know him.



**A**LFRED A. COOPER, a practical and progressive farmer residing on section 17, Decatur Township, comes not from the East, as the greater part of the citizens of Macon County do, but first saw the light of day beyond the Mississippi. He was born in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, on the 14th of September, 1856, and comes from the old Pilgrim stock, his Puritan ancestors having crossed the Atlantic in the "Mayflower" from England. The family is one noted for longevity, and the grandfather of our subject



reached the advanced age of ninety-eight years. He was a cousin of Peter Cooper, the philanthropist.

The father of our subject, Thomas Cooper, was born in Washington County, Pa., December 13, 1818, and spent his boyhood days upon the home farm, while in the common schools he acquired his education. At the age of twenty-four he wedded Mary A. Auld, a native of Washington County, Pa., and a daughter of Archibald Auld, a farmer of that locality. Upon his marriage, Mr. Cooper was given a farm of one hundred acres by his father, upon which he made his home until, selling out, he removed to Iowa, where he carried on a large farm and fed cattle. In 1868 he removed to Winfield, Henry County, Iowa, and after a time came to Macon County, Ill., purchasing a farm south of Decatur, on which he located. He afterward bought one hundred and forty acres of land, and upon that farm passed the remainder of his days. He was quite a well-to-do citizen and owned considerable property in Decatur. His death occurred December 27, 1882, and his remains were interred in Wycle Cemetery. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was highly respected for his many excellencies of character. In politics, he warmly advocated the principles of Republicanism. His widow still survives him and is living on the old homestead in Decatur Township, at the age of seventy-three. She is a member of the Baptist Church. The Cooper family numbered four children. George, who was born in Pennsylvania, married Margaret McDaniel, and is a farmer of Harristown Township; Sarah Jane became the wife of William Parker, and is now deceased; Alfred is the third in order of birth; and John Franklin wedded Mary McCauley, and is a cigar-maker of Decatur.

Our subject was a lad of seven years when with his parents he came to Macon County, where he was reared and educated. His school privileges well fitted him for the practical duties of life. He went through the Wood Street School of Decatur, and afterward pursued a business course in the Bryant & Stratton College, of Chicago. Since his youth he has followed farming. He remained upon the home farm until the death of his father,

and then assumed management of the homestead, which he cultivated and improved for several years.

On the 11th of May, 1887, in Springfield, Ill., Mr. Cooper was united in marriage with Miss Katie, a daughter of Michael and Katie Holland. The father is now deceased, but the mother lives with her children. Three children brighten the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cooper by their presence: Nellie May, Freddie Thomas and Alfred.

Mr. Cooper cast his first Presidential vote for James G. Blaine in 1880, and has since been a supporter of Republican principles. Socially, he is a member of Decatur Lodge No. 186, I. O. O. F., and his wife is a member of the Catholic Church. He is now engaged in general farming and stock-raising on section 17, Decatur Township, where he owns and operates one hundred and eighty-one acres of land. His farm is well improved and highly cultivated, and the owner is a successful agriculturist. Almost his entire life has been passed in Macon County, and his many friends know him to be a man of upright character and sterling worth.



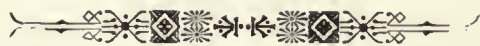
**J**OHN MARSH, a retired farmer and stock-dealer, now living in Maroa, is one of the worthy citizens which Ohio has furnished to Macon County. He was born in Warren County July 12, 1823, and on the maternal side is of Irish descent, his grandfather having emigrated from Ireland to America in 1810. His paternal grandfather, Daniel Marsh, was a native of New Jersey, and in an early day emigrated to Ohio. The father of our subject, Jesse Marsh, was also born in the same State, and throughout his entire life followed the occupation of farming. He married Ann Sloan, who was also born in Ireland, and they became the parents of four children: Daniel, deceased; John, of this sketch; William, of Champaign County, Ill.; and Jane, who has also passed away. The father died in

We now take up the personal history of our subject, who is both widely and favorably known in this county. He is the youngest in a family of seven sons and three daughters, the eldest of whom was Capt. Lewis J.; James M. is represented elsewhere in this volume; Ella is the wife of John Everett, of Harristown; Nancy is the wife of S. H. Anderson, a banker of Genoa, Neb.; Isaac O., who for many years was Justice of the Peace of Deatur, died in that city in 1889; Edward, a valiant soldier of the late war, laid down his life in defense of his country, dying after the battle of Milliken's Bend in 1863; John died on the old homestead in 1882; Martha died in 1863; and H. H. is serving as County Clerk of Nance County, Neb.

Our subject came to Macon County when only seven years of age, and was reared to manhood on the old homestead farm, where he now resides, and has therefore seen the county in the days of its early infancy. He received good educational advantages, and to his father he gave the benefit of his services until he had attained his majority. In fact, he aided in carrying on the old homestead farm for four years after he had reached man's estate. After his marriage he located upon a farm adjoining the old homestead, and two years later, when his father removed to Harristown, settled upon the home farm, to the ownership of which he succeeded on his father's death. He now has a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and it is one of the best in the neighborhood, supplied with all first-class improvements. He has a beautiful grove of forest trees, a number of which he planted with his own hands. A good orchard yields its fruit in season, and his home is a substantial and pleasant residence.

On the 20th of January, 1875, Mr. Eyman was joined in marriage with Miss Stella Tandy, a native of Morgan County, Ill., and a daughter of A. J. Tandy, who was born in Kentucky. Their union has been blessed with three daughters: Sophia, and Lula and Lela, twins. The parents hold membership with the Christian Church of Harristown, in which Mr. Eyman is now serving as Deacon. He has been a staunch advocate of Republican principles since casting his first Presidential vote for Gen. Grant in 1872. The duties of citizenship are

ever faithfully performed by our subject, and the best interests of the community receive his hearty support and co-operation. Public spirited and progressive, Macon County recognizes in him a valued citizen.



**E** R. FRAZIER, one of Deatur's leading and influential business men, is Secretary of the Leader Manufacturing Company, one of the important industries of Macon County. A native of Maryland, he was born in Frederick City October 12, 1855. His father, Rev. J. Frazier, was born in the same place and for years as pastor had charge of several large and flourishing churches in Maryland and Pennsylvania. His health failing under his arduous duties, he determined to see if a change of climate would not prove beneficial, and so emigrated Westward to Indiana, locating in Portland, that State. For several years he did mission work in and around Portland as his health permitted. His death there occurred in 1885. He had been engaged in ministerial work for thirty-three years, having entered upon the labors of the Gospel at the age of twenty-four.

When a young man of seventeen our subject began life for himself. At that early age he manifested an executive ability which he has utilized for his own as well as for his employers' advantage, and therefore won success. Going to Alabama, he took charge of a large force of laborers in the cedar district for the well-known firm of Shoup & Co., who furnished cedar for lead pencils for the foreign market. The men under Mr. Frazier's management felled the trees, sawed the lumber and shaped it for pencils, making it from timber raised on the plantation of C. C. Clay and Capt. Tom Gurley, who were noted Southern gentlemen during war times. For twenty-four months Mr. Frazier superintended from eight hundred to one thousand men. He then went to Scottsboro, Ala., where he entered into partnership with Col. A. Snodgrass as publishers of the *Alabama Herald*.



During this time he conducted a general merchandise business after the custom of the Southern States, and also engaged in manufacturing by machinery a cheap grade of shoes. While in Scottsboro our subject accumulated nearly \$20,000, and had laid the foundation for large business interests, but on February 28, 1880, Scottsboro was destroyed by fire. In a town of a little more than two thousand inhabitants, fifty-nine buildings, mostly business houses, were swept away, as it were in a moment, and Mr. Frazier was left penniless.

It was impossible to check the dauntless spirit of our subject, however. He went to Chattanooga, which was then enjoying a boom, and presented himself at the office of the *Chattanooga Times* for employment. Accepting a position as typo with Adolph S. Ochs in the job department at a salary of \$10 per week, he was thus employed from the 1st of April until the 15th of September, 1880, at which time he was made assistant foreman of the daily department of night work. Thus he labored until the 1st of January, 1881, when he was made general foreman of the *Times* Company, having charge of both the daily and weekly editions of the paper, the job department, the *Tradesman* department and the bindery and pressroom. He acceptably filled that responsible position until 1890. As before stated, he went to Chattanooga when the real-estate boom was beginning to create a furore in the South, and although he had experienced ill luck in Scottsboro, he recovered there, through judicious land investments, more than he had lost by fire, and almost as suddenly. As an example of the advance and shrinkage in land values, Mr. Frazier sold some land which cost him \$400 for \$16,000, after holding it about two years. The inevitable came, and the land is worth to-day only about \$800, but Mr. Frazier's fortune had come and he now retired from the real-estate and newspaper business.

On the 4th of October, 1890, having returned to Portland, Ind., our subject purchased a half-interest in the Brown Manufacturing Company, of that place, taking charge of the same as business manager, which position he held until a stock company was formed and the business was removed to

Decatur, April 12, 1891. At that time the name of The Decatur Leader Manufacturing Company was assumed, and Mr. Frazier was elected its Secretary. The other officers of the company are mentioned elsewhere in this volume. The plant is worth \$50,000, and they do a paying business, it being the only one of the kind in the State outside of Chicago.

In 1881 Mr. Frazier was united in marriage with Miss Mary Buttruff, of Chambersburg, Pa., and their union has been blessed with two charming and interesting children: Harry T., aged ten years; and Ella L., a little maiden of six summers. Possessed of untiring enterprise and perseverance, Mr. Frazier has made of his life a prosperous one. He has not been overcome by the difficulties that he has encountered, but his misfortunes have seemed rather to serve as an impetus to renewed effort. His well-spent life entitles him to a prominent place in the history of his adopted county.



**W**ILLIAM CLIFTON, a retired farmer who is now residing in Argenta, is one of the most prominent and highly respected citizens of the county, and is one of the honored veterans of the Mexican War. His well-spent life is deserving of commemoration in the history of his adopted county. He was born in Casey County, Ky., September 13, 1819, and is a son of Nehemiah and Margaret Clifton, and the only survivor in a family which numbered seven children. The others were Sally, Jo (twin brother of our subject, who died near Vera Cruz during the Mexican War and still sleeps on the battlefield), Winnie, John, Polly and Betsy.

In the usual manner of farmer lads, William Clifton spent the days of his boyhood and youth midst play and work. He gained some knowledge of the English branches by attending subscription schools, but is mostly self-educated. Having remained with his parents until nineteen years of age, he then rented a part of his farm for a num-



ber of years. He had come to Illinois with his parents when a lad of six summers, the trip Westward being made by team, and the family had located on Spring Creek, in Sangamon County, five miles west of Springfield. Securing a tract of Government land, a log cabin was erected and the family lived in true pioneer style. Our subject remained in Sangamon County until 1832, when he removed to Macon County, afterwards changed to De Witt County, where his father took up eighty acres of Government land at \$1.25 per acre. In the fall of 1864, the son purchased one hundred and sixty acres of partly improved land in Friends' Creek Township, where he now owns three hundred and twenty acres. He carried on general farming and engaged in buying and selling stock.

During the Mexican War, Mr. Clifton enlisted as a private of Company E, Fourth Illinois Infantry, and, together with his brother, was mustered into service at Springfield. The troops went to Alton and by boat to Jefferson Barracks, where they were drilled for a month, and then proceeded to New Orleans, where they remained for some time. They then crossed the Gulf to Mexico, landing at Vera Cruz. Mr. Clifton was at the bombardment of that place. He served for twelve months, and at the close of his term received an honorable discharge.

Mr. Clifton has been twice married. In 1838, he married Miss Parthenia Payne, and unto them were born two children: Van Buren, who is proprietor of a hotel and also owns an elevator in Cerro Gordo; and Columbus J., a farmer residing near Sibley, Ford County. After the death of his first wife, our subject was again married, in 1862, to Mrs. Sarah Scroggin, widow of Humphrey Scroggin. They have four children: William H., Parthenia, Marshall and Rupert.

Mr. Clifton, who has been a member of the Christian Church for several years, is serving as Elder, and his life has been in harmony with his profession. He is a man of generous and benevolent spirit, and gives his support to every enterprise calculated to prove of public benefit. In politics, he has been a stalwart Democrat since casting his first Presidential vote for Jackson. He remained upon the farm until 1881, when he removed to

Monticello, Ill., where he remained until 1888. He then came to Argenta and purchased his present home. His sons now have charge of the farm and he is living a retired life, enjoying the rest which he has so truly earned and richly deserves.



**T**YLEE CONOVER, who formerly followed carpentering but is now living a retired life in Maroa, is one of the worthy citizens that New Jersey has furnished this county. His paternal grandfather was a native of the State, but was of German descent. His death occurred in New Jersey December 29, 1826. The name was originally spelled Covenhoven. The parents of our subject, Timothy and Polly (Woolly) Conover, were both natives of New Jersey, and were members of the Society of Friends. Removing with his family to Ohio in 1816, the father there made his home until 1842, when he took up his residence in Logan County, Ill., living near Atlanta for about eight years. In 1865 he came to Maroa, and lived with our subject until his death, which occurred January 29, 1870, in his eightieth year. His wife passed away some years previous, while living in Ohio. After removing to the West, they joined the Christian Church. Their family numbered six children, but our subject and Ann, wife of Hannan Hunt, of Shelby County, Ohio, are the only ones now living. Mary, Eliza, William and George are now deceased.

In taking up the personal history of our subject, we present to our readers the life record of one of the prominent citizens of Maroa. He was reared in Ohio, and when a young man learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for many years. He acquired a limited education in the old-time subscription schools and remained at home for some years after he had attained his majority. He was married September 24, 1836, to Hester Ann, daughter of Caleb and Charlotte (Crowell) Bond, of Ohio. Six children were born unto them, but Seth, the eldest, died in infancy. William mar-

ried Elizabeth Burke, and with their five children, Estella, Uel, Clarence, Nettie and Maggie, they reside in Yuma, Colo. Their eldest daughter is the wife of G. W. Robinson, of Port Morgan, Colo., and has three children. Uel is also married. The next child, Eliza Ann, died when young. Governor wedded Mary J. Long, by whom he has two children: Della, wife of Frank Huber, and Burton. Alice is the wife of Warner J. Compton, a grain merchant of Maroa, and they have four daughters: Minnie, wife of Frank Cooper; Agnes, Lillie and Fannie. George, who completes the family, is represented on another page of this work. The mother of this family died August 9, 1874, in the faith of the Christian Church, to which she belonged.

On the 15th of August, 1876, Mr. Conover married Mrs. Susan Henry, daughter of John B. and Deborah C. (Morgan) Deever, and widow of William Bayard Henry, of Brown County, Ohio. She was the mother of eleven children, but only one grew to maturity, Margaret, who died in her twentieth year. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and were of German, French, Scotch and Welsh descent. Her father was in Baltimore when the first stone was laid for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, and with his family he removed from eastern Pennsylvania to Pittsburgh in a wagon. His death occurred at Lostant, Ill., at the age of eighty-four years, and his wife died in Maroa in 1891, in her eighty-seventh year. Three of their sons, James S., William H. and David H., fill soldier's graves, the first-named having served in the Mexican War, and the other two in the Civil War. The family numbered nine children, but Mrs. Conover is now the only survivor.

About 1865 our subject came to Maroa, where he has since made his home, with the exception of one year spent in Funny Hollow, where he carried on a sawmill. He then returned to this city and built the large Midland Mill, now called the Midland Elevator, which he ran as a mill for several years and then made of it an elevator. On one occasion his coat was caught in the gearing of the mill and in the revolution of the machinery a rope was so wound around him that it nearly cost him his life. He once narrowly escaped death,

having fallen on a railroad track, and once in a runaway accident, yet he is now a well-preserved man of nearly eighty years.

Mr. and Mrs. Conover are members of the Christian Church, and he serves as one of its Trustees. He was formerly a Democrat in politics, but on account of his views on the temperance question he has joined the ranks of the Prohibition party. He owns two hundred and forty acres of land in Dakota, besides his present home in Maroa and other fine property. The best interests of the city have ever found in Mr. Conover a friend, and his hearty support and co-operation have been given to those enterprises calculated to prove of public benefit.



MRS. SUSAN C. V. DAVIS is one of the early settlers of Macon County and an honored representative of one of the pioneer families. Her father, Parmenas Smallwood, was born near Charlestown, Jefferson County, Va., on the 27th of April, 1782, and served as a soldier in the War of 1812. He was married in the Old Dominion, June 23, 1807, to Deborah Brown, who was born near Charlestown May 12, 1792. Leaving the State of their nativity they went to Lancaster County, Ohio, where the father opened up a new farm. He became one of the earliest settlers of Macon County, Ill., emigrating to this place in 1825, accompanied by his wife and ten children. The journey was made with teams from Ohio. The winter after their arrival was spent at Sugar Grove, and they then located upon the farm which is now the home of Mrs. Davis, on section 3, Decatur Township. It has been in possession of the family since 1826.

The nearest neighbor of the Smallwoods at that time was forty miles away. Mr. Smallwood built a hewed-log cabin and in true pioneer style they began life in the West. He did his trading in Chicago, St. Louis and Springfield, where he bought salt at \$1.25 per barrel, while wheat sold



for thirty and forty cents per bushel. When the land came into market he purchased it from the Government, and upon the old homestead he spent the remainder of his life. In politics, he was an active supporter of the Whig party. His death occurred in 1848, and his wife was called to her final rest November 7, 1873. Mr. Smallwood was one of the few public-spirited men who helped to build up Deatur, he having donated ten acres to the city, which lies in the heart of the town.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Smallwood were born the following children: Mrs. Rachel Murphy, deceased; George, who was a soldier in the Black Hawk War and died near Clinton, Ill.; John, Samuel and James, all deceased; Daniel; Amanda, wife of William Bennett; Elizabeth Roben, of Clinton, Ill.; Douglas and Asbarinah, both deceased; Mrs. Davis; Joseph, who is living in Deatur; and Gideon, who has also passed away.

Since a little child of three years, Mrs. Davis has resided upon the farm which is still her home, and in her girlhood she learned to spin and weave and perform such other duties as fell to the lot of the daughters of the household in those early days. One year she wove and dyed over two hundred yards of cloth. Her education was acquired in the old-time log schoolhouse, and with the family she experienced all the hardships and difficulties of pioneer life. Having attained to womanhood, she became the wife of Amanuel Davis, who was born and reared in Philadelphia, Pa. His father was a brick dealer and real-estate man of that city, and he there remained until 1841, when he came to the West. His death occurred on the 2d of January, 1861, when not yet forty years of age.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Davis were born four children, two of whom are now living. Eliza died in infancy. Ida A. is the wife of William T. Downing, who resides in the city of Deatur, where he is engaged in breeding fine stock. She was educated in the city schools, and by her marriage has become the mother of three children yet living: Clifford O., Anna Maud and William Poyntelle. They also lost one child, Ellis, who died at the age of five years. Benjamin A., who was educated in the Normal School of Illinois and Mt. Zion Acad-

emy, married at St. Louis, Mo., in 1879, and at his death left two children, Edna S. and Louisa. Anna E., the youngest of the Davis family, attended St. Mary's Hall, of Burlington, and Cottage Seminary, of Pottstown, Pa. She has spent some time in Pennsylvania and the East, but is still living on the old homestead. Mrs. Davis now spends the greater part of her time with her children. She is a lady possessed of many excellencies of character, which have won her a wide circle of friends and gained her the respect of all with whom she is acquainted. The story of pioneer life in Macon County is thoroughly familiar to her, and she has been an eye-witness of all the varied changes which have transformed this locality from a barren tract to one of the richest counties in the commonwealth.



JOSEPH STOCKS, proprietor and owner of the Montana Farm, situated on section 15, Dora Township, Moultrie County, is well known to the citizens of Macon County, and is deserving of representation in this volume. We feel assured that this record of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers. A native of England, he was born April 6, 1838. His father, Benjamin Stocks, was born in the same country in 1797, and in 1818 was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Campinot. Seven children were born of their union, Mary, Ellen, George, James, Ann, Emma and Joseph, but with the exception of our subject all are now deceased.

Our subject started work in England at the age of fourteen years at \$1 per week, working on the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway. He remained with them five years, the last year getting \$3 per week, out of which he saved a portion toward coming to America, where better opportunities and privileges were afforded young men, he believed, than in his own country. At the age of nineteen years he sailed from Liverpool, April 7, 1857, arriving in New York May 8. He went at once to



Vinton County, Ohio, and there started out with only ten cents to his name. While there he learned the wagon-maker's trade, working the first year for \$5 per month and board, while the second year he received the munificent salary of \$7.50 per month. After this Mr. Stocks learned the blacksmith's trade and when he had mastered the business he and Ira Day built a shop for themselves in the Sciota Valley, in Ohio, where he remained until the spring of 1863. That year witnessed his arrival in Illinois. He went to Mattoon in charge of the wagons, carriage and horses belonging to E. W. Vause, who was moving out, and he worked for that gentleman until the 1st of October, 1863, when he removed to Stark County. There he remained until January, when he returned to Ohio, but after a short time he started for California. On the way he stopped in Iowa and Minnesota for a short time, and there, meeting a party bound for Montana with ox-teams, he joined them and they reached their destination after a trip of five months and seven days. There Mr. Stocks began working in the gold diggings, and followed mining and blacksmithing for about eight years. In the fall of 1869 he made a trip to England by way of California, stopping to see his brother George, who lived south of Decatur. When he came to Moultrie County he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land of George Shrull, which was his first real estate and present home, but afterward returned to Montana, in May, 1870, and December 15, 1872, he returned to Moultrie to try farming.

In 1874 Mr. Stocks again returned on a visit to his old home, where he spent a number of pleasant months with his aged parents, remaining until 1875, and leaving them in good care. His mother died April 23, 1875, aged seventy-seven years, and his father died June 17, 1875, aged seventy-eight years. The latter sold off his furniture twice, in preparation to come to America, but sickness prevented him doing so. He often remarked that his body was in England, but his thoughts in America. When he came back to Illinois, our subject bought at different times four hundred acres of land in Moultrie and Macon Counties. The greater part of the land, however, is situated on

section 15, Dora Township, Moultrie County, although the farm is all in one, divided only by the invisible county line. This farm is one of the best in the community, in fact it ranks among the model farms of the nineteenth century. There he engages in stock-raising in addition to general farming, and keeps on hand a fine grade of horses, cattle and hogs. The improvements upon the place all stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise, and the buildings are excellent, including a fine barn, which was erected at a cost of \$6,000.

In his political affiliations, Mr. Stocks is identified with the Democratic party, and has held the office of Township Clerk of Dora Township. Socially, he is connected with the Masonic and Odd Fellows' fraternities and the Knights of the Macabees. Upright and honorable in all his dealings, he is a gentleman in every sense of the word, and enjoys the respect and esteem of the entire community in which he lives, and to this regard he is justly entitled.



**M**RS. MARGARET KINCAID, who is now living at her pleasant home at No. 1306 North Clayton Street, Decatur, belongs to one of the pioneer families of the county. Her father, Fielding House, was born in Bath County, Ky., in 1807, and was a son of William House, whose father was a native of Holland. William was born near Baltimore, Md., and at the age of nineteen went to Maysville, Ky., where he worked at his trade as a stone and brick mason. Upon the banks of the Licking River he spent his remaining days, and though he arrived there with only his trowel and a half dollar, he became the owner of large landed estates and other valuable property. He was married in Bath County, Ky., to Ann Whitecraft, a religious woman and a faithful Christian, who at the age of nine years joined the Seceder Church. Mr. House made various trips to Illinois, and in Macon and Christian

Counties entered two thousand acres of land. He was an honorable, upright man, whose word was as good as his bond. In politics he was an old-line Whig. The family numbered seven sons and three daughters, but none are now living.

The eldest, Fielding House, was born in the old brick residence on the homestead farm in Bath County, and acquired a good education in the schools of Washington and Maysville, Ky. At the age of eighteen he learned the trade of a millwright and carpenter. Ere leaving his native State, he married Jane Todd, a distant relative of the Lincoln family, and a native of Fleming County, Ky. Her parents were Thomas and Margaret (Boyd) Todd. In 1835, Mr. House with two yoke of oxen came to Macon County, Ill., and for \$50 purchased a small claim, upon which was a little log cabin. There he lived and died, being buried upon the old homestead. A man of excellent business ability, enterprising and progressive, his business career was one of success and he became the owner of eight hundred acres of valuable land, which he placed under a high state of cultivation. To some extent he worked at his trade, and built many mills and barns in this county. For four years he served as County Surveyor in Kentucky, and did much surveying in this county. In politics he was a Whig and Republican, but was never a politician in the sense of office-seeking.

In January, 1836, Mrs. House died of consumption and was buried on the old home farm. Her children were: Mrs. Margaret Kineaid, who was born June 1, 1829, in Bath County, Ky.; William, of Douglas County; and Mrs. Nancy Jane Bills, of Decatur. For his second wife, Mr. House married Jane Scott, of Moultrie County, Ill.

Mrs. Kineaid was reared by her step-mother and was educated in the district schools and in Decatur. At the age of seventeen she returned to Kentucky, and for seven years made her home with her grandparents. She there became the wife of Asa Kineaid, a native of the same neighborhood, and in 1857 they came to Illinois, locating near Decatur, where Mr. Kineaid engaged in farming and in the dairy business. Coming to Decatur, they located on North Clayton Street. While bringing cattle from the pasture, Mr. Kineaid was hurt by a

horse and the injury caused his death in September, 1891, at the age of fifty-nine years and six months. He was a man held in high esteem by all, and his loss was deeply mourned throughout the community.

The children of the family are: Robert F., a well-to-do citizen carrying on business as a contractor and builder of Decatur, and who married Elizabeth Robinson; William Oliver, who married Miss Little, of Monmouth, and resides in Decatur; Charles T., who married Julia Hise is employed as traveling salesman by a Chicago house, and makes his home in this city; David O., who wedded Ona Hise, lives in Decatur and operates his mother's farm; and Nellie, the wife of William Stearns, of Woodlawn, Neb. In addition to her pleasant residence in this city, Mrs. Kineaid owns a good farm in Macon County, and is therefore comfortably situated. Almost her entire life has been spent in this community, and she is a lady whose many excellencies of character have won her the esteem of a large circle of warm friends.



**R**EUBEN SIGLER, of the well-known firm of Sigler & Foster, leading merchants of Maroa, ranks among the leading business men of this community, and is a citizen Macon County could ill afford to lose. He claims Ohio as the State of his nativity. He was born in Ashland County December 25, 1842, and is a son of John and Catherine (Spealman) Sigler, both natives of Maryland. His grandfathers, John Sigler and Joseph Spealman, were both natives of the same State, were of German descent and both reached an advanced age. The father of our subject was a soldier of the War of 1812. He was a farmer, and about 1828 removed to Ohio, where he spent his remaining days. His wife died in 1859, and he passed away in 1868, at the age of seventy-four. They were members of the Lutheran Church. Their family numbered nine children, six sons and



three daughters: William; Mary Ann, deceased; Elizabeth, widow of George Eichenger; John; Margaret, wife of Joseph Shemberger; Joseph, deceased; Jacob, Reuben and Henry.

Our subject spent the days of his boyhood and youth upon his father's farm in Ohio, remaining at home until nineteen years of age, when he offered his services to his country, and aided in the struggle to preserve the Union. He enlisted in Company G, Sixty-fifth Ohio Infantry, and served for three years and two months. He was twice wounded, first at Cumberland Mountain and next in the charge on Mission Ridge. He participated in seven hard-fought battles and a number of skirmishes, serving for more than three years as a faithful and loyal defender of the Stars and Stripes.

When the war was over, Mr. Sigler returned to Ohio, and thence came to Illinois, locating in Maroa, where he has since made his home. During the first five years after his arrival he engaged in farming, after which he carried on a restaurant for a short time. Selling out, he embarked in the grocery business, and after two years formed a partnership in that line with David Bennett, to whom he afterward sold his interest. Mr. Sigler was then employed by Mr. Grady for eight years, and afterward worked for the firm of Grady & Wagner for three years. Subsequently he was employed for two years with H. B. Smith, when he formed a partnership with W. O. B. Foster, opening a general store, in which business was carried on under the firm name of Sigler & Foster. This connection has since continued, and the firm enjoys a large and constantly increasing trade. Their house is one of the leading stores in the city, and its proprietors are men of well-known business merits and standing, who well deserve the business which is given them.

Mr. Sigler was married August 20, 1866, to Miss Fannie Stauffer, daughter of John and Catherine (Rice) Stauffer, of De Witt County. Unto them were born five children: Addie May, wife of W. O. B. Foster, by whom she has one son, Sidney Francis; Clarence W., Estella, Bessie and Verne Francis. The mother of this family died in July, 1890, at the age of forty-two. She was a faithful

member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which Mr. Sigler is also a member and Trustee. He belongs to the Knights of the Globe, and formerly was a member of Lingle Post No. 348, G. A. R. In politics, he is a loyal Republican, and for two terms served as Alderman of Maroa, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity. He is a public-spirited and progressive citizen, and manifests a commendable interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community.



**W**AIT BROUGHTON, who owns and operates a good farm of one hundred and sixty-two acres on section 18, Mt. Zion Township, claims New York as the State of his nativity, his birth having occurred in Rensselaer County, April 5, 1837. His father, Wait, was born May 27, 1787, died March 12, 1863, and was laid to rest in Washington City, then his home. His wife bore the maiden name of Sallie C. Cross. She was born in the Empire State, and their marriage was celebrated in Rensselaer County, N. Y., January 23, 1815. In 1848 they removed to Virginia with their family. The mother passed away December 21, 1876, and her remains were interred by those of her husband in Washington City. Unto this worthy couple were born ten children, as follows: Lyman, who died and was buried in Virginia; David, who was buried in Washington, D. C.; Samuel R., who was buried in Onondaga County, N. Y.; Olive and Emeline, both of whom were interred in Rensselaer County, N. Y.; Electa, who lies buried in Virginia; Harriet, wife of George A. Burns, of Washington, D. C.; Elizabeth, wife of B. L. Lent, a resident of Virginia; Ebenezer C., who makes his home in Washington City; and Wait, whose name heads this record.

Our subject spent the first eleven years of his life in New York, and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Virginia, where he remained until 1858. Having arrived at years of

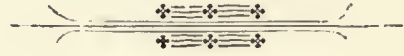


maturity, he started out in life for himself to make his own way in the world. Thinking that the West furnished better opportunities for ambitious young men than the more thickly settled States along the Atlantic Coast, he decided to seek his fortune in Illinois, and emigrated to Sangamon County in the spring of 1859. In the fall of the same year he came to Macon County, where he remained until 1861, when he went to Logan County. There he resided until his enlistment in the service of his country for the late war. It was on the 11th of August, 1863, that he donned the blue and became a member of Company II, One Hundred and Sixth Illinois Infantry. He participated in the long siege of Vicksburg, and for quite a time he lay sick at Little Rock, Ark. He remained in the service, however, until the war closed, when he was mustered out at Springfield, Ill., July 12, 1865. His father was in the War of 1812, and his great-grandfather, his mother's grandfather, was in the Revolutionary War. He was the British General Lyman, the hero of Lake George in the French and Indian War. Mr. Broughton of this sketch was disabled in the service and draws a small pension.

When the war was over our subject returned to Sangamon County, where he remained until 1872, when he again came to Macon County, where he has since made his home. On the 2d of June, 1868, he wedded Miss Susan A. Welsh, who was born in Franklin County, Pa., in 1851, and came to Illinois with her parents in 1856. She has three brothers and a sister living. Two of the number reside in Illinois, one in Iowa and one in Minnesota. The parents, John L. and Mary (Reed) Welsh, are both deceased and lie buried in Sangamon County. Six children have been born unto Mr. and Mrs. Broughton: Albert, Ida May, Henry Clay, George H., Frederick W. and Stanley L., all of whom are still at home.

Throughout his entire business career Mr. Broughton has carried on agricultural pursuits, and is now the owner of a valuable place. He has a pleasant and attractive home, surrounded by every comfort necessary for happiness. In politics he is a supporter of Republican principles, and he cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln. So-

cially, he is a member of Dunham Post No. 141, G. A. R., of Decatur. A worthy citizen and highly-respected man, he is an honored member of the community in which he resides.



**C**HARLES M. FLETCHER, who is extensively engaged in farming and stock-raising on section 9, Mt. Zion Township, has been a resident of Macon County for thirty years, having removed with his parents to Decatur in 1863. He was born in Ripley County, Ind., on the 15th of December, 1856, and is a son of Samuel Fletcher, who was born and reared in the Hoosier State. Having arrived at years of maturity, he married Rhoda Jackson, also a resident of Indiana, and a direct descendant of Gen. Andrew Jackson, and a cousin of Judge Hiram Jackson, of Piatt County, Ill. By their union were born five children, namely: Lucy; E. Dills; Charles M., of this sketch; George E., who married Miss Nancy Billings, of Jasper County, and now resides in Decatur; and Arthur M., who wedded Miss Lulu Burke, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and is superintendent of the John Ullrich stock farm of Moultrie County.

The subject of this sketch started out in life for himself at the early age of thirteen years. His career has indeed been a prosperous one and he deserves great credit for this. On leaving home he began learning the printer's trade, at which he worked for a period of twelve years in Decatur. Five years of this time he had charge of the advertising department of the well-known manufacturing house of H. W. Hill & Co.

On the 14th of October, 1880, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Fletcher and Miss Donna Isabella Ulery, daughter of Eli Ulery, a capitalist and pioneer stockman of Macon County, Ill. The lady was educated in Monticello Seminary, of Godfrey, Madison County, Ill., and is a cultured and refined woman. By the union of Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher have been born four children: Robert U., Dessie Gertrude, Mamie and Maurice.

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



*Adam Scott*



For the past twelve years, Mr. Fletcher has engaged in agricultural pursuits in Mt. Zion Township, and now operates six hundred and fifty acres of splendid land, all well improved and highly cultivated. It is well fenced, and supplied with good buildings. The latest improved machinery is there found and the place is well stocked with an excellent grade of horses and cattle. A fine residence has been recently completed. It is built in the latest and most approved style of architecture and is a large and beautiful home. It is elegantly and tastefully furnished and the evidences of a cultured and refined family are seen in its adornments. In politics, Mr. Fletcher is a Republican, but has never been an aspirant for public office, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his business interests. He is a public-spirited and progressive citizen, and gives his support to all enterprises calculated to advance the general welfare.

The Charles M. Fletcher live stock farm is situated just south of the village of Mt. Zion, and covers a tract of six hundred and fifty acres of fine farming land. Mr. Fletcher makes a specialty of raising high-grade stock and usually keeps on hand from thirty to fifty head of horses. He now has about forty head. He is also the owner of some of the finest trotting stock to be found in the State, including "Gib Howell," No. 16639, a three-year-old, by "Anderson Wilkes," the sire of "Jack Shepherd," 2:14½ at five years old; "Pat Delaney," 2:18½ at three years old; "Mary Anderson," 2:24½ at three years old; "Harlow," 2:27¾ at three years old; and "Cliff Downing," 2:51½ at one year old. First dam, "Maud Maguire," by "Mammont," No. 2052, the sire of "Lewis R.," 2:23; "S. Montgomery," 2:25½, and "Mollie C.," 2:29¾. Second dam, "Mollie McGuire," by "Danville Boy," No. 440. Third dam, "Lady Allen," thoroughbred.

"Anderson Wilkes" by "Onward," sire of "Houri," 2:17; "Dumas," 2:19; "Shadeland Onward," 2:18½; "Mikegan," 2:19¾; "Aeolyte," 2:21; "Anderson Wilkes," 2:22¼; and fifty-six others in the 2:30 list by "George Wilkes."

"Mammont," No. 2052, by "Almont" No. 33, sire of "Westmont," 2:13¾; "Puritan," 2:16; "Fan-

nie Witherspoon," 2:16¼; "Piedmont," 2:17¼; "Aldean," 2:19¼; "Early Rose," 2:20¼; and twenty-nine others in the 2:30 list by "Abdallah," No. 15.

Mr. Fletcher also has a harem of Percheron brood mares, headed by the great young French-bred Percheron stallion, "Pasteur" No. 12,574, a rare specimen of the breed. He has a fine herd of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle, headed by "Warfield," No. 105912, bred by William Warfield, of Lexington, Ky.; and a drove of pure-bred Poland-China hogs. No finer stock can be found in this county; and as a stock dealer Mr. Fletcher is widely known throughout the country.



**A**DAM SCOTT, the efficient manager of the Scott Manufacturing Company, of Decatur, was born on the 4th of November, 1851, in Jackson County, Ohio, and is one of a family of three sons and three daughters, whose parents, Benjamin F. and Martha M. (Sell) Scott, were also natives of Jackson County. In his early life the father drove a stage between Columbus and Gallipolis, Ohio, and afterward settled on a farm of forty acres in Jackson County, to which he kept adding until he now owns a section of valuable land. It was discovered that a fine vein of coal underlaid the property, and, mines having been opened, the village of Coalton was started. This place was laid out by Adam Scott and his schoolmate, John F. Shook. The first coal taken from the mine was at Xenia, Ohio, delivered to the Soldiers' Home in Dayton, Ohio, and the Soldiers' Orphan Home by our subject. The Jackson County coal fields now yield three hundred carloads per day. The parents of our subject are still living on the old home farm. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the father was for many years Class-leader. He helped to build up the city of Wellston, of which his son Adam was Mayor for a term of years.

Upon the old homestead in the county of his

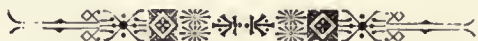
nativity Adam Scott was reared to manhood. He acquired his early education in the old-time log schoolhouse, with its slab seats and other crude and primitive furniture. Subsequently he attended the Normal School in Lebanon, Ohio, and when his education was completed he engaged in contract work, building a railroad to the coal fields of Jackson County. He afterward became interested in coal-mining and was the pioneer in that line near his old home. From Coalton he removed to Wellston, and developed the Wellston coal industry. He helped to build up that city, and at one time owned considerable property there.

In 1879, Mr. Scott was united in marriage with Miss Dora, daughter of Robert and Armenia (Dickinson) Hoop, of Wellston. Her father was one of the first furnace builders of that community and was the inventor of a hot blast with which to blow the furnace. Four children have been born unto our subject and his wife, two sons and two daughters: Arthur D., Edith C., Martha F. and Adam F.

Mr. Scott helped to develop Wellston from a village of three hundred to a city of over five thousand inhabitants. He sunk a number of shafts at that place and continued to engage in mining in that locality until 1889, when he engaged in the manufacture of sweat collars and harness specialties until 1892; then, in order to keep in line with the drift of trade Westward and to acquire better facilities for shipping, he sold out his business and came to Decatur, where he established a factory in the same line, which now does business as a stock company, he himself being the inventor of a number of valuable patents in the harness and saddlery line. The factory is 38x100 feet, is three stories in height, and has a capacity for working two hundred hands. Henry A. Wood is President of the company; W. A. Truax, Vice-President; Milton Johnson, Treasurer; L. L. Johnson, Secretary; and Adam Scott, General Manager.

Our subject and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and although they have resided in this community for only a short time, they have already made a number of warm friends. In politics, Mr. Scott is a Republican, and in his social relations is connected with Well-

ston Lodge No. 701, I. O. O. F. The company with which he is connected has one of the leading industries of the city. The trade is constantly increasing, and for the short space of time in which it has been carried on, it has been very successful. An excellent trade has already been secured, and the success of the concern is due, in no small measure, to the active and untiring efforts of the manager.



ROBERT PATTERSON, who for many years extensively followed farming and stock-raising, is now living a retired life in Marion. His business career has been one of success, and his well-directed efforts, perseverance and enterprise have gained for him a handsome competency. He was born in Washington County, Pa., February 11, 1833, and is a son of Daniel and Margaret (Anderson) Patterson. The parents were natives of Ireland. Their marriage was celebrated on the Emerald Isle, and two of their sons, William and Samuel, were born ere they emigrated to the New World. The former is now a resident of Bath, Mason County, Ill.; the latter of Tacoma, Wash. The family numbered ten children, of whom Robert is ninth in order of birth. The father was a farmer by occupation and removed to Monroe County, Ohio, about 1834. He and his wife were Christian people and their home was always open for the reception of preachers of all denominations. The mother of our subject was reared by the strictest Seceders, and she joined that church at the age of eighteen, for they did not accept members younger. After coming to this country she joined the Presbyterian Church, and subsequently became a Methodist. She had listened to the teachings of John Wesley and all of her children united with the Methodist Episcopal Church. Her neighbors said that no one ever had aught to say against her. She has passed away, but her influence still lives and will be felt through her children and grandchildren. Mr.



Patterson died October 16, 1865, and his wife passed away September 15, 1883, at the advanced age of ninety-one years, nine months and fifteen days.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood days under the parental roof. His educational privileges were quite limited. He early manifested a love for horses, which in later years has been shown in a desire to improve the grade. He keeps some fine full-blooded Hambletonian horses, and is a true lover of the noble steed. He continued to reside upon the farm in Monroe County where his father first settled until 1864, and remained at home working for his father until his marriage, which occurred nine days before his twenty-first birthday. On the 2d of February, 1854, he wedded Hannah Wilson, who was born in Monroe County, Ohio, October 16, 1835, and is a daughter of Isaac and Rachel (Empson) Wilson, who were married in Delaware, their native State, and who belong to old English families, who held the religious faith of the Quakers. Soon after their marriage they went by team to Monroe County, where John Wilson, who now lives near Peabody, Kan., was born. He is the only brother of Mrs. Patterson.

Our subject continued on the home farm, and after a few years entered into an agreement to pay off his father's debts and take care of his parents through their lives, in return for which he was to receive the farm after they had passed away. In 1864, he sold the old homestead and came with his family and parents to Macon County, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 34, South Macon Township, at \$28 per acre. To that he has added from time to time until he now owns a valuable tract of three hundred and twenty acres in this county and one hundred and sixty acres in Phillips County, Kan. He is also engaged quite extensively in stock-raising, feeding and shipping large numbers of cattle and hogs.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Patterson were born seven children, but three died in infancy. Those living are Mrs. Margaret J. Rakestraw, of Decatur, who has three children; William L., who resides on the home farm with his wife and two children; Luella

May, wife of George Hight, of Macon, by whom she has two children; and Robert G., who was born December 21, 1875, and is still at home. In 1876, Mr. Patterson took his family on a three-months trip through this country, visiting many places of interest, including the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. They also spent some time at the seaside. Mr. Patterson is a man of broad and liberal ideas and believes it is better to help his children while they are trying to get a start, than later on, when they have succeeded in working their own way upward. This plan he has followed.

In 1882, our subject and his family removed to their present home in Macon, where they are now comfortably situated. In politics he was reared a Democrat and voted for James Buchanan and Stephen A. Douglas, but in 1872 he supported Gen. U. S. Grant, and has since been an advocate of Prohibition principles. Himself, wife and children are all members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The parents have been prominent and active in church work and Mr. Patterson has been Class-leader and Steward. He contributes liberally to its support and also gives freely to those enterprises calculated to prove of public benefit.



**J**OSEPH FAITH, a retired farmer residing in Warrensburg, has for more than twenty years made his home in this county and is well known to its citizens, so that undoubtedly this record of his life will prove of general interest. He was born in Baltimore, Md., April 25, 1823. His father, Paul Faith, was a native of Alsace, France, and in that country spent his entire life. Soon after his death his widow crossed the Atlantic and became a resident of Baltimore.

Our subject spent the days of his boyhood and youth in his native city and acquired an excellent education in its higher schools. He learned the machinist's trade, serving a six-years apprenticeship, and after his term had expired he worked in Savannah and Cumberland City, removing to the



latter place in 1840. For twenty-three years he followed his chosen occupation and, being an expert workman, thereby secured a good income. While in that city he was married, on the 12th of November, 1844, to Miss Catherine Hasine, a native of Maryland, and a daughter of Lewis Hasine. He continued to make his home in Cumberland City for a number of years, but in the spring of 1865 removed to Pennsylvania, where he remained for about five years, establishing a shop and carrying on business in Fulton County.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Faith were born eight sons and three daughters. William resides in Hancock, Washington County, Md.; Louis holds a responsible position in the same county; Ella is the wife of Stephen Witcher, of Decatur; John is farming on the old homestead; Charles is engaged in business in Warrensburg; Eli now resides in Chicago; Harry is in business in Warrensburg; George is an agriculturist of this county; Sadie is the wife of John D. Childs, of Faith & Childs, tile and brick manufacturers of Warrensburg; Mollie is the wife of Dr. Fisher, of Chicago; and Thomas is a physician now at the head of the Eye and Ear Infirmary in Chicago.

It was in 1871 that Mr. Faith came to Macon County and purchased land in Illini Township, a mile west of Warrensburg, although the town was not in existence at that time. He has seen the rapid development which the county has made in the last two decades, and in all possible ways has aided in its welfare and progress. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, of which thirty-five acres have been broken, built a residence and began the development of his farm. He made about two miles of open ditches, besides laying considerable tiling, and the improvements he placed upon his land made it one of the finest farms in the neighborhood. In 1887 he rented that property and removed to Warrensburg, where he lives retired. With the development of the city he has been prominently identified. He had built more residences than any other of its citizens, and in other ways he has aided in the public advancement.

Since casting his first Presidential vote for Polk in 1844, Mr. Faith has supported the Democratic

party at State and National elections, but at local elections he votes independently. Himself and wife are members of the Decatur Catholic Church. He has never been an office-seeker, preferring to devote his time and attention to his business interests, in which he has met with signal success. His prosperity is well deserved, and it now surrounds him with all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.



**E**LI ULERY, an old and respected citizen of Mt. Zion Township, was born in Washington County, Pa., November 20, 1817, and is the son of Stephen and Christiana (Conkle) Ulery, both natives of Pennsylvania, but of German descent. Both died in that State many years ago. The mother was a member of the German Baptist Church.

Eli Ulery was reared in his native State, and until twenty years of age remained upon the home farm. His education was obtained in the typical log schoolhouse, with its puncheon floor, greased-paper window lights, and mammoth fireplace. Here for a few months he strove to master the "three R's," and laid the foundation for the more practical education received from reading and contact with men. In 1841 he came to Illinois, and for the next ten years engaged in buying, feeding and driving cattle to the Eastern markets, without permanently locating at any point. But in the fall of 1850 he was united in marriage, near Springfield, Ill., with Miss Mary E. Dillon, daughter of Joshua Dillon, one of the pioneers of Sangamon County. This step necessitated the selection of a future home, so in the spring of 1851 he purchased six hundred acres of land in Mt. Zion Township, Macon County, to which he at once moved. Here a family of six children was born, three of whom are yet living: Eli S., residing on the old homestead; Donna, now the wife of Charles M. Fletcher, of Mt. Zion Township; and Gertie, now the wife of W. S. Smith, of Decatur.

On his removal to this county Mr. Ulery, in

addition to the management of his farm, continued in the stock business, and did not fully abandon it until 1882, when he divided a portion of his property among his children, and has since lived a retired life, spending the summers in Colorado, where he owned property until 1892. During the present summer (1893) he has spent much of his time in Chicago, being a frequent visitor to the great Columbian Exposition. With sufficient of this world's goods to satisfy his demands, he takes life easy, and is determined to make the most of his remaining years. Few men are better known in Macon and adjoining counties than Eli Ulery, and none are held in greater respect. Originally a Democrat, on account of his anti-slavery views he united with the Republican party on its organization, and has since affiliated with that party. Never aspiring for office, he has held only a few minor positions, but yet takes an active interest in what concerns his adopted county and State, as well as the nation at large. Mrs. Ulery died in 1864. She was a lady of excellent worth, and a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

When Mr. Ulery settled in Macon County, Decatur was but a mere village and settlements were only along the streams and in the timber. How great the change! A house upon every square mile, many thriving villages and one of the most enterprising cities in the State. In its growth and development, he has done well his part.



**A** J. CHAPMAN, one of the early settlers of Macon County, residing on section 32, Long Creek Township, was born in Jackson County, Ohio, August 11, 1826. His father, James Chapman, was a native of North Carolina, and with his mother and stepfather (his own father having died), he went to Ohio, where amid pioneer scenes he grew to manhood. In 1854, he came to Illinois, and died in Macon County at the age of seventy-five. He was married in Jackson County, Ohio, to Miss Rebecea Ratcliff, a native of

the Buckeye State, born of Scotch parentage. Her father, David Ratcliff, a pioneer of Ohio, was a farmer and a great hunter. Mrs. Chapman died at the home of our subject in 1867. Mr. Chapman was a quiet and unassuming man and had the respect of all who knew him. In politics he was a Democrat and voted for Jackson. The children of the family were: William, who was in the Missouri Home Guards and was killed during the war by deserters; Robert, who is now living in Scioto County, Ohio, and was one of the boys in blue from that State; Lurana, Mrs. Beaver, of Missouri; A. J., of this sketch; Mrs. Nancy Clark, also of Missouri; Joseph, who died in Illinois; Mrs. Catherine Smith, of Moultrie County; Mrs. Lethe Crowboy, of Missouri; Susan, deceased; and Sarah Jane Flora, also deceased.

Mr. Chapman of this sketch was reared in Ohio, upon a wild and unbroken farm, and received only such educational privileges as the subscription and primitive schools of that day afforded. He early learned to swing the axe and cradle and became inured to arduous labor. From the age of fifteen he has made his own way in the world. For seven years he worked as a farm hand for from \$4 to \$8 per month, after which he went to Ross County, Ohio, where he fed cattle for four years, and also drove stock to Philadelphia and New York. In 1851 he came to Illinois, making the journey on foot. The same year he married Miss Margaret Butz, who was born in New Jersey, and is of German descent. With her parents she went to Ohio, and six years later came to this State. She died seventeen years ago, and left three children: Lela, now the wife of John Wilson, of Mt. Zion; Edmund, a merchant of Lintner, Ill.; and Benson, who married Miss Mina Casner, and resides on a farm in Macon County.

For his second wife, Mr. Chapman chose Miss Eva Flora, who was born in Clermont County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Daniel Flora, a native of Virginia, who at the age of twenty years went to Ohio, spending four years in Cincinnati. There he engaged in carpentering and wagon-making and afterward followed farming. He came to Illinois in 1852, and died in Moultrie County in 1875. In Montgomery County, Ohio, he married Miss Susan



Stouder, who died in May, 1889, at the home of our subject. Mrs. Chapman was a little maiden of five summers when she came with her parents to Illinois. By this marriage she had five children: Gracie, James (who is deceased), Pearl, Johnnie and Jessie.

Mr. Chapman has resided upon his present farm since 1867. When he located thereon it was wild prairie, and hence all of its improvements stand as monuments to his enterprise. It is a rich, fertile tract of one hundred and sixty acres, highly cultivated, and the well-tilled fields yield to the owner a golden tribute. Mr. Chapman cast his first Presidential ballot for Harrison, and afterward for Polk, Pierce, Buchanan and Douglas, since which time he has been a stalwart Democrat. His wife is a member of the United Brethren Church. Our subject has ever borne his part in the work of public improvement and advancement, and his honorable, upright life during his forty-two years' residence in this county has made him well worthy of representation among its leading and prominent men.



**J**OHAN A. CONELY, a representative and enterprising agriculturist of Illini Township, residing on section 9, claims New York as the State of his nativity. He was born in the city of that name on the 2d of January, 1835, and is the son of S. M. and Rebecca (Southerd) Conely. His father was a native of New York, and his mother was born on Long Island. In 1837, when our subject was only two years old, they removed to Michigan with their family, becoming early settlers of that State. In Livingston County the father secured an unbroken tract of land, which he transformed into a good farm. There he reared his family and spent the last years of his life, being called to the home beyond in 1885. He was a prominent and influential citizen of that community and served in various official positions of honor and trust.

Upon the old homestead in Michigan John A.

Conely spent the days of his boyhood and youth in the usual manner of farmer lads, working in the fields during the summer months and in the winter season attending the public school, thus acquiring a very fair education. In 1858, after arriving at years of maturity, he settled in Illinois, having already spent two years in the West. When he started out in life he had no capital, and was dependent entirely upon his own resources for a livelihood, but though he had no money he had energy and a strong determination to succeed. Locating first in Logan County, he there rented land, and he later engaged in farming in Sangamon County for a number of years. It was in 1865 that he came to Macon County, where he first bought an eighty-acre tract of raw prairie land, a part of his present farm. Few improvements had been made, but the untiring efforts of Mr. Conely soon wrought a transformation that changed barren tracts into rich and fertile fields. As his financial resources were increased, he also extended the boundaries of his farm, until it now comprises two hundred and twenty-five acres. This is one of the most beautiful, valuable and desirable places of the neighborhood. The buildings include a substantial residence, large barns and good out-buildings; a good orchard yields its fruit in season, and the place is ornamented with beautiful evergreen and forest trees, and the whole is enclosed with a neatly trimmed and well-kept hedge fence.

As a companion and helpmate on life's journey, Mr. Conely chose Miss Matilda Foreman, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Joseph Foreman, one of the early settlers of Sangamon County. Their union was celebrated in that county February 3, 1862, and was blessed with four children, but Mary, who was born June 16, 1863, died at the age of twenty years. Charles F. is a successful farmer of Illini Township; Addie is the wife of Elmer Barton, a merchant of Warrensburg; and Frank is farming a part of the old homestead. The Conely family is numbered among the leading families of the community and its members rank high in social circles.

His fellow-citizens, appreciating his worth and ability, have frequently called upon our subject to



serve in positions of public trust. He has filled the offices of Township Trustee, Assessor and Collector, and his duties have ever been discharged with promptness and fidelity. He votes with the Prohibitionists and is an active member of his party. Himself and wife are faithful workers and active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Warrensburg, and Mr. Conely served as Superintendent of the Sunday-school for thirteen and a-half years. It is to the enterprise and industry of such men as our subject that the county owes her prosperity of to-day, and for the part he has borne in her upbuilding he well deserves representation in her history.



COMMODORE P. RAINEY, one of the extensive land-owners of Whitmore Township, now residing on section 8, has the honor of being a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred near Darmstadt in St. Clair County, March 25, 1838. His father, Isaac Rainey, was born in South Carolina, October 6, 1792, and was of Irish descent. He was twice married, and by his first union had six children, but only John and Jefferson are now living. Ryland, George W. and two who died in infancy, were the other members of the family. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Rainey wedded Martha Lively, and their children were Emeline, now deceased; William T.; James H., deceased; Commodore; Josephine, who has also been called to the home beyond; Angeline, Amanda and Caroline. Isaac Rainey spent his boyhood days in the Carolinas and Tennessee, and in 1817 emigrated by team to Illinois, ere this State was admitted to the Union. He located in Randolph County, near where the town of Sparta now stands. He first made a squatter's claim, upon which he built a log cabin and made some improvements. His claim was then jumped, and he removed to another tract of Government land, where he opened up a good farm. He lived in Randolph County until 1831, and then became a

resident of St. Clair County, where he again secured land from the Government. He afterward laid out the town of Darmstadt, upon a piece of his land. The Indians were still in the neighborhood at the time of his coming to this State, and the entire country around was a wild and almost unimproved tract. He remained in St. Clair County until his death, which occurred February 17, 1871. His remains were interred in the family burying-ground on the old homestead. He exercised his right of franchise in support of the Democratic party, and took quite an interest in politics. In the year 1812, during the Indian War, he went out with Jackson and was in the service one year, but his widowed mother needed his help at home, and he returned to her. Mrs. Rainey, mother of our subject, died in 1865, and was also laid to rest in the old cemetery.

The subject of this sketch was born and reared upon his father's farm, and acquired his education in the old subscription schools held in a log building, to which he had to walk a distance of two and a-half miles. He afterward attended McKendree College. When he was fifteen years of age, his father gave him and his two brothers an equal share of all his land, comprising about six hundred acres. Mr. Rainey at once turned his attention to its development, and resided upon the old homestead until 1865.

On the 11th of February, 1864, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Catherine Irwin, and by their union have been born six children, namely: Ryland, a farmer of Whitmore Township; William, who is living on the old home farm with his father; Mary, wife of Frank Bullock, an agriculturist of De Witt County; Dora and John, both deceased; and Lula, who is still under the parental roof.

In 1865, Mr. Rainey sold his interest in the old homestead and removed to De Witt County, where he purchased a farm and made his home for a year and a-half. It was in March, 1867, that he came to Macon County and located on the farm where he now resides. He first purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, but his possessions now aggregate six hundred and ten acres, all of which lie in Macon County, with the exception of a

quarter-section in De Witt County. Its well-tilled fields and many excellent improvements upon it, its good buildings, machinery and stock, all indicate the careful supervision of a practical, yet progressive, farmer and stock-raiser.

Mr. Rainey has led a busy and useful life, yet has found time to faithfully discharge his duties of citizenship and to aid in the promotion of those enterprises which are calculated to prove of public benefit. In politics, he is a Democrat, and socially is connected with the Knights of Pythias lodge of Oreana. He and his wife hold membership with the Baptist Church, and are people of sterling worth, who rank high in social circles, and have the respect of all who know them.



**F**REDERICK SCHWAB, one of the self-made men and a leading and influential farmer of Friends' Creek Township, residing on section 30, claims Bavaria as the land of his birth, which occurred on the 30th of March, 1839. He is one of ten children born unto Christian and Annie Schwab, and in order of birth they are as follows: Jacob, Christian, Henry, Theodore, Elizabeth, Catherine, Margaret, Frederick, and two who died in infancy.

Upon his father's farm the subject of this sketch was reared to manhood, and in the common schools he acquired a good business education. He remained with his parents until 1855, when he bade good-bye to home and friends and boarded a Westward-bound sailing-vessel, which after a voyage of forty days dropped anchor in the harbor of New York. From the metropolis of this country Mr. Schwab made his way to Boston, where he remained for a year, working in a rope factory. He then came to Decatur and has since made his home in Macou County, hence is numbered among the early settlers. Securing employment in a furniture factory, he was thus employed until 1862.

Feeling that his adopted country needed his services to aid in her defense, Mr. Schwab enlisted in that year and became Orderly-Sergeant of Company I, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry. He was mustered in at Decatur for a period of three years, and immediately after went to the front. He participated in the battles of Champion Hills, Arkansas Post, the siege of Vicksburg and Jackson, and then went to Camp Sherman. He served in Gen. Sherman's corps at the battles of Chickamauga, Resaca, and the siege of Atlanta, and then went on the celebrated march to the sea. He was once struck by a spent shell, but escaped all other injury. After marching in the Grand Review at Washington, he was mustered out of the service as First Lieutenant, and received his discharge on the 7th of June, 1865.

Mr. Schwab at once returned to Decatur and began working for the Decatur Furniture Company, serving as manager in the retail department. He was also married the year of his return to Miss Almira Culver. By their union were born four children, but Lester W. is the only one now living, Annie, Frederick and Cora having passed away. The mother died in 1874, and in 1876 Mr. Schwab was united in marriage with Christiana Gros. They have become the parents of eight children: Frederick, Emma, Theodore, Ida, Christiana, Annie, Clara S. and William. The family circle yet remains unbroken and all are under the parental roof.

Mr. Schwab has always been a stalwart supporter of the Republican party and a warm advocate of its principles. He has served as School Director and Pathmaster, and is recognized as a leading citizen in the community. He came to America a poor man, but by his enterprise and industry he has won prosperity. He remained as the efficient and trusted manager of the Decatur Furniture Company until 1877, when he removed to his farm, having previously purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land. To this he has added until twice that amount now pays him a golden tribute. The farm is one of the best in the community, and many of the improvements upon the place stand as monuments to the progressive spirit of the owner. In the late war he proved his loyalty.



alty to the land of his adoption and rendered her timely aid in her hour of peril. One of the honored boys in blue, he well deserves representation in this volume.



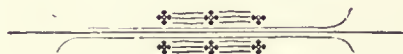
**C**A. McLEAN, M. D., a physician of Decatur, has for thirty years made his home in this county; and well deserves representation in its history. He was born in Fleming County, Ky., May 24, 1832, and is a son of James and Charlotte M. A. (Argo) McLean, the former of Scotch-Irish descent, and the latter of Scotch lineage. The paternal grandfather, John McLean, came to America from the North of Ireland, and located in Germantown, Brighton County, Ky., where he followed farming. He was a strict Presbyterian, and lived to the age of eighty-five years. The maternal grandfather, Purnell Argo, was of Scotch birth, and after crossing the broad Atlantic settled in Fleming County, Ky., where our subject's father, James McLean, followed the blacksmith's trade for a number of years. His wife died when our subject was only about six years old, and he afterward wedded Mrs. Rebecca (Moren) Scott. His death occurred about 1842. By his first union he had three children, but James William and Naney are now deceased, the Doctor being the only survivor. By the second union were born two children, Mrs. Eliza Ann Hilligos, and one who died in early childhood.

In the county of his nativity our subject spent the days of his boyhood and youth and there acquired his early education in the common schools, which he could attend only through the winter months, as his services were needed at home in the summer. He was reared to farm life, but spent about fifteen months learning the boot and shoe trade. When a young man he began studying medicine and practiced it for forty years. He attended the Eclectic Medical College, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and was graduated from that institu-

tion in 1871, but is mostly self educated, having acquired the greater part of his knowledge by his arduous study at night. He made himself familiar with the higher mathematics, Latin and German, and is a highly educated, well-informed and cultured man.

On the 17th of June, 1855, Dr. McLean was joined in marriage with Miss Lucy A. Taylor, daughter of Charles A. and Judith (Newcombe) Taylor. Six children were born unto them, four sons and two daughters, but only William and Mabel are now living. Those deceased are Sabina A., Jo Henry, Charles B. and John J. William married Miss Margaret P. Crocker, and is engaged in the practice of medicine in Maroa, where he lives with his wife and four children, John C., Franklin C., Edwin P. and Anna Louise.

On leaving college, Dr. McLean went to Maroa and began practice. He made his home in that place for twenty years altogether, after which he came to Decatur, where the past nine years of his life have been spent. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, and in politics is connected with the Democracy. Himself and wife are members of the Christian Church and are highly respected people, whose many excellencies of character endear them to all with whom they have been brought in contact. They have a pleasant home at No. 405 Central Avenue.



**J**OHN PROCTOR ECKELS, a member of the well-known firm of Lytle & Eckels Hardware Company, has been connected with his present branch of business in Decatur since 1872. The firm with which he is connected has a good store, well supplied with a general line of hardware. The proprietors are men of good business ability, and by their courteous treatment of their patrons and their fair and honorable dealings they have built up a good trade.



Our subject was born in Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, Pa., August 6, 1848, and is one of a family of six children whose parents were William and Sarah Ann (Proctor) Eckels. The father was a farmer and cooper by occupation, and always lived in Mechanicsburg or its vicinity. He is now living a retired life. Himself and wife are members of the Presbyterian Church and are people of sterling worth. Of their children, William Officer, Mary Jane and an infant are now deceased. John, George and Walter are still living. The paternal grandfather, Samuel Eckels, was a native of Cumberland County, Pa., born of Scotch-Irish parents, and was a farmer and cooper. He died at the age of eighty-one years. John Proctor, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was a native of Chester County, Pa., and was of English descent. He became a silversmith of Carlisle, Pa., at a time when he had to haul his goods to Pittsburg over the mountains in a wagon. He was a Presbyterian in religious belief and one of his sons became a minister of that church. His death occurred in Carlisle, Pa., at the age of sixty-five.

In the town of his nativity our subject spent his youth, and after attending the common schools he pursued his studies in a commercial college of Pittsburg. Subsequently he began clerking in a hardware store in Lewisburg, Pa., for his uncle, George W. Proctor, with whom he remained for five years. It was there he received his business training. The year 1872 witnessed his arrival in Decatur, where he has since made his home. He entered the employ of Morehouse, Wells & Co., and remained in their service for fifteen years, after which he spent a few months with the A. F. Shapleigh & Cantwell Hardware Company, of St. Louis. Mr. Eckels then formed a partnership with Capt. R. P. Lytle and opened a hardware store under the firm name of Lytle & Eckels. The style remained the same for two and a-half years, after which J. A. Roney was admitted to partnership, and the firm became Lytle, Eckels & Roney. They carried on operations under that title for eighteen months, when, on the 1st of April, 1891, the present company was incorporated under the name of The Lytle & Eckels Hardware Company, of which our

subject is President and manager. Their capital is \$20,000, and they do an annual business of \$50,000.

On the 2d of June, 1875, Mr. Eckels was united in marriage with Miss Annie C. Hurst, daughter of Edwin W. and Sarah (Miller) Hurst, who were natives of York County, Pa., and were of German descent. Six children were born of that union: Edwin Hurst, Robert, Paul, Ralph, Bessie Romaine and George Morris. The mother of this family was called to her final rest December 6, 1891. She was a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Eckels belongs to the same church and is also a member of the Young Men's Christian Association. In politics he is a Republican, but has never sought or desired official preferment.



**W**ILLIAM T. CATHERWOOD, who is one of Macon's most prominent business men, was formerly extensively engaged in farming and stock-breeding, but is now connected with the interests of the city. He was born in Delaware, March 17, 1829, and is a son of James and Lydia (Tussey) Catherwood. The father, who was a native of Ireland, learned the spinning trade, and left that country at the age of sixteen years. Crossing the Atlantic, he located in Delaware, where he followed his chosen occupation for a time. He there married Miss Tussey, who was born in Delaware, and was of English descent. There they resided for about twelve years, and James Catherwood became a railroad contractor, building a portion of the road from Wilmington to Philadelphia. He also engaged in mercantile pursuits. About 1837 he removed with his family to Belmont County, Ohio, where he purchased land and engaged in farming.

Our subject was one of ten children, five of whom were born in Delaware. He was a lad of eight summers at the time of the removal to Ohio, and upon the home farm he remained until twenty years of age. The common schools afforded him

his educational privileges. When a young man of twenty-two he began teaming from Wheeling, Va., to Cumberland and Baltimore, driving six horses. For thirteen years he followed the teaming business.

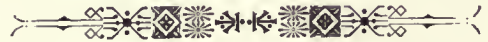
In the mean time Mr. Catherwood was married in Belmont County, Ohio, to Miss Sarah Alexander. Unto them were born three children, but one died in infancy. James B. now follows farming near Assumption, Ill. Anna is still with her father. The mother died February 28, 1859, in Barnesville, Ohio.

From that place Mr. Catherwood went to Duck Creek, where he engaged in hauling oil for two years, when, in the fall of 1861, he enlisted in Company B, Ninth Ohio Cavalry, under Gen. Burnside, and was at the siege of Knoxville. He took part in the raid under Gen. Rosseau, during which he had a horse shot from under him, participated in the siege of Atlanta, and went with Sherman on the famous march to the sea. He was then taken sick and sent back to the hospital, where he remained some three months. During his convalescence he was sent to his regiment at Gainesboro. This was after the surrender of Lee and just before Johnston's surrender. On account of his physical condition, he soon afterward received an honorable discharge and at once returned to Ohio.

Mr. Catherwood was again married, August 16, 1865, to Miss Nancy McConnell, of Guernsey County, Ohio. With a team and wagon, in which he loaded a few household effects, he started with his family for Illinois, locating in Christian County, where he rented a farm for one year, and then purchased one hundred and five acres of land, which he operated for five years. On selling that farm he came to Macon County, and in 1871 bought ninety acres. There he made his home for twenty years and it is still his property, but in the spring of 1892 he came to Macon, where he is now living a retired life. He has always been a lover of fine horses and in 1887 became a partner in a breeding association. He was instrumental in the organization of the canning factory, and started round with a subscription list. Within two hours' time he had \$5,000 worth of stock subscribed and

the canning factory is now in successful operation. There has been erected a main building 100x36 feet, an engine and process room 30x50 feet, and a brick warehouse 30x60 feet. It has a capacity of fifteen to twenty thousand cans per day. The capital stock is \$20,000, and it is one of the leading industries of the city.

Since the birth of the Republican party in 1856, Mr. Catherwood has been one of its supporters and staunch advocates, but has never been an office-seeker. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and among his old comrades of the blue is warmly esteemed. He is a public-spirited and progressive man, and every enterprise calculated to prove of benefit to the community receives his hearty support. He was a faithful soldier and is a valued citizen, whose pleasant manner and sterling worth have gained him universal confidence and respect.



ANDREW J. THRIFT, was formerly numbered among the leading agriculturists of Macon County, and we gladly pay tribute to his memory by giving the record of his life in the history of his adopted county. He was born near Hopkinsville, in Christian County, Ky., October 19, 1815, and was a son of Samuel M. and Sarah F. (Cowan) Thrift, the former of German and English, and the latter of Scotch-Irish lineage. In his youth he attended the district schools, but was mostly self educated. He remained in Kentucky until 1831, when, at the age of sixteen years, he came with his parents to Illinois, the family locating in St. Clair County. To his father he gave the benefit of his services until twenty years of age, when he purchased Government land in St. Clair County and began farming in his own interests. He improved four different farms in that county, and there made his home until 1864. In St. Clair County, at the age of twenty, he married Miss Minerva Jane Hawkins, who died in 1850, having become the mother of seven children:



Sarah Elizabeth, deceased; William Austin, of Oregon; Isabella Lurane, deceased; Emily Ellen, who died at nineteen years of age; Samuel M., of Decatur; James K. Polk, of Maroa Township; and Minerva Jane, who married Gus Bower, and died in 1892.

On the 4th of September, 1851, our subject was again married, this union being with Miss Anna C. Peter. By their marriage was born a family of nine children, but only four are now living. Of the five deceased, Harry P., Bertha Christine, Blanche Ella, one unnamed, and Douglas Albert, all died in infancy with the exception of the latter, whose death occurred on the 31st of August, 1888. Of the living, Alonzo M. carries on the home farm; Charles A. is a farmer of Hickory Point Township; Mary L. is the wife of Goddin Welden, a resident of Centralia; and Grace T. is the wife of Sam D. McKenny, who is employed as a salesman in the store of Bradley Bros., of Decatur.

On leaving St. Clair County in 1864, Mr. Thrift came to Macon County and located upon the farm where his widow now resides. He first purchased three hundred and twenty acres of partially improved land on section 36, Maroa Township, but as his financial resources were increased he made additional purchases, and at the time of his death owned four hundred and seventy-six acres of valuable land. He carried on general farming, stock-raising, and a feeding and shipping business, and did an extensive and successful business, so that in the legitimate channels of trade he acquired a handsome and well-merited competency. He began life for himself a poor boy without capital, but with persistent energy he overcame all obstacles and worked his way upward to a position of affluence. In politics, he manifested considerable interest, always kept well informed on the issues of the day, and voted with the Democracy, of whose principles he was a staunch advocate. He served both as School Treasurer and School Director.

The death of Mr. Thrift occurred on the 12th of April, 1888, and his remains were interred in Maroa Cemetery. He had always borne his part as a public-spirited citizen, was a consistent member of the Baptist Church, a true and faithful

friend and a loving husband and father. His death was widely mourned, not only by his immediate family, but also by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.



**H**ENRY B. SMITH, who is engaged in general merchandising in Maroa, is a native of the Buckeye State. He was born in Coshocton County, Ohio, January 22, 1840 and is one of five surviving children of a family of ten sons and daughters who graced the union of James M. and Nancy (Henderson) Smith. The parents were both natives of Ohio, and still live in that State. The father was a tanner by trade, but has followed farming during the greater part of his life. He has been honored with a number of public offices, and for several years served as County Commissioner. Himself and wife are members of the Baptist Church, and have the respect of the entire community in which they make their home. Their living children are James M., Henry B., Joseph F., Thomas J. and Milton. Those deceased are William B., George W., Isaac N., Lyman and Shannon.

Mr. Smith whose name heads this record was reared to manhood in the usual manner of farmer lads upon the old homestead in Ohio, and remained with his parents until twenty-four years of age. His early education, acquired in the district schools, was supplemented by study in the High School, and when he had arrived at mature years he began teaching. It was in 1864 that he left his native State and came to Maroa, where for two years he was employed as a teacher in the schools of this place. He then embarked in the grocery business with T. S. Collins, under the firm name of Collins & Smith, which connection continued for about three years, when the firm became Smith Bros., Mr. Collins selling his interest to Isaac N. Smith. Business was carried on for three years under that style, when a third, interest was sold to Thomas N. Leavitt, and the



name changed to 'Smith Bros. & Leavitt. This firm continued business for four years, when, Isaac N. Smith having died, our subject purchased Mr. Leavitt's interest and has since been alone in business. He has a large store and handles groceries, crockery, boots and shoes, and gents' furnishing goods. A liberal patronage is accorded him as the result of his fair and honest dealing and his earnest desire to please his patrons.

Mr. Smith was married June 4, 1868, to Miss Parthena C. Gray, daughter of Robert and Catherine (Funk) Gray. Her father was a native of Mississippi, and her mother of Virginia, but became residents of Macon County. Five children were born of their union: Arra M., Anna Lura, Leila, Ruth, and one who died in infancy. The mother is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Smith holds membership with Maroa Lodge No. 454, A. F. & A. M.; Maroa Chapter No. 52, R.A.M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T., of Decatur. In politics he affiliates with the Democratic party, and for three and a-half years he served as Postmaster of Maroa, being appointed by President Cleveland. He has a good home and other city property and has prospered financially, his good management and well-directed efforts having won him a competence that numbers him among the substantial citizens of the community.



**M**RS. SARAH A. DAVIDSON, of Mt. Zion, has the honor of being a native of Macon County, and is numbered among the pioneer settlers, for her birth occurred in Mt. Zion Township on the 4th of January, 1833. Her father, Robert Wilson, was born on the 4th of October, 1779, in Mecklenburg County, N. C., and when eighteen years of age removed with his parents to Tennessee, where he remained until 1829. That year witnessed his emigration Westward and his arrival in Macon County, five miles east of Mt. Zion, in Mt. Zion

Township, where he resided until his death, which occurred on the 4th of March, 1873. His remains were interred in Mt. Zion Cemetery. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Jane Donnell, was a native of Tennessee. By their union were born seven children: Thomas F., Mary B., Nancy A., Sarah G., William A., Martha J. and Cynthia E. All are now deceased and lie buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery. The mother of this family died in 1829, and was laid to rest in her native State. For his second wife Mr. Wilson chose in Tennessee Mrs. Sally Hodge, who was born in Orange County, N. C., in 1792. They became the parents of three children: Robert D., who resides in Decatur; Mrs. Davidson, of this sketch; and James A., who is also living in Decatur.

Sarah A. Wilson spent the days of her girlhood under the parental roof, and was reared to habits of thrift and industry. July 27, 1853, she became the wife of John H. Davidson, a native of Illinois, born in Wayne County October 28, 1828. With his parents he came to Macon County when two years of age. His father was born in South Carolina in 1796, and died in 1844. John Davidson was a farmer by occupation, and followed that business throughout his entire life. He was a man of industrious habits and careful management, and, as the result of his well-directed efforts and business sagacity, he acquired a comfortable competency, becoming the owner of two hundred and forty acres of rich land on section 6, Mt. Zion Township, a part of it being Mr. Wilson's old home. Mrs. Davidson has besides her home in Mt. Zion a desirable house in Decatur. Mr. Davidson was straightforward and honorable in his dealings and won the confidence of all who knew him.

Politically, Mr. Davidson was connected with the Democratic party, and in religious belief was a Cumberland Presbyterian. His wife was also a member of the same church. He was a man of high moral character, and had the well-earned respect and esteem of the entire community. His death occurred on the 14th of May, 1892, and he was laid to rest in Mt. Zion Cemetery amid the deep regret of many warm friends. July 27, 1883, thirty years after his marriage, Mr. Davidson was stung on the head by a humble bee while

haying, and lay for eighteen months helpless, and for nine years, or until his death, he was unable to do a day's work. No other similar case has been shown in medical annals, and it was studied thoroughly by many physicians.

Mr. Davidson resides in the village of Mt. Zion, where she has a pleasant and comfortable home. Her many excellencies of character have won for her the respect of her friends and neighbors, and, a pioneer of this, her native county, she well deserves representation in its history. She has had no children of her own, but reared a boy from four years of age, Stanley Tucker, now an enterprising young farmer of Mt. Zion Township.



**F**REDERICK NIENTKER, who resides in Boody, was born July 24, 1825, in the Province of Westphalia, Prussia, and is the only son of Henry and Hannah (Dellbrugge) Nientker. The father, who was a soldier under Napoleon, died while in the army, when our subject was only thirteen months old. He had been drafted when only sixteen years of age, served in the War of 1812, and took part in the battle of Waterloo. When Frederick was four years old his mother was again married, and by that union had three daughters, all of whom came to America, were married and had families. Two are still living: Mrs. Henrietta Berkley, of Blue Mound Township; and Mrs. Charlotte Ward, of Missouri.

When our subject was a lad of fourteen, his step-father, John Vahrenhorst, came to America, and, landing at New Orleans, began to earn money to bring the family over. Four years later the mother and children crossed the briny deep, and after five months spent in the Crescent City the family came up the Mississippi to St. Louis, and then by ox-team to Macon County, locating in Mt. Zion Township. After a year they removed to Blue Mound Township, where Mr. Vahrenhorst worked at the carpenter's trade, while Mr. Nientker hired out by the month as a farm hand.

At the age of twenty-three our subject married Rebecca Eckel, of Blue Mound Township, a native of Pennsylvania. Unto them were born eight children, but two died in infancy, and Mrs. Amanda Fiseher died in Sumner County, Kan. Of the five living, John resides in East St. Louis, Mrs. Elizabeth Wiegand in Decatur, Mrs. Henrietta Hageman in Nebraska, Mrs. Minnie Kyser in Niantie, and Mary also in Niantie. About two years after his marriage, Mr. Nientker entered one hundred and sixty acres of land from the Government on section 11, Blue Mound Township, where he still makes his home. He greatly improved the place, making it a rich and valuable tract, and carried on agricultural pursuits until the station of Boody was established, when he began dealing in general merchandising. Mr. Nientker has met with adversity as well as prosperity. He at one time owned two hundred and thirty acres of land, but going security for others and through some unfortunate deals, he lost much during the panic of 1873. However, he is a man of indomitable will, courage and enterprise, and with characteristic energy set to work to retrieve his lost possessions.

In 1849, our subject was converted and became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Later, when the German people began to settle in this community, he organized the German Methodist Church, in order that his fellow-countrymen might enjoy the benefits of the Gospel. He began to talk to the people, became an exhorter, and in 1868 was licensed as a Deacon, with the power to baptize and perform the marriage ceremony. He has labored with unremitting zeal in the cause of Christianity, and the crown of the righteous will surely be his.

In 1865, Mr. Nientker was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, and later he married Miss Adeline Schultz, of Bloomington, Ill., who was born in Prussia May 8, 1842. They became the parents of nine children, five of whom are still living. One of the number is married and resides in Blue Mound Township. Mr. Nientker has reared a family of useful citizens, who like himself are held in high regard for their excellencies of character. In politics, in an early day he was a Democrat, but in 1856 he left that party and voted for John C. Fre-



mont, continuing to affiliate with the Republican party until 1890, since which time he has voted with the Prohibitionists. For three years he filled the office of Justice of the Peace and then resigned. Four terms he served as Collector, and in 1880 was appointed Census Taker. The prompt and able manner in which he discharged his duties has won him the high commendation of all concerned. Formerly he was a member of the Masonic fraternity, but as the lodge was some distance from his home and he could not attend regularly, he is not now an active worker in its ranks.



**J**AMES L. HIGHT, a member of the banking firm of Hight & Son, of Macon, has been engaged in the banking business at this place since 1878. He is recognized as a prominent and influential citizen, and the history of his life deserves a place in the records of his adopted county. He was born in Rockbridge County, Va., December 17, 1826, and is a son of Samuel and Margaret (Rapp) Hight. His father, who was a farmer, died when our subject was about eight years of age, and when he was a lad of nine, in company with his brothers, sister and mother, he removed to Tennessee, where they lived as farming people for two years. A few years were then spent in Greene County, Ill., upon rented land. There the mother died, and the children as a family came to Macon County.

James L. Hight received very limited educational privileges. He attended school to some extent in Greene County, but he had to work hard for a living, and in consequence could not spend much time in the schoolroom. On coming to South Macon Township, he and his eldest brother, in company with Mr. Armstrong, purchased some four hundred acres of land and began farming, but he laid aside all business cares during the late war to enter the service of his country. On the 13th of August, 1862, he enlisted as a member of Company E, and his regiment, the One Hundred

and Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, with which command he remained until March, 1863, doing duty in Kentucky and Tennessee, after which he was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps. The war having ended, he was honorably discharged in Albany, N. Y., June 28, 1865.

Mr. Hight at once returned to his farm in South Macon Township, but after a year sold his interest and took a trip to Virginia. In 1868 he opened a general merchandise establishment in Macon, and has since been prominently connected with the business affairs of this city. Ten years afterward, in connection with his brother B. F., he established the first bank of Macon, under the firm name of Hight Bros., our subject being at the head of the firm. They afterward opened a bank in Assumption, Ill., under the firm name of Hight Bros. & Moore, but after a year our subject withdrew from that firm, his brother and Mr. Moore continuing the business in Assumption, while he became sole proprietor of the Macon Bank. This is one of the solid financial institutions of the county. Business has prospered under the able management of the owner and it is now in a flourishing condition.

On the 4th of June, 1868, Mr. Hight married Miss Charlotte Dodson, of Carlton, Ill., who was born October 5, 1843, in Greene County, Ill., and is a daughter of Christopher and Mary (Moffett) Dodson. Their union was blessed with five children, but three died in early childhood. The surviving son, Edward L., who was born in Macon June 4, 1869, in addition to attending a good common school, was a student in the literary department of Cattoek College, of Quincy, Ill., and took a complete course in the Gem City Commercial College of Quincy, after which he entered his father's bank, continuing as an employe until January, 1890, when he became a partner. He married Leila Beshel, of Macon. Clara, the only daughter of the family, is now a student in De Pauw University, of Greencastle, Ind.

Although reared a Democrat, Mr. Hight whose name heads this record cast his second Presidential vote for Lincoln and was a Republican for many years, but recently has become identified with the Prohibition party. He has served as Su-



pervisor of his township, was Mayor, and was a member of the City Council, has served on the School Board and is Treasurer of the township. The community, which recognizes in Mr. Hight one of its best citizens, felt that the interests of Macon would be well served if he occupied positions of public trust, and his faithful performance of duty bore out the good opinion of his constituents. His life has been honorable and upright. He never stoops to mean or petty actions, and by all he is held in the highest regard. Since the age of twenty years he has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, has been one of its most active workers and consistent members, and has served as Superintendent of the Sunday-school. His wife belongs to the same church, delights in doing good to those around her, and the poor and needy have found in her a kind friend.



**D**AVID M. ADAMS was for a number of years successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising, and did an extensive business, but is now practically living a retired life in Decatur, although to some extent he still superintends his farm. The rest which he is enjoying is well earned, for his career has been a busy and useful one. Mr. Adams was born on the 8th of November, 1822, in Centre County, Pa., near Bellefonte. The Adams family is of English origin. The parents of our subject, John and Nancy (Miller) Adams, were also natives of the Keystone State, and the father was an iron manufacturer. His wife passed away in 1843. Both were members of the Presbyterian Church. Their family numbered the following children: Mary, who died in December, 1892; Elizabeth, Julia A. and Alexander, all deceased; David, of this sketch; Priscilla, widow of Aaron Risley, living in Mechanicsville, Iowa; John, manager of the iron works in Huntingdon County, Pa.; and Nancy, widow of Joseph Pierson, residing in Seattle, Wash.

The subject of this sketch attended the subscription schools in his youth and was also a student in Bowlsburgh Seminary for one term. He remained upon the home farm until he was fifteen years of age, when, his father having opened a store, he began clerking and was thus employed during the four succeeding years of his life. In connection with Gen. James Ervin, his father had also established an iron foundry in Pennsylvania, and David became under manager of his father's business. He remained in the Keystone State until 1849, when he went to Greensburgh, Ky., and was manager of the Greenup Furnace Foundry for a year. On the expiration of that period he returned to his native State, and took a contract connected with the "pack-saddle" section of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, with which he was connected for six months. He then again returned to his home, where he remained for a year. In 1852 he went to Clinton County, where he engaged in farming and in feeding and shipping stock for ten years.

Mr. Adams was married in February, 1860, the lady of his choice being Miss Mary E. Hankins. Her father, Enoch Hankins, was born September 16, 1817, in Clinton County, Ohio, near Wilmington. Her mother, whose name was Susannah McFadden, was born in Augusta County, Va., near Staunton. She married Mr. Hankins November 14, 1839. The fruits of this union were nine children. Two are deceased, Frank L. and Walter. Those living are Mary E.; Martha J., who lives in Carthage, Mo.; Orlandus, a farmer of Friends' Creek Township; Florence E., Hortense and Charles S., all living in Decatur; and Rose, still at home. Unto our subject and his wife were born seven children: Ada, wife of Thomas D. Miller, a farmer and stock-raiser of Friends' Creek Township; William E., who resides on his father's farm; Lizzie, deceased; Helen L. and Carlotta M., at home; and Oscar Frederick and George, deceased.

In 1862, Mr. Adams came to Macon County, and located in Friends' Creek Township, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of partially improved land. He never removed to that farm, however. In 1874 he purchased the farm which he still owns, comprising four hundred and sixty

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



LINDSAY JONES



MARGARET JONES



acres, where he was extensively engaged in farming and stock-raising until 1888. He then left the farm and removed to Argenta, but the following year came to Decatur, where he has since made his home.

In early life Mr. Adams was a Whig, but on the organization of the Republican party joined its ranks and attended the first State convention of that party in Ohio. He has several times been called upon to serve in official positions, and has been Township Supervisor, Collector, Assessor and Commissioner of Highways; he was School Treasurer for twenty years, discharging his duties with a promptness and fidelity which won him the commendation of all concerned. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and for about twenty years has been connected with the Masonic fraternity. All public enterprises calculated to promote the general welfare receive his hearty support and co-operation. The community recognizes in him a valued citizen, and he has the respect and esteem of all.



**L**INDSAY JONES, deceased, was a native of North Carolina. He was born on the 21st of January, 1832, in Guilford County, and was a son of Isaac and Margaret (Holland) Jones, natives of the same State. Their family numbered seven children, namely: Phoebe, now deceased; Jasper, Luzenia, Liza, Lindsay, and Nathan and Alpha, both deceased.

Midst play and work the boyhood days of our subject were passed upon his father's farm. He was early inured to the labors of the field, and to farm work devoted much of his time through the summer, while in the winter season he attended school. He remained with his parents until nineteen years of age, and with them came to Illinois in 1840, when a lad of eight summers. The family located in Brown County, where, at the age of nineteen years, he began earning his own livelihood by working as a farm hand by the month. There he remained until 1869, when he removed

to Scott County, where he operated a sawmill. Mr. Jones made his home in Scott and Greene Counties until 1856, engaged in the business above mentioned, and then came to Macon County, locating upon the farm which he had previously purchased. It was located in Friends' Creek Township, and comprised one hundred and seventy-one acres, the greater part of which was in its primitive condition when he came into possession of it. Mr. Jones was an energetic and industrious man, and the labors he bestowed upon the place made of it a valuable and highly improved tract.

On the 4th of March, 1858, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Margaret, daughter of Hermetet and Susan Jontey. Her parents were of French descent, and she was one of a family of eight children, namely: Susan; Peter; Sophia, who is now deceased; Martha and Catherine, twins; Julian and Marion, both deceased; and James.

By the union of Mr. and Mrs. Jones were born six children, but the eldest, Francis M., died September 15, 1863; Mary is at home; Allen is married and follows farming in Friends' Creek Township; Alice, twin sister of Allen, died August 20, 1865; Effie died April 13, 1870; and Ida completes the family.

Mr. Jones was a member of the Masonic fraternity and the Odd Fellows' society and held membership with the Christian Church. He took quite an active interest in politics and voted with the Democratic party. He was honored with the offices of Township Commissioner and Township Treasurer, and the duties of the positions were discharged in a prompt and able manner. He took an active interest in everything that pertained to the welfare of the community, and always gave his aid to those enterprises calculated to prove of public benefit. All who knew him esteemed him highly for his sterling worth and strict integrity of character. He was a loving husband and father and faithful friend, and his loss was deeply mourned by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. He died from heart disease on the night of November 8, 1892, and was laid to rest in Maroa Cemetery. His family still resides upon the old home farm and the members hold a high position in the social circles in which they move.

**T**HOMAS C. GRADY is the editor of the *Times*, of Maroa, and one of the leading business men of this place, being also engaged in farming and in the real-estate business. He has the honor of being a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Texas Township, De Witt County, November 5, 1860. He comes from an old family of Pennsylvania, his grandfather, Hiram Grady, being a native of the Keystone State, where he carried on agricultural pursuits and pump-making. His death occurred there in 1866, at the age of seventy-two years.

John D. Grady, one of his nine children, became the father of our subject. He too was a native of Pennsylvania, as was also his wife, who bore the maiden name of Sarah J. Wray. She was a daughter of Robert Wray, a Pennsylvania farmer. They became the parents of six children, three sons and three daughters, namely: Thomas C., Vantz R., Minnie (wife of William Craemer), Clara A., and two who died in infancy. The father of this family has followed farming throughout his entire life. He came to Illinois from Huntingdon County, Pa., in 1856, and located in De Witt County, where he worked by the month for some time and afterward rented land. In 1858 he purchased eighty acres two and a-quarter miles northwest of Maroa, where he has since made his home. From time to time he has extended the boundaries of his farm until it now comprises two hundred and forty acres of rich land, which is well improved and highly cultivated. He is a member of the Odd Fellows' fraternity, and his wife is a member of the Baptist Church.

Thomas C. Grady was born and reared in De Witt County, residing upon the farm with his parents until he had attained to man's estate. His early education was acquired in the country schools, after which he took a two-years course in the Illinois Wesleyan University, of Bloomington. When his school life was completed he returned to the farm which he rented of his father. This he still operates, but Mr. Grady, Sr., yet makes his home upon the old place.

On the 15th of February, 1883, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Ella J., daughter of William T. and Lavina (Hull) Mitchell, of Web-

ster City, Iowa. Two children have been born unto them, a son and daughter, Fred M. and Ethel May. In 1886, Mr. Grady established the *Maroa Times*, running it for two years as a Democratic paper, since which time it has been independent. It is devoted to the interests of the community and is filled with local matter and news of general interest concerning this and foreign countries. During his seven-years experience as a publisher, Mr. Grady has lived upon the farm two and a-quarter miles from the town, and has walked to and from his office each day during that period with the exception of a year and a-half, when he was detained at home on account of trouble with his eyes. He owns a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Hamilton County, Iowa, together with a town lot in Maroa, his office building and its furniture. In connection with his other interests, he is also engaged in real-estate business, selling farm lands in a number of different places. Socially, he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, and in politics he exercises his right of franchise in support of the Democratic party. He was School Director for a number of years and served one term as Justice of the Peace.



**M**ILTON JOHNSON. The business interests of Decatur are largely represented in our subject, who for a number of years has been recognized as one of the prominent and public-spirited citizens of Macon County. He is President of the Citizens' National Bank and President of the Columbia Manufacturing Company. These are both leading enterprises of the city and are important, inasmuch as they materially increase the wealth and prosperity of the community. The business career of Mr. Johnson has been one of signal success, which is due not to any favorable circumstances or financial aid, but to earnest and untiring effort, supplemented by good executive ability.



Mr. Johnson comes from an old New England family, the progenitors of which came from England in 1632. His grandfather, Capt. Othniel Johnson, who was a native of Buckland, Mass., served in the War of 1812, and spent his entire life in the Bay State. He died at the age of seventy-three years, leaving a large family. One of his sons, Edwin Johnson, is the father of the subject of our sketch. Edwin Johnson was born in 1818, and was a stonemason and plasterer by trade. At the age of twenty-two, he went to Wisconsin and settled on a farm in the town of Greenfield, five miles from Milwaukee. He lived there forty years, and now makes his home in the family of his son Milton. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His wife, Pauline, was a daughter of Nathan Howes, a Massachusetts farmer. Of their children, the eldest is Milton; Franklin wedded Miss Mary Clark, a niece of Alvan Clark, the famous telescope-maker, and lives in Baraboo, Wis., where he is engaged in horticultural pursuits; Mary is the wife of I. E. Brown, of Oak Park, Ill., State Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association; Martha is the wife of O. H. P. Smith, a Methodist minister, now preaching in St. Charles, Minn.; Anna has been educated for foreign missionary work and is now awaiting her assignment to a field of labor. In 1865, the father was again married, this union being with Mrs. Christiana Remington. Their son, Edwin Johnson, Jr., is an architect in Chicago.

Milton Johnson was born in Greenfield, Wis., September 30, 1845, and remained on his father's farm until twenty years of age. After taking a course in the Bryant, Stratton & Spencer Business College of Milwaukee, he engaged in teaching in the public schools for several terms and then entered the college as a teacher. In 1866, he came to Decatur in the employ of the United States Express Company. After three years, he secured a position with Powers, Ferris & Co., boot and shoe dealers. From 1872 until 1892, he was in the banking house of J. Millikin & Co., as bookkeeper until 1880, when he became a member of the firm. In 1892, he sold his interest in that bank and became identified with the Citizens' National Bank. He served one year as Vice-President,

but at the last election was made its President, L. Towl succeeding him as Vice-President. John A. Dawson has been Cashier since the organization of the bank. The members of the Board of Directors are L. B. Casner, Levi Towl, F. M. Young, Milton Johnson, J. N. Baker, H. H. Wise and J. A. Dawson. Between December, 1891, and December, 1892, the business of the bank was doubled in all its branches, as can be seen by comparing the statements issued in the two years. In 1891 the capital stock was \$100,000; in 1892, 200,000. The deposits in the former year were \$164,594.65; in the latter, \$275,376.46. The total resources in 1891 were \$288,334.26; in 1892, \$551,298.82. The Citizens' National Bank is one of the leading and substantial financial institutions of Macon County. The men at its head are all men of high standing in business circles, who are conservative, yet progressive, and have made this enterprise worthy of a most liberal patronage.

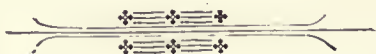
Among the other business interests with which Mr. Johnson is connected is the Columbia Manufacturing Company, of which he is President. They manufacture clothing and employ a large force. He is also Treasurer of the Scott Manufacturing Company, makers of collar pads and harness specialties.

On the 5th of January, 1870, Mr. Johnson married Miss Philena A. Evans, the accomplished daughter of John and Luey (Peckham) Evans, who are natives of the Empire State, but now reside in Waukesha, Wis. Six children grace the union, five sons and a daughter. Elbert E. is one of the principal clerks and a traveling salesman for the Tait Manufacturing Company, of Decatur; Franklin L. and Milton are students in the Northwestern University, of Evanston; Pauline, Alva M., and Roy G. are still at home. They also give a home to Maud E. Evans, a niece of Mrs. Johnson. The family have a beautiful residence, just completed at a cost of \$15,000. The furnishings are in keeping with the fine exterior, and all that culture and refinement approve is found in that model home.

Mr. Johnson and his wife are members of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he is serving as Steward and as President of the Board



of Trustees. In politics, he has been a life-long Republican. He is a prominent Mason, belonging to Decatur Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T., of which he was Eminent Commander for two years. A more wide-awake, genial and kindly gentleman than Mr. Johnson would be hard to find anywhere; and these qualities of his nature are largely, no doubt, the secret of his remarkably successful business career.



**B**RADFORD K. DURFEE, one of the most prominent and popular of Decatur's citizens, who has recently been appointed State Insurance Commissioner, and is now acceptably discharging the duties of that office, was born in Marshall, Mich., March 25, 1838. His father, Nathan Durfee, was a native of Rhode Island, and married Margaret Kirk, who was born on the Isle of Man. They lived in Marshall, Mich., until 1842, when they removed to Battle Creek, our subject being then four years of age. In 1858, they came to Decatur. Mr. Durfee was a cabinet-maker by trade, but here lived a retired life. Though exempt from service on account of his age, he enlisted in an Ohio regiment, and served throughout the entire war. When the struggle was over and the preservation of the Union was an assured fact, he returned to his home in Decatur, and there his death occurred in 1875, at the age of sixty-five years. His wife survived him three years and then she too was called to the home beyond.

The subject of this sketch acquired his education in the public schools of Battle Creek, Mich. In 1857 he came to Illinois, and began teaching school before he was twenty years of age. He successfully followed that profession for three years during the winter season, and during the summer months his labors were devoted to farm work. In 1863 he was engaged by Durfee & Warren (his

uncle Henry B. Durfee and John K. Warren), to prepare a complete abstract of the Macon County Records of Title. This became a standard work, and was the first really complete set in the county. Shortly after he became associated with his uncle and Mr. Warren, under the firm name of Durfee, Warren & Co. In 1867, H. B. Durfee retired, and the firm became Warren & Durfee, which was in continuous existence from 1866 until 1893, when it was dissolved by mutual consent, and concluded a general business partnership with Mr. Warren of over thirty years. They did a large real-estate and general insurance and abstract business, and stood at the head in these lines.

In official positions, Mr. Durfee has also won distinction. He has served two years as a member of the City Council, and was Chairman of the most important committee, that of public improvements. He was elected to the Thirty-first and Thirty-second General Assemblies in 1879 and 1881, being the candidate of the Democratic party. He proved himself an able and prominent member of the Legislature, and formed a wide acquaintance with the leading men of the State. He has long been recognized as one of the influential leaders of his party, and in January, 1893, he was appointed by Gov. Altgeld as one of the three Commissioners of the Joliet Penitentiary. On the 12th of July, 1893, he received the appointment of Superintendent of Insurance entirely unsolicited on his part, and assumed the duties of the office July 20, 1893. His long experience in general insurance business has given him a practical knowledge of insurance matters, and he therefore assumed the duties of his new office well qualified. His position demands mature judgment, a cool and clear brain and firmness of character, and all these are possessed by our subject.

On the 16th of October, 1868, Mr. Durfee was united in marriage with Miss Luey Hamilton, of Toledo, Ohio, and unto them were born two daughters, Lucile and Edith. Socially, our subject is a Knight Templar Mason. In connection with other interests, he has always been closely identified with industrial movements. He is a Director, Secretary and Treasurer of the Decatur Gas Company, and during the past twenty years

he has been Secretary and Treasurer of three building associations. He promptly and vigorously seconded the efforts of his business partner, John K. Warren, who in 1872 took the initiative in the establishment of building associations in Decatur. Many of the homes of Decatur have been secured through the instrumentality of these three associations, and no man has been more active in making these organizations worthy of confidence and of benefit to the public than Mr. Durfee. To him are due in a great measure the present laws governing building associations. When in the House in 1879, he took advanced ground on this matter. Having made a special study of the subject, and being familiar with its strength and its weaknesses, he was enabled to throw safeguards around the organizations which are now embodied in the laws that to-day stand on the statute books of the State. While a member of the House, Mr. Durfee was prominently spoken of as Speaker, and in fact was made the candidate of his party for that position. Mr. Durfee is a man of fine physique and personal appearance. Genial and pleasant in manner, and entertaining in conversation, he has won hosts of friends among all classes, and his popularity is only equaled by the true worth that has gained it.



**J**AMES JONES, who owns and occupies a good farm on section 26, Long Creek Township, is numbered among the early settlers of the county, and has therefore been identified with its history for many years. He was born in Madison County, Ohio, in August, 1809. His father, Josiah Jones, was reared near Richmond, Va., by an uncle, and served for three years as one of the Revolutionary heroes. Removing to Kentucky, he there married Isabel Bell, a native of that State, and during its pioneer days they removed to Ohio, and later, about 1818, to Madison County, Ill., where the father spent the remainder of his life. After the death of Mr. Jones, the family removed to Arkansas, but three years

later returned to Illinois, and settled in Sangamon County, where the mother died some years later. This worthy couple were the parents of eight children, but none of the number are now living, with the exception of our subject.

James Jones was a lad of eight years when with his parents he first came to Illinois, the journey being made by team. He was early inured to hard labor, such as swinging the axe and cradle, and the industrious habits which he then formed have characterized his entire life. In Sangamon County, he was united in marriage with Miss Jane Snyder, a resident of Kentucky, and in that county he followed farming, and worked in a furniture shop until 1851, when he came to Macon County, locating on his present farm. Here he owns one hundred and ninety-five acres of arable land, which is highly cultivated and supplied with all modern conveniences and accessories. It is indeed one of the valuable and desirable places of the community, and its neat and thrifty appearance shows the owner to be a man of practical and progressive spirit. He also owns eighty acres on section 20.

In 1865, Mr. Jones was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died leaving three children. John S., who was born in Sangamon County, served for three years as Sergeant in the Seventh Illinois Cavalry during the late war, and is now the owner of a fruit farm, his home being in Decatur. James, who was born in Sangamon County in 1839, was educated in the subscription schools, and when a lad of twelve came to Macon County. He served in the late war, enlisting in September, 1861, as a member of Company I, Seventh Illinois Cavalry, under Capt. Butler. The troops went from Springfield to Bird's Point, Mo., where a skirmish occurred, later were in the battle of Corinth and did much scouting, and afterward went on the Grierson raid, going eight hundred miles in sixteen days. After three years, our subject was mustered out, October 16, 1864, and has since made his home in this county. Elizabeth died in childhood. Carrie is the widow of J. B. Clanahan, and keeps house for her father.

Mr. Jones served as a soldier in the Black Hawk War, and as a recruiting officer in the Civil War. He cast his first vote for Andrew Jackson in



1828, and was then a Whig until the organization of the Republican party, since which time he has been a supporter of its principles. For forty-two years he has made his home in this county, and has ever borne his part in its upbuilding and advancement, and has done all in his power for the promotion of its best interests.



**W**ILLIAM H. WEATHERFORD, the popular Postmaster and well-known merchant of Boody, was born on the 4th of November, 1832, in Mecklenburg County, Va., and is a son of John S. and Emily (Riggins) Weatherford, who were also natives of that State. Their family numbered five children, of whom William is the second in order of birth. When he was a lad of twelve years his parents removed with their children to Sullivan County, Tenn., where the father worked at his trade for eight years, while William H. spent his time in acquiring an education in the public schools, or as a follower of Izaak Walton, for he very much enjoyed whiling the hours away with his rod and line. When he was about twenty, the family removed to Franklin, Tenn., where the father engaged in farming, while William began clerking in a cotton store at \$6 per month.

In 1856, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Amanda Newman, of Franklin County. He continued with his old employers until their mills were burned. His wages previous to that time, and owing to his valuable service, had been raised to \$100 per month. After the burning of the mills, he came to Illinois with the firm and helped to open a farm for his employers in Pleasant View Township, Macon County, but they became bankrupt, went back South and joined the Southern army. Mr. Weatherford, however, joined the Union army and became one of the boys in blue of Company H, One Hundred and Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, in which he did faithful service for three years. He was never sick a day, was

never wounded, and army life seemed to agree with him, for his weight on entering the service was one hundred and thirty-two pounds, and on his return was one hundred and sixty-five. On June 11th, 1865, he was honorably discharged with the rank of Corporal. He participated in the battles of Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Snake Creek Gap, Resaca, Dalton and Nashville.

During the absence of Mr. Weatherford at the front, his wife and three children had been living in Pleasant View Township, where he now joined them and turned his attention to farming. Soon after his return, he was elected Constable, and for about twenty years filled that office. He also served as Assessor of Blue Mound Township for two years. His repeated re-elections are the highest testimonial that could be given of his efficiency and able performance of duty. Removing to Boody, Mr. Weatherford began carrying on a boarding-house and also clerked in a store. During the administration of President Hayes, he was appointed to fill an unexpired term as Postmaster, and continued to fill that office for six months after President Cleveland first became Chief Magistrate. On account of his politics, he was then succeeded by a Democrat, but by President Harrison was again appointed to the position, which he still fills. No more trustworthy or capable official could be secured than our subject, for he is a man of good business ability and is true to every trust. He has also been engaged in mercantile pursuits since residing in Boody, and now carries on a general store. In politics, he was originally a Democrat, but when the South declared that Abraham Lincoln should not fill the office to which he was elected, he left the ranks of Democracy, and has since been a stalwart advocate of Republicanism. For twenty years he has been a member of the Odd Fellows' society, is a member of Dunham Post No. 141, G. A. R., of Decatur, and also belongs to the United Brethren Church.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Weatherford were born six sons and a daughter, but the latter died at the age of nine, while her father was in the army. The eldest son, Alex, was married and died leaving a wife and one child; Benjamin married Miss Bertha Wise, of Boody, and now resides in Clay



County, Neb.; Charles Ellsworth wedded Maggie Durning, of Boody, where they now reside; John W. makes his home in Nebraska; Oliver T. is engaged in clerking for his father; and one son died in infancy. The parents are highly respected citizens who in social circles hold an enviable position. Mr. Weatherford was one of the valiant boys in blue, has been a capable official, and an honorable business man, and throughout the community his friends are many.



**J**ACOB W. PETER, contractor and builder, who is engaged in business in Macon, was born on the 3d of November, 1850, in Harrison County, Ind., and is a son of John D. and Catherine E. (Kintner) Peter. The father was a soldier in the War of 1812, and had two sons in the War of the Rebellion. Charles K. lost his life by disease during the Atlanta campaign and was buried on Southern soil. Anderson W., who was also one of the boys in blue, is now living in Macon.

John D. Peter was born in Madison, Jefferson County, Ind., May 30, 1814. His parents, Charles and Mary (Davis) Peter, were born and married in Kentucky, and during the early childhood of John removed to Harrison County, Ind., where his boyhood days were spent. His father was a farmer, and died when John was only nine years of age, leaving five children. The mother kept the family together until her second marriage. In 1832 Mr. Peter, father of our subject, began to learn the carpenter's and cabinet-maker's trade, serving an apprenticeship of three years, and for his labors he received his board, three months' schooling, a suit of clothes and a few tools. He afterward formed a partnership and began cabinet-making, and to some extent he has followed wagon-making. He was married March 7, 1836, to Miss Matilda Jones, who died in 1837, leaving a son, Anderson W. In 1839 Mr. Peter wedded Mrs. Catherine E. Giles, and unto them were born eight children, six of

whom are still living and are residents of Macon County, with the exception of Mrs. Hannah M. Hammond, whose home is in Victoria, Tex. Mr. Peter came to Illinois in 1865, and followed carpentering. His wife died November 12, 1890. In 1836 he cast his first Presidential vote for the candidate of the Whig party, and in 1840 supported William Henry Harrison. In 1856 he voted for John C. Fremont, and was a Republican for many years, but is now a Prohibitionist. He filled the office of Alderman. In 1837 he became a member of the Presbyterian Church, and has lived a life consistent with his profession.

During the infancy of our subject, the parents removed to Clay County, Ind., and when he was a youth of fifteen came to Macon County, where they have since made their home. During his childhood Jacob Peter had poor health and for that reason acquired but little education in the schools, although by contact with men and the world he has become well informed. When about nineteen years of age, he began working at the carpenter's trade, learning the business with his father, and has since followed that occupation. He is one of the leading contractors and builders in Macon, and from the public receives a liberal patronage.

On the 10th of April, 1877, in this city, Mr. Peter was united in marriage with Miss Sarah E. Chapin, who was born in Coshocton County, Ohio, on the 2d of February, 1858, and is a daughter of James and Isabel (Little) Chapin. She was a maiden of twelve summers when she came to Illinois with her mother and step-father, John Phillips. Her own father was a soldier during the late war and died in Andersonville Prison in 1864.

Unto our subject and his wife were born six children. Gerald, who was born in Macon, December 25, 1877, is an ambitious and enterprising lad, and although only fifteen years of age is now earning his own livelihood. The others are Tracy, who was born November 9, 1879; Ralph, born April 11, 1882; Charles, who was born August 3, 1883, and died April 22, 1885; Everett, born March 16, 1887, and died December 31, 1889; and Flora, born May 19, 1890.

Many of the most important buildings of Ma-

con stand as monuments to the handiwork of Mr. Peter, who does only first-class work and therefore has a good business. He always fulfills his part of the contract and thereby has gained the confidence and good-will of the community. In politics he was a supporter of the Republican party, and cast his first Presidential vote for Gen. U. S. Grant, but is now an advocate of Prohibition principles. Himself and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in the community where they are so widely known have the high regard of all with whom they have been brought in contact.



**W**ILLIAM RITCHIE, the proprietor of the Ritchie Elevator, of Warrensburg, and a prominent farmer and leading citizen of the county, deserves mention among her honored pioneers, for he has made his home within her borders since 1856, and has ever borne his part in the upbuilding and development of the county. He is a native of the Keystone State, having been born in Franklin County, in 1839, and his parents, Samuel and Susan (Hinzey) Ritchie, were also natives of the same State. The father was born in 1800. For many years he followed farming in the county of his nativity, and in 1856 he emigrated Westward, having determined to try his fortune on the broad prairies of Illinois. He located in the northern part of Macon County and opened up a farm of about four hundred acres, devoting his time and attention to agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred on that farm in 1865. His wife survived him for many years and was called to the home beyond in 1887. Both lie buried in Boiling Springs Cemetery, where a nice monument marks their last resting-place.

The Ritchie family numbered six sons and five daughters, who grew to mature years, and, with the exception of two sisters now deceased, all reside in the neighborhood of Warrensburg. Our subject, who is the fifth in order of birth, spent

the days of his boyhood in Pennsylvania, where he acquired a good education in the public schools. He was a youth of seventeen years when with his parents he came to this State. To his father he gave the benefit of his services until after he had attained his majority, when he bought a tract of land of ninety-five acres, to the development of which he devoted his energies for a number of years. He located upon the farm which is now his home in 1864. He first bought about two hundred and forty acres, but now has a valuable tract of four hundred and eighty acres in his home farm. In addition to this, he has made other purchases, until his landed possessions comprise seven hundred acres, constituting three well-improved farms. Upon the homestead he has erected a commodious and substantial residence, and many other improvements upon the place stand as monuments to his thrift and industry. He has been engaged in grain-dealing continuously since 1870, and has enjoyed a good trade in that line.

In this county in 1874, Mr. Ritchie was united in marriage with Miss M. D., daughter of John Funk, one of the pioneers of Illinois. She was born in Missouri but was reared and educated in this State. Two children graced their union, but William Linn died at the age of nine years. Vonna Vada is a bright little maiden of eight summers.

Mr. Ritchie cast his first Presidential vote for Stephen A. Douglas in 1860, and has since been a stalwart supporter of the Democracy. His wife is a member and one of the most active workers in the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is recognized as one of the prominent and progressive citizens of the community, for during his long residence of thirty-seven years in this county he has been identified with its development, and has helped to place it in the position which it now occupies in the front rank in the counties of the State. The best interests of the community ever find in him a friend, and to all he gives his hearty support and co-operation. His own business career has been one of prosperity, and he now possesses a handsome property. In 1892 he erected a fine business block in Warrensburg, one department of which is used as a general store and the other as a drug store. He commenced life a poor



boy, but by his own labor and enterprise he has accumulated three large and valuable farms, a most beautiful home and large real-estate interests in Warrensburg. His dealings have ever been characterized by honor, and his example is one well worthy of emulation.



**D**AVID FRANKLIN BEAR, a general farmer residing on section 24, Illini Township, is one of Macon County's native sons, and well deserves representation in this volume. He was born in Hickory Point Township June 23, 1852, hence he has witnessed almost the entire development and progress made by this community. His parents, Ephraim and Susan (Hamsher) Bear, were both natives of Pennsylvania, and in that State were married. At length they left their old home, and, emigrating Westward to Illinois, they cast in their lot with the settlers of Macon County of 1852. Here the father secured land and developed a farm in Harristown Township. He afterward opened up a farm in Hickory Point Township, both of which places he still owns. In 1877 he removed to Decatur, where he is now living a retired life.

The subject of this sketch spent his youth upon his father's farm in Hickory Point Township, and was early inured to the hard labors of the farm and to developing wild land, becoming familiar with every department of agriculture. His common-school privileges were supplemented by one term's attendance at the Decatur High School, which completed his literary education. He remained with his father until after he had attained his majority, and then took up the pursuit to which he had been reared, farming for several years on the old homestead. It was in 1888 that he purchased the farm on which he now resides, making it his home since that time. He owns a valuable and well-improved tract of one hundred and sixty acres, and is recognized as one of the progressive and representative farmers of Illini Township.

In politics, Mr. Bear is identified with the Republican party, with which he has affiliated since casting his first Presidential vote. He has never been an aspirant for public office, however, preferring to devote his time and attention to his business interests. He is now serving as a member of the School Board, and the cause of education finds in him a faithful friend. He is found in the front rank of any enterprise calculated to prove of public benefit, and has done much for the best interests of the community.

April 6, 1876, Mr. Bear was united in marriage with Miss Martha E. Metlin, who was born in this county, and is a daughter of A. T. Metlin, of Hickory Point Township. She died April 14, 1882, leaving one child, Etta, who is still at home. Jesse, the other child born of that union, died at the age of ten years. Mr. Bear was again married, November 6, 1884, his second union being with Miss Agnes, daughter of George and Hannah (Leads) Housman, of Long Creek Township. One child graces this marriage, Ralph, born April 30, 1887. The parents are members of the Church of God of Boiling Springs, and are highly respected people of this community. Mr. Bear, who has spent his entire life in this county and is therefore widely known, numbers among his warmest friends many who have known him from boyhood, a fact which tells of a well-spent life.



**C**HARLES W. FRENCH, one of the successful agriculturists of Macon County, owns and operates a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 23, Illini Township. His farm is one of the best in the neighborhood, being improved with a neat and substantial residence, good stables and a carriage and tool house. The rich and fertile fields are always highly cultivated and yield to the owner a golden tribute in return for the care and labor he has bestowed upon them.

Mr. French is one of the worthy citizens that



New Hampshire has furnished to Illinois. He was born in Merrimaek County, of the Granite State, November 4, 1843, and his parents, Hiram and Lydia (Bateholder) French, were also natives of the same locality. The father engaged in merchandising in early life, but afterward settled on a farm and devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits in Merrimaek County, where he reared his family and spent his entire life. His death occurred in 1863, and his wife, having survived him two years, passed away in April, 1865. Their family numbered six sons and two daughters who reached adult age. Henry, who served in the late war as a lieutenant in the Twelfth New Hampshire Infantry, was killed in the battle of Gettysburg, while aiding in the defense of the Old Flag and the Union; Hiram W. is a farmer of Douglas County, Ill.; Charles is the third in order of birth; Samuel T. resides in Kansas City; Frank is an artist of New York City; Olive is the wife of Jacob Moore, of Manchester, N. H.; and Clara is Mrs. O. Z. Green, of Decatur, and completes the family.

Under the parental roof in the county of his nativity the subject of this sketch spent his boyhood days. After attending the common schools he completed his education by three terms' attendance in the Pittsfield Academy. He thus had a practical knowledge to aid him in life's struggles, and with this as a foundation, although he had no financial aid, he has steadily worked his way upward. His residence in Macon County dates from 1865, when as a young man of twenty-two he located in Harristown Township, where he worked at the carpenter's trade one season. The following summer was spent in Jamaica Plains, Mass., but in the fall of 1866 he returned and began work upon a farm. For several years he operated rented land in his own interest, and in the spring of 1878 purchased a quarter-section, the farm on which he now resides.

In Haverhill, Mass., on the 16th of March, 1868, Mr. French was married to Miss Addie Chesley, a native of Epsom, N. H., who was highly educated and had previous to her marriage successfully engaged in teaching. Four children have been born of their union. The eldest, Herbert, aids in carrying on the home farm. The daughters are Clara,

Laura and Olive. The family circle yet remains unbroken, all being under the parental roof.

In 1868 Mr. French proudly cast his first Presidential ballot, by which he supported Gen. U. S. Grant, and since that time he has been a staunch advocate of Republican principles. He has, however, never sought public office, but was elected and served as a member of the County Board of Supervisors. It is needless to say that, he discharged his duties in a prompt and able manner, for the merits of Mr. French are too well known in this locality to need further praise. He has made the most of his opportunities through life, and the success which has crowned his efforts is but the just reward of his labors.



**J**OSEPH CLOUGH TUCKER, a retired farmer residing in Illini Township, just outside the city limits of Warrensburg, is widely and favorably known, not only in Macon County, but throughout this part of the State, and we feel assured that this record of his life will be received with interest by many of our readers who belong to his circle of friends. He has resided here since January, 1861, and in the third of a century which has just passed he has been prominently identified with the growth and development of the community in which he has made his home.

In Merrimaek County of the old Granite State Mr. Tucker was born December 19, 1838, in the same house where his father, Maj. Cyrus Tucker, first opened his eyes to the light of day. The grandfather, Rev. Jedediah Tucker, was a native of Massachusetts, and became one of the pioneers of New Hampshire of 1784. He was a Congregational minister and served as pastor of one church for thirty years. His son Cyrus grew to manhood in his native county and there married Fannie J., daughter of Jacob Hoyt, who came of one of the early Puritan families of the Granite State. The latter reached the advanced age of ninety-five

years. The young couple began their domestic life upon the old homestead, and there reared their family of four sons, but only Joseph, and Charles, a farmer of Coos County, N. H., are now living. The father died November 12, 1850, and the mother passed away October 1, 1843. Mr. Tucker was a prominent and influential citizen, and while serving in the State militia won the rank of Major.

The subject of this sketch received good educational privileges, his primary studies being supplemented by a two-years course in the Quaker College of Providence, R. I., where he completed a course in mathematics. He then engaged in teaching for two seasons in New Hampshire. The enterprising young man, who was ambitious to win success, determined to seek a home and fortune in the West, and in 1861 took up his residence in Illini Township, Macon County, Ill. Purchasing a quarter-section of land, that fall he planted the greater part of it in wheat. Later he sold that farm and bought three hundred and twenty acres of raw land, which he transformed into fertile fields. He again sold and purchased one hundred and sixty acres, in 1865. The following spring he disposed of that property and became owner of a tract of three hundred and twenty acres, which is still in his possession. His arduous labors and untiring efforts have transformed it into one of the best farms of the county, and a glance at its well-tilled fields and substantial buildings indicates the careful supervision of the owner. The place, however, which is supplied with two sets of farm buildings, is now rented. Since renting that place Mr. Tucker has purchased and improved the one on which he resides. It comprises fourteen acres, upon which is a pleasant residence and other substantial buildings and a good orchard. He has made his home thereon since the 1st of April, 1872.

Mr. Tucker was married in this county, February 5, 1868, to Miss Emma Ferree, a native of Pike County, Ill. She died November 5, 1883, leaving five children: Cyrus J., a well-educated young man now engaged in merchandising in Warrensburg; Benjamin F., who is employed as a book-keeper in a commission house in Morton, Ill.; Jo-

seph T., an ambitious and enterprising young man, who holds the position of Town Clerk of Warrensburg; J. Guy and Charles, at home. For his second wife Mr. Tucker chose Mrs. Martha K. Clough. She died April 30, 1886, and Mr. Tucker was married February 12, 1891, to Mrs. Mary J. Ferry, *nee* Clark, who was born in New Hampshire and came to Illinois with her parents, Bradbury and Mary (Proctor) Clark, when a maiden of ten summers. She is a highly cultured and educated lady and previous to her marriage successfully engaged in teaching. By her first marriage she had a son, Leroy Ferry, now a youth of ten.

Our subject's fellow-citizens, recognising his worth and ability, have several times elected Mr. Tucker to positions of honor and trust. He served three years as Assessor, was Supervisor for several years, and also filled the office of Township Trustee for a time, discharging his duties to the satisfaction of all concerned. He has frequently been a delegate to the county and State conventions of the Democratic party, of which he is a stalwart advocate. Socially, he is a Knight-Templar Mason. In manner, Mr. Tucker is unassuming, devoid of all ostentation, and yet, though he has never thrust himself upon the notice of others, he has gained the high regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact. His success in life has been achieved entirely through his own efforts, and for it he deserves great credit, as he began life in limited circumstances and has steadily worked his way upward to a position of affluence.



**O**LIVER H. DRAPER, who resides in Macon and is now serving as Supervisor of South Macon Township, is a native of the sister State of Indiana, his birth having occurred in Decatur County on the 6th of February, 1846. His parents, Benjamin and Elizabeth (Wheelen) Draper, were both natives of Dearborn County, Ind. The paternal grandfather, Thomas Draper, was born in



Virginia, and was of English descent, but the mother of our subject was of Holland-Dutch extraction.

Oliver Draper spent the first eleven years of his life in the county of his nativity and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Johnson County, where in the usual manner of farmer lads he was reared until eighteen years of age. Excited and interested in the events of the times, for the Civil War was then in progress, and prompted by patriotic impulses, he entered the service of his country in February, 1864, and was assigned to Company D, Seventeenth Regiment of Indiana Mounted Infantry. Going to the front, he was with Sherman until after the fall of Atlanta, when, with his company, he returned to Louisville under Gen. Wilson and aided in the capture of Selma, Ala. For a year and a-half he was in active service, faithfully defending the Stars and Stripes, and then the war having closed, he was honorably discharged at Macon, Ga., on the 8th of August, 1865. Mr. Draper then returned to his father's home in Johnson County, Ind., where he gave his attention to farming until 1872.

On the 27th of December, 1871, was celebrated the marriage of our subject with Miss Martha Banta, who was born in Johnson County, April 8, 1848, and is a daughter of Abraham Banta. Seven children were born to them but four died in childhood. Those still living are: Lillie M., who was born October 26, 1873, in Johnson County; Leta L., born in Johnson County, January 4, 1879; and Lena B., born in Macon, October 29, 1883.

In 1872, Mr. Draper removed with his young wife to Randolph Chuntz, Mo., where he purchased forty acres of land. There he engaged in farming until 1874, when he returned to Indiana, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until 1880. In that year he came to Macon and embarked in the drug and grocery trade, which he still carries on under the firm name of Draper & Webb. They are enjoying a good trade, and the liberal patronage is well deserved, for their business dealings are marked by honor and uprightness, and they do all in their power to please their customers.

Mr. Draper has been a supporter of the Republican party since casting his first Presiden-

tial vote for U. S. Grant, in 1868. His fellow-townsmen, appreciating his worth and ability, have called upon him to fill various public offices. For two terms he served as Township Assessor in Indiana, and in South Macon Township, where he now resides, he has been chosen Township Collector four terms, is now serving his second term as Supervisor, and is Chairman of the County Board.



**C**HRISTIAN SCHWAB, who makes his home in the village of Boody, claims Germany as the land of his birth, which occurred in Hesse-Darmstadt, in the kingdom of Prussia, March 20, 1830. His parents were Ludwig and Katrina Schwab. He is the youngest of nine children, and is the only one of the family who came to America. One brother, George, is still living on the old homestead in Prussia.

In the schools of his native land our subject acquired a good education, and upon his father's farm was reared to manhood, becoming familiar with all the details of agricultural life. Believing that the New World furnished better advantages than the old countries of Europe, he resolved to try his fortune in America, and, embarking on a Westward-bound sailing-vessel, landed in New York, after a voyage of forty-two days. He immediately went to Beardstown, Ill., where he had an uncle living, for whom he worked for about a year. During that time he chose as a companion and helpmate on life's journey Miss Elizabeth Suppes, also a native of Germany. He had brought a small capital with him to this country, and, having carefully saved his earnings, which he added to his former possessions, at the time of his marriage he had enough to begin farming in his own interests. For six years he cultivated land near Beardstown. On the expiration of that period he changed his location, coming to Macon County. Here he purchased eighty acres of land, but almost immediately afterward sold it, as he could do so at a good profit,



and invested in one hundred and sixty acres in Blue Mound Township, where he made his home until 1891. His fields were well tilled, the place well kept, and its neat appearance and many improvements indicated the careful supervision of a thrifty owner. On selling his farm in 1891, he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Shelby County, and removed to Boody, where he now makes his home.

Mr. and Mrs. Schwab have reared two children. They adopted George W. Soland when he was two and a-half years of age, and tenderly cared for him until he had arrived at man's estate. He is now a merchant of Boody. Their adopted daughter, Mrs. Lena Burk, is now living in Shelby County, Ill. Mr. and Mrs. Schwab are both faithful and consistent members of the German Methodist Church, and are active workers in both Sunday-school and church. The former has served as Sunday-school Superintendent and Trustee. They are generous, benevolent people, and the poor and needy find in them a friend. In his political views Mr. Schwab has long been a supporter of the Republican party, but has never been an office-seeker, the political arena having no attractions for him. His life has been that of a successful farmer. Starting out with little capital he has managed to secure a handsome competence, which is the just reward of his well-directed efforts, his labor and perseverance.



**A**NTON VOLLMER, who is engaged in farming and stock-raising on section 32, South Macon Township, is one of the worthy German citizens of the county. He was born in Baden December 31, 1833, and is a son of Sebastian and Magdalena (Stather) Vollmer. The father was a cooper by trade, and also followed farming. The family numbered six children, of whom Anton is the fifth in order of birth. All are now deceased with the exception of himself and one sister, who is now living in St. Louis.

Our subject at the age of nineteen years crossed

the briny deep, and after a voyage of fifty-four days landed in New Orleans. He worked in the Crescent City until he could secure money to continue his travels, when, after a few months, he started for Missouri, locating in Barry County. There he worked by the month as a farm hand, and in the winter chopped wood on the Mississippi bottoms in order to get a start. After seven years spent in Missouri, during which time he became possessor of \$600 and a two-year-old horse, he went to St. Louis. He was a faithful worker, always serving his employers to the best of his ability, and when his services were no longer needed he could easily obtain another position. During all this time Mr. Vollmer was away from friends, and he went to St. Louis in order to get acquainted with some of his countrymen. After visiting there for a short time he went to Belleville, Ill., and in connection with some men secured a farm.

After two years Mr. Vollmer was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Mary Swartz, who was born in Baden, Germany, August 5, 1841, but was then working in Belleville. The young couple began their domestic life upon the rented farm before mentioned, his partner removing to another farm. This was located near Muscatoh, and Mr. Vollmer operated that land for nine years, when it was sold and he rented another farm for a year. He then purchased one hundred and eighty acres of land, which he sold after two years at a loss of \$3,000. He then engaged in renting once more, and during the succeeding five years he more than retrieved his lost possessions.

On coming to Macon County in 1876, our subject rented a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Decatur, and after a year purchased a quarter-section, which he owned and operated for five years, when he sold and bought his present farm of three hundred and twenty acres. His residence is just within the corporation limits of Macon. Upon his farm is a good barn, windmill, vineyard and orchard. The two last were put out by himself. In fact, the greater part of the improvements upon the place are his own handiwork, and stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise. He has been successful in his undertakings and has accumu-

lated a comfortable competence, which numbers him among the substantial citizens of the community. Mr. Vollmer is a member of the Catholic Church, having been confirmed at the age of fourteen. In politics he is a Democrat, and is now serving as an Alderman of the city. He need never have occasion to regret his emigration to America, for he has here met with prosperity and has gained a pleasant home and many friends.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Vollmer are as follows: Susannah Ida, now Mrs. John Huber; Philip Jacob, who resides near Dalton City; Edward, a farmer; Sophia Elizabeth, Frank Anton, Mary Magdalena, Joseph Benedict, Johann Xavier, Gottfred Wilhelm and Otto Erwin, all at home. They lost two girls, Mary Louise, in her fifteenth year, and an infant, Mary Magdalena.



**E**MERY JANVRIN, who carries on general farming on section 8, Illini Township, has for a quarter of a century made his home in this locality, and like many of the residents of the community he came from New Hampshire, the proud old Granite State having furnished to eastern Illinois many of her best citizens. Our subject was born in Rockingham County July 7, 1833. The Janvrin family was originally of French origin, but the first ancestor to come to America came from the Isle of Guernsey, and settled in New Hampshire in its pioneer days. The grandfather, Capt. Joshua Janvrin, was lost at sea December 13, 1816, while sailing to the Newfoundland cod-fisheries. He was a retired vessel-owner and sea-captain. His brother, John Janvrin, with his ship and cargo of dried fish were captured by the French during the war and his ship sold, and he sent home in a small vessel, but he died en route. The famous French spoliation claims include this claim and Mr. Janvrin is one of the heirs, should settlement be effected. Mr. Janvrin has some heirlooms in the shape of one of the first coffee mills ever made, which was owned by his

grandfather, also his old sea chest, and an old rolling-pin. The great-grandfather also lived in New Hampshire, and the father of our subject, Joshua Janvrin, was a native of Rockingham County, that State. The latter was a tanner and currier by trade and also a shoemaker. He carried on quite a business in that line, and in the legitimate channels of trade acquired a good fortune. He wedded Miss Mary Fifield, who was born and reared in the adjoining town of Hampton Falls. Her death occurred when our subject was only eight years of age. The father, however, long survived his wife, and passed away at the advanced age of eighty.

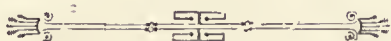
Emery Janvrin is one of two sons and three daughters who lived to mature years, but he and his sister, Mrs. Josephine Beekman, of Rockingham County, N. H., are now the only survivors. Under the parental roof he was reared to manhood, and in the public schools he began his education, which was completed by study in the academy of Hampton Falls. In his earlier years his labors were devoted to farming in the summer months and to shoemaking in the winter season. Hoping to better his financial condition, he determined to remove to the West in 1868, and, acting on this resolution, became a resident of Macon County. With the capital that he had acquired he purchased eighty acres of land, a part of his present farm. This place is a monument to the good management and enterprise of the owner, and the many improvements upon it tell of the busy and useful life he has led. The boundaries of his farm have been extended until it now comprises three hundred and twenty acres of arable land, which is enclosed with a fine hedge fence. Many rods of tiling have been laid, and there are good barns and outbuildings and a commodious and pleasant residence. All kinds of small fruits furnish the table with many delicacies in their season, and a good bearing orchard adds its store. Ornamental and forest trees increase the beauty and attractive appearance of the place, and in the summer months under their protecting branches the inmates of the home find cooling shelter.

The lady who bears the title of Mrs. Janvrin was in her maidenhood Theresa Blake. She was born and reared in Rockingham County, N. H., and



is a daughter of Moses Blake. Their union was celebrated in their native county November 15, 1857, and unto them have been born ten children: George P., who is married and follows farming in this county; Harriet, wife of Warner T. Bullard; Lester L., who aids in the operation of the home farm; William Henry, an agriculturist of the community; Harrison, a representative farmer; Mary, wife of Frank Bunker, of Decatur; Charles, Lucella, Frank Kelsey and Grace, who complete the family.

Mr. Janvin is a public-spirited and progressive citizen, and the best interests of the community find in him a friend. He may truly be called a self-made man, as he started out in life with no capital. Industry and energy are numbered among his chief characteristics, and by his diligent efforts he has won the prosperity which numbers him among the substantial citizens of his adopted county.



**R**OBERT BIVANS, a farmer and insurance agent residing in Macon, is recognized as one of the leading and influential citizens of the county. He was born in Franklin County, Ohio, May 14, 1842, and is a son of Thomas and Ann (Gundy) Bivans. The Gundy family were of Pennsylvania-Dutch descent and the mother was born in the Keystone State. The father was born near Dover, Del., and when a lad of ten went to Ohio with his parents. The two were reared on farms in the same neighborhood and were married in Franklin County. The mother died in 1845, and the father passed away in 1847, leaving our subject an orphan at the age of five years.

After one year spent in the home of his uncle, Robert Bivans of this sketch went to live with his paternal grandfather, with whom he remained until 1859, when he removed to Vermilion County, Ill., with Thomas Gundy, his mother's brother. His educational privileges were quite limited. In

September, 1859, he came to Macon County, and during the fall worked on a farm and in the winter gathered corn. With his hard-earned savings he rented a farm the next spring of John Cochran, who furnished all the necessary implements and gave Mr. Bivans half of the proceeds. In the fall our subject went to Fulton County, Ill., and made his home with his sister, Mrs. Mary Hey, wife of Milton Hey, who also befriended the orphan boy. Mr. Bivans then worked for John Cline one season, and during the summer of 1862 for Robert Yates.

In August of that year, our subject became a member of Company E, One Hundred and Fiftieth Illinois Infantry, and was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, participating in the battles of Franklin, Tenn., Duck River and Chickamauga, where he was severely wounded in the right elbow. This caused the removal of the elbow joint and left the lower part of the arm nearly at right angles with the upper. Only four such operations were performed during all the war, and two of the patients died. Mr. Bivans was wounded Sunday evening, September 20, 1863, and was in the hospital until February, 1864, when he returned home. The following fall he reported at the hospital at Camp Butler, and was transferred to Quincy, Ill. During this time he was suffering much with his elbow, which with the entire arm is almost wasted away. Erysipelas, resulting from the wound, caused an abscess in the left chest, destroying permanently the left lung. Mr. Bivans certainly sacrificed much in the service of his country, and the debt of gratitude due to such as he can never be repaid. Our subject remained in Quincy until March 23, 1865, when he was honorably discharged on account of disability.

During the following summer Mr. Bivans made his home with his sister, Mrs. Hey, and while there was nominated and elected Collector of South Macon Township, which office he filled two years. In 1867 he began painting wagons and buggies with his left hand, his right arm being carried in a frame, the bone still sticking through the flesh. For three years he followed that business. In May, 1868, through the influence of his old Colonel, Jesse H. Moore, who was then Congressman, he

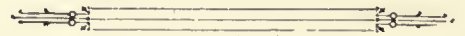


was appointed Postmaster by President Johnson and served until 1874, when he resigned. He had previously been engaged in the drug and grocery trade with Mr. Biddle, but they sold out in 1873. In the year 1871, at the time the Chicago fire was raging, they lost their building and stock by fire, and no insurance was upon either.

Mr. Bivans was married May 25, 1871, to Flora A., daughter of M. K. and Elizabeth (Tenbrook) Sweeney, of Fulton County. After the fire he found he had his little dwelling, on which he still owed \$500, and the position of Postmaster, but the postoffice, which was in the store, had been destroyed. Mr. Hight, the banker, came to him and told him he could move into his store until he could get a better place. Mr. Biddle, our subject's partner, proposed that they build at Mr. Biddle's expense and start business again as equal partners. They erected a brick building 22x60 feet, and together carried on operations until 1873, when our subject sold out. He traded his farm for fifty acres of land adjoining the village of Macon, and in 1878 removed to his present home, which was the last house he had painted before going into the postoffice. Subsequently he purchased another stock of drugs and groceries and carried on business until 1876, when he went on the road as a traveling salesman for the firm of Frank Field & Co., wholesale confectioners, of Peoria. In 1887 he returned home and resumed farming and trading, and in 1888 he became insurance agent, which work he has since followed.

In 1893, the subject of a canning factory was agitated, and Mr. Bivans took stock in it and was elected a Director. In 1870 and 1871, he became agent for the *Prairie Farmer* and had the pleasure of knowing that he secured the largest club in the United States, while in the three years, 1891, 1892 and 1893, he had the largest list in the country for the *Orange Judd Farmer*. His first premium was a "Western" cottage organ, worth \$275. The next year he was entitled to a "Goodhue" windmill, but took instead another organ, and for the third year he received a "Conover" piano, worth \$800. He is a man of good business ability, sagacious and far-sighted, enterprising and industrious. In manner he is genial and pleasant and makes friends

wherever he goes. He cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864, and was a Republican until 1884, since which time he has voted with the Prohibition party. He served three years as Collector, has also been Township Clerk, was Alderman for six years, and is now Notary Public. The trust reposed in him by his fellow-citizens has never been belied, and in a prompt and faithful manner he always discharges his duties. He and his wife are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are faithful and active workers in both church and Sunday-school.



**A**LBION DAGGETT, insurance agent and Justice of the Peace of Macon, comes from the northeastern extremity of the Union. He was born in Piscataquis County, Me., September 4, 1833, and comes from an old Puritan family, that was established in America at the landing of the "Mayflower." His parents were Elisha and Martha (Bolster) Daggett, and the latter was of Irish descent. The father was a farmer by occupation, and died at the age of seventy-eight years.

In the usual manner of farmer lads, Albion spent his boyhood days. He has one sister still living Mrs. Ruth A. Briggs, of Urbana, Ill., who has two daughters. In the common schools our subject received his primary education, which was supplemented by attendance at the academy in Foxcroft, where he spent two winters. At the age of twenty he began teaching in Maine, but in 1856 left the Pine Tree State and emigrated to Illinois. The following winter was spent as a teacher in Lee County. Renting land, he operated the farm during the summer months, while in the winter season he was employed in the schoolroom. For four years he remained in Lee County, and then removed to Champaign County, where he carried on farming for four years, when, on account of an accident, he was forced to abandon agricultural pursuits and turn his attention to painting.

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



CLAYBOURN JONES





MRS. CLAYBOURN JONES

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

Mr. Daggett was married in October, 1866, to Miss Emma L. Innis, of Champaign County, who was born in New Jersey April 15, 1842, and comes of New England ancestry. Of their children, two died in infancy. Those living are as follows: Ernest L., born in Macon County January 28, 1869, married Miss Minnie Merris, and is a farmer of South Macon Township; Jesse A., born in this county August 16, 1871, was graduated from the business college of Decatur in 1892, is now employed in his father's office, and is insurance adjuster for central Illinois; Daisy was born in Macon March 27, 1876; Ora E. was born May 24, 1880; and Carl R. in 1883.

Soon after their marriage, Mr. Daggett and his wife came to Macon, where he followed painting for some seven years, and where he has since made his home. He is now engaged in the insurance business, and the energy which he devotes to this undertaking has made him very successful. In politics, he has always been identified with the Republican party and has acceptably and creditably filled the offices of Constable, City Marshal and Alderman. He has been Justice of the Peace for three terms and is the present incumbent of that office. For many years he was a member of the Masonic fraternity. Himself and wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are earnest laborers in the Master's vineyard, doing all in their power to promote the cause of Christianity. Mr. Daggett serves as one of the Trustees of the church, and in business and social circles he is alike esteemed.



**C**LAYBOURN JONES, who owns and operates one hundred and seventeen acres of fine land on section 12, Mt. Zion Township, is one of the leading agriculturists and stock-raisers of the community. The neat appearance of his place indicates his thrift and enterprise; the fields are well tilled and under a high state of cultivation,

and a fine grade of horses and cattle is raised. The home is a comfortable one, and here Mr. Jones expects to spend his declining years.

Our subject was born in Shelby County, Ky., August 10, 1811, and came with his parents to Illinois when ten years of age. His father, William Jones, was born and reared on a farm about nine miles from the city of Richmond, Va., and, having arrived at man's estate, married Miss Elizabeth Sutherland, who was born in Kentucky. They became the parents of eleven children, all of whom are now deceased with the exception of Catherine, who is living in Macon County; Cynthia, who resides in Missouri; and Claybourn, of this sketch.

Mr. Jones whose name heads this record came to Illinois in 1821 with his parents, the family locating in Crawford County, where they remained for about six years. They then removed to Vermilion County, where they spent the succeeding five years, and thence came to Macon County, where the parents spent their remaining days. The father was called to his final rest in 1873, and the mother departed this life in 1877, their remains being interred in Oakley Cemetery.

In the usual manner of farmer lads Mr. Jones spent the days of his boyhood and youth, attending the common schools in the winter months and aiding in the labors of the farm during the summer. No event of special importance occurred during that period, but after arriving at man's estate he was united in marriage with Miss Matilda Davis, who was born September 1, 1820, and married our subject on the 22d of June, 1837. Eleven children graced their union. Angeline died and was buried in Long Creek Township; Melissa, who also died, was laid to rest in White Water, Wis.; Sarah is the wife of James Wilson, who is living in Decatur; Annie is the wife of David Foster, also of Decatur; Mollie is deceased and sleeps in Mt. Zion Cemetery; Bessie is the wife of A. Hodge, a resident of Mt. Zion Township; George is living in Mt. Zion Township; John makes his home in California; and the other children died in early childhood. Mr. Jones has two grandchildren, who have lived with him since small children, Walter Speneer aged fifteen, and Mary aged thirteen, the children of his daughter Melissa and her



husband, John F. Ames, both of whom are deceased. They have two sisters, Cora and Anna.

Mrs. Jones is a sister of Hon. John Davis, member of Congress from Kansas, who was reared in Macon County. Her parents were Joseph and Sarah (Myers) Davis, natives of Daviess County, Ky., who settled in Sangamon County, Ill., in 1825, and in 1830 came to Macon County, during the winter of the deep snow. They settled in Long Creek Township, where he died in 1880, aged eighty-two. His wife had died several years before, aged seventy-five. They had reared a family of seven children, one of whom is Lydia, Mrs. John Kiser, of Decatur, and another is Henry Davis, a liveryman, also of Decatur.

Mr. Jones started out in life without money or influence to aid him in its battles, and all his success therefore is due entirely to his own efforts. His industry, perseverance and honesty have made his career a prosperous one, and at one time he was the owner of some six hundred acres of valuable farming land, but as the children grew and started out in life for themselves he not only gave them excellent advice and counsel, but divided with them his property. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jones are worthy and consistent members of the Presbyterian Church, and, in politics, he is a Democrat. Together these worthy people have traveled life's journey for more than half a century. They are now numbered among the oldest settlers of this community and are justly classed among its best citizens, their lives having been honorable and upright and a benefit to the world.



**I**SAAC SHELLABARGER, who has been one of the leaders in business circles and interests of Decatur, and has been prominent and influential in many public affairs, is now living a retired life at No. 453 North Franklin Street. A native of the Keystone State, his birth occurred in Cumberland County March 3, 1815. The family is of Swiss origin, and was founded in America by Martin

Schallenger, who crossed the Atlantic in 1770. During the residence of the family in Pennsylvania the English-speaking people pronounced the name Shellabarger and when Martin learned to write the English language he used the spelling that is now given. The parents of our subject, Isaac and Christina (Kaufman) Shellabarger, were both natives of Pennsylvania. The father of the former served as a teamster in the Revolutionary War, Isaac followed milling in Cumberland County on Conodoguinet Creek. He there died in 1852, at the age of seventy-two years. His wife was called to her final rest in 1839, at the age of sixty years. In the family were five sons and four daughters, namely: Jacob, Mary, David, Elizabeth, Christina, Ann, Martin, Isaac and John. Our subject has now only one brother and one sister living. Christina is the widow of Martin Shellabarger and is now living near Mansfield, Ohio, at the age of eighty-two years; Ann is the widow of Armstrong Black and resides in Newville, Cumberland County, Pa., at the age of eighty; Mary, wife of David Bowers, died in Belleville, Ohio, in 1892. She was the mother of William Bowers, of Decatur.

The subject of this sketch is the second youngest of the family and is now in his seventy-ninth year. During his boyhood he spent much of his time in his father's mill in Cumberland County. He conned his lessons in the old-time log schoolhouse, sitting upon a slab bench, and when his education was completed he engaged in teaching school. When a young man of twenty he, in 1836, with his brother John came to Illinois on horseback. Together they entered about one hundred and sixty acres of land, mostly timber, in Macon County, a part of which Mr. Shellabarger still owns. In those early days he had little means and had to work hard to secure a start, but as he increased his finances he made judicious investments in land, until his possessions now aggregate six hundred and forty acres. He has also given a considerable amount to the Indianapolis Railroad. After coming to the county, however, and entering his land, he did not make a permanent location until 1852, when he brought his family in a carriage to the home which has since been their place of residence.

On the 24th of January, 1846, Mr. Shellabarger was united in marriage with Miss Mary Ann Weaver, daughter of Michael and Mary (Riegelman) Weaver. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania, born of German parentage, and a soldier in the War of 1812. Her mother was of German and French descent. In religious belief they were Lutherans, and both died in Pennsylvania. Six children were born unto our subject and his wife: Alice Carey, now the wife of Dr. E. C. Hall, of Decatur, by whom she has one child, Isaac Shellabarger Cortney; Anna Laura, who became the wife of William Hunt, of Springfield, Ohio, who died in Wichita, Kan., in 1879, leaving a son, Shella Leigh; John, who died in childhood; Frank, who also died in early childhood; Helen Augusta, wife of Ernest William Cooke, of Liverpool, England, now of Spokane, Wash., by whom she has one son, Wilfred Stewart; and Frances Virginia, wife of Charles S. Cairns, of Minneapolis. Minn. They have two sons, Millard Shellabarger and Carl Albert.

As before stated, Mr. Shellabarger has long been identified with the business interests of Decatur. He engaged in the lumber business for some years, and he first bought lumber in Chicago, shipping it by canal and then hauling it from Springfield and Bloomington by wagon to this place. After a time he formed a partnership with his nephew, D. S. Shellabarger, and purchased a large flouring mill, which is now operated by the firm of D. S. Shellabarger & Sons. Our subject was connected with that business many years, building up a fine trade; he also assisted John Leidigh in the lumber business at various points in Kansas, carrying on trade in that line in Topeka and Wichita. His partner's health failing, which necessitated his removal to Colorado, Mr. Shellabarger afterwards established A. W. Oliver in business at Wichita, and the latter became a wealthy man. He afterwards bought an interest in the mill in Wichita built by his nephews, William Bowers & D. S. Shellabarger. He became president of the company and managed the business for some years, but at length sold his interest. During all this time he never left his home in Decatur. He retired from active life about twenty years ago,

although he did not dispose of his interests in Wichita until 1892.

In early life, Mr. Shellabarger was a Whig and supported that party until its dissolution, when he joined the ranks of the new Republican party, of which he has since been a stalwart advocate. Our subject has aided in establishing in successful business a number of his nephews, together with other parties. He is a man of excellent executive and business ability, and his good judgment and keen foresight, combined with well-directed efforts, have brought him a high degree of prosperity. Whatever he undertakes he carries forward to a successful completion. Deterred by no obstacles, but overcoming by perseverance and industry the difficulties in his path, he has worked his way steadily upward to a position of wealth and affluence, and through it all has maintained the respect and high regard of those with whom he has been brought in contact. He occupies one of the most handsome residences in the city.



**D**ANIEL MOORE, who is engaged in the cooperage business in Decatur, is one of the honored veterans of the late war, well deserving of a representation in the history of his adopted county. He was born in Lebanon, Pa., October 18, 1837, and when a year old was taken to Youngstown, Westmoreland County, Pa., by his parents. His father, John Moore, who was a cooper, came from Germany and settled in Baltimore, Md. He took part in the War of 1812, and had the honor of sending eight sons to the defense of the Union in the Civil War, viz.: Benjamin, Cornelius and George, who were three-months men; William, Daniel, John, Alexander and James served for three years; and John and Alexander re-enlisted and served until the close of the war. Alexander endured as great hardships as any soldier in the service, having been a prisoner at the infamous Belle Isle. When he was being taken to Andersonville, he cut his way through



the car floor with a penknife, and after much suffering and hairbreadth escapes he found the Union lines near the Big Muddy River, just above Cincinnati. Here he met Mr. Grant, the father of Gen. Grant, and he was made the recipient of \$20 in greenbacks by the old gentleman. He was in the engagement at Gettysburg, and was again captured and paroled. He was with Grant all through the campaign of the Wilderness and was seriously wounded at Petersburg, the effects of which, together with his other sufferings, have made him an invalid for life, he being now a helpless paralytic, living at McGregor, Iowa. John C. was chosen as sharp-shooter on account of his superior marksmanship, serving as such during the war, and he was twice seriously wounded. He is now living at Latrobe, Pa. On the 10th of March, 1856, our subject's father came to Decatur, where eight years before his brother William had opened a cooper-shop. It was located at the corner of Jefferson and Main Streets, and was the first one in the city. William Moore came to Illinois in 1846, locating in Pekin. He was there married, and in 1848 came to this city, where he remained until 1865. He is now a resident of Benton, Tenn.

When the subject of this sketch started out in life for himself, he worked in a brickyard for one summer, and then entered his brother's cooper-shop, where he served a regular apprenticeship. He was employed in that line of business until entering the service of his country, July 16, 1862, as a member of Company G, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry. He remained in camp until September, and with his company then went to Cairo, and from there to Memphis, after which he participated in the Tallahatchie campaign. When a boy his heel was injured, and on this account he could not stand the long marches, so he was detailed to serve in the regiment hospital by Surgeon Barnes. His regiment was in the battle of Walnut Hills, where he cared for the sick, and in the engagement of Arkansas Post. He remained with his command all through the Vicksburg and Atlanta campaigns, serving as nurse in the regimental hospital. He assisted Dr. Barnes in the field hospital at Chickamauga, and subsequently he placed all the hospital supplies upon a boat and

floated them down the river. About thirty miles from Larkinsville, Ala., he was stopped and was forced to carry the supplies overland to that place, where he remained until the following spring. He was with the regiment during all the Atlanta campaign in its marches and battles, caring for the sick and wounded. During the march to the sea he was detailed to act in the division hospital headquarters. Many rebel soldiers were received into the hospital, but the blue and the gray were all treated alike. When the war was over, our subject participated in the Grand Review at Washington, and later, returning to Springfield, was mustered out of the service.

On again reaching home Mr. Moore resumed work at his trade, being thus employed for eight years. In 1873 he started in business for himself, buying out his old employer. For the business and stock he paid \$2,000, from which beginning his trade has constantly increased. He now employs some twenty men, and turns out from four to five hundred barrels per day. His is the only exclusive coopering shop in Decatur. As he turns out only first-class work, he has been able to secure a liberal patronage and build up a thriving business. Mr. Moore owns a lot with a frontage of eighty feet, where his factory now stands, together with a neat residence and some other real estate in this city.

Mr. Moore was united in marriage December 22, 1859, with Miss Elizabeth Culver, daughter of Isaac Watts and Jane L. Culver. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Moore, Philip Dickinson Williams, came from Virginia to Illinois with a colony of settlers about 1825, and entered land east of Decatur, now known as the Spangler Farm. He built the first house in Decatur—a hewed-log house, one-story high, and consisting of one room. It was located on the corner of East Main and South Water Streets. The second house was built by James Renshaw on North Main, where the Arcade now stands. Mr. Williams came from Virginia in a "Virginia schooner" and was six weeks on the road. The first manufacturing institution erected in Decatur was a mill built by him, a two-story and a-half frame building, including the dome, and from this dome it took the name "The



Round 'Top Mill.'" The machinery was mostly located on the second story, and was run by horse power. Here the neighbors brought their corn and wheat to be ground into meal and flour. The first schoolhouse erected in Decatur was located on West Main, near the location of Dr. Cassidy Chenoweth's residence. It was a hewed-log house, and in it school was opened in the spring of 1831 by the first teacher, a gentleman whose name was Daniel McCall. Mr. Williams taught school in this building for a number of years, and was the first Justice of the Peace, his office being in his home. He married Miss Jane Bryant, also a native of Virginia. He was one of the most prominent and influential citizens of the county in an early day, and is numbered among its honored pioneers. Mr. Culver, the father of Mrs. Moore, was a contractor and builder and a native of Ohio. He died when his daughter was only ten years old. Mrs. Culver was brought to Decatur when a babe of six months, and is still living in this city. Three of her children are living. Elmer is engaged in the grocery business in Decatur; and Aurilla J. is the wife of Frank Blain, a druggist of this city. One son, Silas Culver, enlisted at the age of sixteen years as a drummer in the late war, and served for three years. He died of consumption at the age of thirty-three.

Our subject has been blessed with a large family, who have been trained from the beginning in such a manner as to be of much help to the parents as well as to themselves. All the sons are working with their father at a salary, the same as strangers. A unique feature in the character of Mr. Moore is the fact that he never exacts anything from his children without an equivalent, and he expects the same of them. The eldest, Viola, died in July, 1885, at the age of twenty-three years and eleven months; Laura, the second daughter, married November 16, 1892, in her twenty-sixth year, Robert McGarrahan, of East St. Louis, an engineer on the Wabash Railroad; Daniel was born June 9, 1870; Edward was born August 11, 1872; Ettie, September 28, 1874; Roy, November 30, 1877; and Elizabeth, the youngest, April 30, 1881. The children are all at home with the exceptions mentioned. All who have the pleasure of meeting them are of

one expression, "What a charming family!" Mr. Moore and wife are both most generously disposed, and though of clear ideas and definite in business pursuits, yet whatever they see is for the advancement of society in its literary and historical development they heartily enter into. It is a pleasure to present them to our readers.

Mr. Moore is a prominent member of the Odd Fellows' society, and was the first Noble Grand of Progress Lodge of the Rebecca Chapter. He has served as representative of the Encampment, and was representative to the Grand Lodge for four years. He is also a member of Decatur Post No. 141, G. A. R. Although his injury did not permit him to participate in all the battles in which his regiment engaged, he was none the less a valiant and faithful soldier, and he saw much hard service. He is an enterprising and active business man, and has the confidence and good-will of all with whom he has come in contact.



**M**RS. ELIZABETH TURPIN has long been a resident of Macon County, and is well deserving of representation in its history. She was born in South Carolina on the 22d of March, 1810, and is a daughter of James and Fanny (Benison) Wallace, who were natives of Abbeyville County, S. C. When their daughter was not quite five years old, they removed with their family to Franklin County, Ind., by team, and in the midst of the dense forest of birch and poplar trees the father cleared and developed a farm, upon which he made his home for four years. He then removed to Henry County, Ky., whence he came to Illinois in 1821, becoming one of the earliest settlers of Sangamon County. He located on Government land and opened up a farm, upon which he made his home until his death, at the age of forty-five years. The mother afterwards bought the land and resided there about one year, but later deeded it to her two sons. Their children were: John, who served in the Black Hawk War as a mu-

sician and afterwards as Captain, and died in this county; William, who died in Arkansas; Rosanna, wife of Randall Davis, of Long Creek Township; Mrs. Elizabeth Turpin; Sarah, who died in her twenty-second year; Melinda, who became the wife of William Hawks and is deceased, as is also her husband; Isaae, twin brother of Melinda, who died in Arkansas; James, who died in Long Creek Township; Samuel, who died in Shelby County; and Naney, who died in Kentucky when an infant.

Mrs. Turpin was a child of only eleven summers when the family came to Illinois, and was a young lady of twenty-two when she came to Macon County. She was reared to industrious and frugal habits, and learned to spin and weave as well as to perform the other duties of the household. In 1835, she became the wife of Edmon Turpin, who was born in Grayson County, Ky., in 1809, and when a young man emigrated to this county. He learned the brick-maker's trade, but after his marriage settled on Big Creek, in Mt. Zion Township, and began the development of a farm. There he made his home for eight years, after which he removed to the prairie. Later Mr. Turpin started for Oregon, but on reaching St. Jo he was taken sick, and so returned to Illinois. From that time until his death he continued to reside upon the farm, and made it one of the valuable and desirable places of the community. His death occurred May 23, 1879, at the age of seventy years. He was a successful business man, and had the respect of all who knew him.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Turpin were born the following children: Amanda, wife of Joseph Blythe, a farmer of Long Creek Township; Susan, wife of William Balch, who died in Kansas in December, 1892; Melinda, who died at the age of five years; Emily, who is at home; and Hulda, who is the wife of Joseph Roby, and is living on a part of the old farm.

Mrs. Turpin is numbered among the pioneer settlers of the State, where she has made her home for more than seventy years. She did trading in Springfield in a little log cabin store, which was the only mereantile establishment in the place. She came to Macon County before it was organized, and has therefore witnessed its entire growth and

development. When she first came here the place contained a few log cabins, with one little store, in which there were but three pieces of calico and but a small stock of other goods.



CHARLES F. WISE, a prominent citizen and a retired farmer of Boody, came from Germany. Born in Saxony, on the 9th of November, 1822, he is a son of John C. and Sophia (Bosehwitz) Wise. The first fifteen years of his life were spent in his native land, during which time his mother's death occurred. The father then brought the children, Charles F. and a sister older than our subject, to America. For thirty-nine days they were upon the bosom of the Atlantic, but at length safely arrived at New York, whence they went to St. Louis, locating soon after in St. Clair County, Ill., where the father followed his trade of shoe-making for ten years.

In his native land Charles Wise received excellent educational privileges and became familiar with not only his mother tongue, but the Latin, Greek and French languages as well. After coming to the New World, he obtained no educational advantages in the English language, but through his own efforts he managed to gain a knowledge of our tongue, and has become a man of wide information, who keeps himself well posted on all general affairs. With his father he learned the shoe-maker's trade, which he followed for a number of years.

At the age of twenty-seven, in St. Clair County, Ill., was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Wise and Miss Henrietta Puteh, a native of Germany, who came to this country on the same vessel on which her future husband made the voyage. Their union was blessed with a family of eleven children, eight of whom are still living, four of the number being now residents of Blue Mound Township, while the remaining four reside in Nebraska. With the exception of two all are now married. Charles, the eldest, is a farmer of Nebraska; Otto



is living in Blue Mound Township; Sophia is at home; Barney is an agriculturist of Nebraska; Richard follows carpentering in Boody; Theodore is living in Blue Mound Township; and Edward makes his home in the West.

In 1863, Mr. Wise, accompanied by his family, left St. Clair County, and came to Macon County, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 22, Blue Mound Township, for \$11 per acre. Owing to the natural rise in value and to the many excellent improvements that have been placed upon the farm, the land is now worth \$80 per acre and yields to the owner a good income. For more than a quarter of a century, he there carried on agricultural pursuits, and was very successful in his undertakings, his farm becoming one of the best and most desirable in the locality, but at length he determined to lay aside agricultural pursuits, and in 1890 he removed to the village of Boody, where he has since lived a retired life. His rest is well earned, for it comes after years of arduous labor and unrelenting toil.

In politics, Mr. Wise is a Republican. For nine years he served as School Director, and for four years filled the office of Assessor. He is highly esteemed for his sterling worth, and with pleasure we give him a place in the history of his adopted county.



**H**ENRY SMULL, a retired farmer now residing in Macon County, is a native of the Keystone State. He was born in Centre County, Pa., February 23, 1842, and is a son of Peter and Mary (Waggoner) Smull, who were also born in Pennsylvania. The latter was of German descent. The paternal grandfather of our subject was a hero of the Revolution. He left the Old Country to avoid entering the army, and arrived in the United States just in time to aid the Colonists in their struggle for independence. For seven years he participated in the Revolution. The father of our subject was born

February 27, 1796, and died in February, 1869, being buried in Rock Grove, Stephenson County, Ill. His wife, who was born February 4, 1801, died and was buried in the same place in September, 1878. Mr. Smull was always a supporter of the Democratic party. He was a mechanic, and always followed the occupation of farming. He came to Illinois when Henry was a lad of twelve years, and located upon a farm in Stephenson County, where he spent his remaining days.

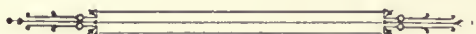
Our subject there grew to manhood, and in the public schools acquired a good education. At the age of eighteen, he began working by the month as a farm hand, and was thus employed for five years. Between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-three he also followed carpentering. As a companion and helpmate on life's journey, he chose Miss Lizzie, daughter of John S. and Catherine Smith. She was born August 23, 1846, in Stephenson County, and their marriage was there celebrated November 4, 1864. They began their domestic life in that county, and there continued to reside until 1875, when they came to Shelby County, where Mr. Smull purchased eighty acres of land. He still owns his farm of one hundred and twenty acres. To its cultivation and improvement he devoted his energies until 1891, when he determined to lay aside business cares and remove to Macon, where he has purchased property and erected a pleasant home. Here he expects to spend his remaining days in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Smull were born six children: William, who was born in Stephenson County, November 21, 1865, and with his wife and two children lives on the home farm in Shelby County; Henry A., who was born in Stephenson County, in December, 1867, and with his wife and child lives on the homestead farm; Bertha C., who was born in Stephenson County, September 7, 1872; Lizzie E., born in Shelby County, July 28, 1876; Charles C., born in Shelby County, February 24, 1879; and Pet, who was born in Shelby County, March 22, 1883, and died on the 25th of the same month.

Mr. Smull is independent in politics. He has never been an office-seeker, in fact, has always



avoided office, and though twice elected Justice of the Peace, refused to serve. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church, and the family is one widely and favorably known, for their excellencies of character have gained them high regard. Mr. Snull is a self-made man, and the competency which he has acquired is the reward of his own efforts.



**R**EV. MONTGOMERY M. GOODWIN, who is now rector of St. John's Episcopal Church of Decatur, but will soon accept a call from St. Luke's Church, in Ypsilanti, Mich., is widely known as a prominent member of the Episcopal clergy, and it is with pleasure that we present to our readers this record of his life. He was born in Geneva, N. Y., December 19, 1858, and is a descendant of the Earl of Goodwin, of the fifteenth century, who is prominent in English history. The family was founded in New England at an early day, and numbers among its members such men of prominence as Dr. Goodwin, of Chicago; Dr. Goodwin, of Philadelphia; and Dr. Hannibal Goodwin, of Newark, N. J.

The father of our subject, the Hon. William H. Goodwin, D. D., LL. D., was a native of New York, and became a leader in the Methodist Church, of which he was a minister for many years. He was graduated from Genesee College with the degree of A. M., the degree of LL. D. was conferred by Hobart College, and that of D. D. by Dickinson College. He served as State Senator of New York from the Twenty-ninth District, and in 1866 was elected Regent of the State University, a life position. As such he had part in the supervision of the educational interests of the State and of the State Library. He was an intimate friend of the Hon. Charles J. Folger, by whom he was nominated for the Senate and for Regent, and who succeeded Dr. Goodwin in the former position. The father of our subject died February 17, 1876, at his home in Dryden Springs,

N. Y. He was one of nature's noblemen, and his prominence was won by the highest merit.

Rev. Montgomery Goodwin, whose name heads this record, attended Cazenovia Seminary, and Syracuse University of New York, from which he was graduated in the Class of '81, with the degree of B. A. Three years later he took the post-graduate course and received the degree of A. M. He was President of the class during a part of the time, and was Class Orator in the senior year. Wishing to enter the ministry, he became a student in the theological department of Harvard University, and was graduated in the Class of '84 with the degree of S. T. B. In November of the same year, he was ordained as an Episcopal minister in Camden, N. Y., by the Rt. Rev. F. D. Huntington, S. T. D.

On the 22d of November, 1884, Mr. Goodwin was united in marriage with Miss Dora B. Cromwell, who was living in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, at the time of her marriage, but is a native of the Empire State. Their union has been blessed with one son, Montgomery M., Jr., now a bright lad of seven summers. Mr. Goodwin and his wife have made many friends in the communities where they have resided, and have gained the high regard of all with whom they have been brought in contact.

The first parish over which the Rev. Mr. Goodwin presided was in Norwich, N. Y. In 1885 he became Rector of Emmanuel Church, and was its pastor five years. He found a beautiful stone church, with a seating capacity of seven hundred, but it had a debt upon it of \$16,000. During his pastorate there Mr. Goodwin entirely raised the debt and doubled the membership. Entirely unsolicited by him, he received a call from St. John's Church, of Decatur, and accepted it and became its pastor on the 6th of January, 1889. The property was a wooden chapel and the membership was about two hundred. Through the untiring efforts of the Rev. Mr. Goodwin a beautiful red sandstone church has been erected at a cost of \$40,000. It has a seating capacity of six hundred and is said to be one of the finest in the State, both as regards the exterior and the interior. About one hundred members have been

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



FRANK MOSER

MRS. FRANK MOSER



added to the congregation. The church is thoroughly organized, has about eight good working societies, and is in a thriving condition. A fine pipe organ has been purchased at a cost of \$4,000.

Mr. Goodwin is a prominent Mason, probably being the only Thirty-third Degree Mason in this part of the State. He took that degree in the Valley of New York. He has been Commander-in-Chief of the Consistory, and is now Prelate of Beaumanoir Commandery. Mr. Goodwin is a member of the standing committee of the diocese, which is composed of six members, three clergymen and three laymen. In politics he is a stalwart Republican. He is a man of fine personal appearance, self-possessed, and his eloquence and logic have made him a power in the pulpit. He is a worthy representative of the talented family to which he belongs, and his loss to St. John's Church will be deeply regretted, not only by his members but by many outside of his congregation.



**F**RANK MOSER, who owns and operates one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 18, Decatur Township, one mile east of Decatur, on Williams Street, is one of the representative farmers of the community. He has a good home, and the neat and thrifty appearance of the place indicates that the owner is a practical and progressive man, who carefully supervises his farm. His residence is a substantial one, and it is supplemented by all the necessary buildings. The many improvements and the well-tilled fields make this one of the valuable and desirable places in the neighborhood.

Mr. Moser is a native of Germany. He was born in Baden on the 16th of September, 1843, and is a son of Joseph and Josepha (Beirly) Moser. The father spent his entire life in the village of Kappel, where he controlled a vineyard. He also served in the German army. His death occurred

when our subject was a lad of eleven years, but his wife survived until 1881, dying at the age of eighty-one years. Both were members of the Catholic Church. Their family numbered nine children: Frederick, who died in Germany; Connel, a farmer of Summerville, N. J.; George, who died in 1890; Frank, of this sketch; Celia, Francisca and Barbara, who live in Germany; and Joseph and Josepha, who died in infancy.

In his parents' home Mr. Moser spent the days of his boyhood and youth, and, in accordance with the laws of his native land, attended school between the ages of six and fourteen years. During his boyhood he was employed in his father's vineyard and worked hard. He remained at home until twenty-three years of age, and in 1867 he started for the New World on a vessel which sailed from Havre, and after seventeen days reached the harbor of New York, having experienced some severe weather.

Mr. Moser at once began work in New Jersey, obtaining his situation in three days. He spent two years in that State, and on the 3d of May, 1869, in Newark, N. J., he married Miss Julia Donner, who was born in West Prussia, and when a young lady of nineteen years came to America. Their union was blessed with the following children: Frederick, Joseph, George; William, who died at the age of a year and a-half; Annie Mary and Mary; Frank (who is deceased) and Miller, twins; Julia; Eddie, who died at the age of four; Charles, also deceased; Albert, Lewis, Clara, Minnie, Rosa Louisa, Bertha, John and Margarette. The children were all born and reared in this county, and have been educated in English and German in the public and parochial schools, and so far none have left the parental home.

It was in 1870 that Mr. Moser started for the West, and after three weeks he went to Decatur, where he worked in a foundry for three years, after which he spent a year and a-half as an employe in a furniture factory. During the succeeding three years he worked in an iron foundry, and for seven years carried on a dairy. He at first had but one cow, but his business steadily increased and he afterward kept fifty cows. He met with good success during his career in Decatur,

and, aside from so rapidly increasing his business, he bought a lot and erected a house in the city. About nine years ago he removed to the farm, and has since successfully carried on agricultural pursuits. He cast his first Presidential vote for Gen. Grant, and has since voted with the Democratic party. Himself and family are members of the Catholic Church.



**HON. WILLIAM B. CHAMBERS**, ex-Mayor of Deatur, is one of the prominent citizens of the county seat of Macon County. On several different occasions he has filled the executive chair of the city, and for many years he has been connected with its educational interests. He is one of the stockholders in the Chambers-Bering-Quinlan Company, proprietors of the largest agricultural implement works in the city.

Mr. Chambers was born near Ithaca, N. Y., in Caroline Township, Tompkins County, March 16, 1838. Four months after his birth his father, William H. H. Chambers, removed with his family to Kane County, Ill. The Chambers family was one of the old Dutch families of the Empire State. In New York, Mr. Chambers married Adeline Booth, who came of an old English family. After their removal Westward they spent a short time upon a farm twelve miles west of St. Charles, and then, in 1842, went to Batavia, Ill., where the father worked at his trade of wagon-making until his death, which occurred at the age of sixty-six years. The family numbered six children.

The subject of this sketch resided in Batavia until 1855, when, at the age of seventeen years, he went to Mendota, Ill., where he was employed as clerk in a general store. In 1857 he embarked in the hardware business, which he carried on until 1862, when he sold out and engaged as traveling salesman for Barber & Hawley, of Pekin, Ill., manufacturers of agricultural implements. In 1863,

when Barber & Hawley removed to Deatur, our subject accompanied them. His employers failed in 1867, and Mr. Chambers assisted in settling up the business. By this time, he aspired to set up a business of his own, and was joined by two wealthy and well-known citizens of Deatur, Mr. Bering and Mr. Quinlan. A partnership was formed by the three gentlemen in 1876, for the purpose of manufacturing agricultural implements. They were the first to manufacture the wire check rower and soon became leaders in their line, particularly in check rowers and corn planters. In 1882, the partnership was changed into a stock company, and incorporated under the name of the Chambers-Bering-Quinlan Company. The stockholders are Messrs. Chambers, Bering and Quinlan, who were the former partners, and they are successfully engaged in the manufacture of a full line of corn planters, check rowers, hay loaders and side delivery hay rakes. They employ one hundred and seventy-five men, and do a constantly increasing business. This industry stands at the head of Deatur's enterprises.

On Christmas Day of 1857, our subject married Miss Adelia Guiles, daughter of Daniel D. Guiles, a merchant of Mendota. Unto them have been born three children. Annie, the eldest, is the wife of Albert Barnes, manager of the Macon County Abstract and Title Company; Cora is the wife of L. L. Rhee, a prominent young citizen of Deatur; Jennie is now attending St. Mary's School, in Knoxville, Ill.

In politics, Mr. Chambers is a Republican and warmly advocates the principles of his party. For twelve years he has served on the School Board. In 1876 he was first elected Mayor of the city and was re-elected the following year. In 1888 he was elected for a two-years term, and in 1891 was again called to the same office for a similar length of time. The people of Deatur gave him their trust and found it was not betrayed, for in all possible ways he advanced the best interests of the city and carefully looked after its welfare. He is a man of excellent judgment, sincere, generous, modest, yet withal manly. He is one of Deatur's most popular as well as highly respected citizens.



JOHN M. RAINEY, who is now living a retired life in the city of Deatur, was born in Randolph County, Ill., in February, 1822. He is a representative of one of the pioneer families of the State. His parents were Isaac and Elizabeth (Waggoner) Rainey. His father, who was a native of South Carolina, moved to Georgia, near Milledgeville, and thence to Tennessee, and from that State entered the War of 1812. He participated in the battle of Horseshoe Bend, on the Coosa River, in Alabama. This will be remembered as the last and most sanguinary battle fought with the Creek Indians, who are known as the most formidable and brutal of the Indian tribes. Immediately after enlisting, he started to report for duty at Fayetteville, Tenn., and while on his way he passed by Ft. Mimms, where the great massacre had occurred. He saw men, women and children hanging indiscriminately on fence stakes, writhing in the utmost pain and agony. The Indians, having sharpened the stakes, thrust them through their victims' bodies, pinioning them and leaving them to die a lingering and horrible death. The Ensign of the regiment had entered the service out of a spirit of vengeance, on account of the slaughter of his whole family, but was also killed while waiting for Gen. Coffee to reinforce them prior to the charge upon the works at Horseshoe Bend. He came into camp after he had been shot, saying: "Boys, they have given it to me," and then sank down and died on the ground.

After the war was over and peace declared, desiring to seek a home elsewhere, Mr. Rainey came to Illinois, in 1818, and voted at the first election for the admission of Illinois into the Union as a State. He followed the occupation of farming, and ere his death he reached the advanced age of nearly four-score years. In the usual manner of farmer lads the subject of our sketch spent the days of his boyhood and youth. When about nine years of age he accompanied his parents to St. Clair County, Ill., the family locating near Belleville. At the age of twenty years, John Rainey, with hopefulness of spirit and vigor of body and mind, began life for himself and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, oper-

ating land which he had secured from the Government about twenty miles southeast of Belleville. He continued his residence in St. Clair County until 1869, and he placed his farm under a high state of cultivation, making many improvements upon it.

The year 1869 witnessed our subject's arrival in Deatur. Previous to this time he was married, in 1863, to Miss Mary Anna Challenor, a native of England, born in Liverpool July 27, 1838. Her father, Thomas Challenor, of Belleville, Ill., belongs to one of the noble families of Wales. One member of his family was honored with a seat in the House of Commons, but, on account of their opposition to the oppressive "Corn Laws" and their advocacy of the principles of liberty, Mr. Challenor and his friends were condemned to be banished to Van Dieman's Land. Anticipating his arrest, however, he fled to America, preferring "to crusade for Freedom in Freedom's holy land." As a proof that he was in earnest he enlisted in the late war and remained in the service until the flag floated triumphantly over the entire nation. He participated in many of the great battles, and, though wounded several times, he was always found at the front until mustered out of the service at the close of the war. The manner of his entering the service is remarkable, and shows the confidence reposed in him by his neighbors. At the call for volunteers the citizens of Belleville organized a company and sent word to Mr. Challenor that they had chosen him Captain, so that he arose from a civilian to be Captain, and from this position to Major, and he now lives among his old comrades who returned from the weary march and strife.

During her early childhood Mrs. Rainey came to America. By their union have been born four children, two sons and two daughters, as follows: Florence, Anna E., John C. and Lewis T. The family circle yet remains unbroken and the children are still under the parental roof. The father is a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, and his wife is a member of the Episcopal Church. Before his removal to Deatur Mr. Rainey had purchased land in Macon County. After coming here he bought the St. Clair Mill, in the city,



which he operated for a few years, and then removed it to Kansas, and operated it at Ft. Dodge, but sold it some ten years since. He is now enjoying the fruits of his former toil. A good income is yielded him by his acquisitions, which in land amount to at least seven hundred acres, within a few miles of Decatur. He is associated with his son John C. in the Hickory Point Stock Farm, where they make a specialty of draft horses. Besides this Mr. Rainey owns several valuable residences and other city property in Decatur, and large landed interests in the West, and thus rightfully is considered one of the leading spirits of Macon County.

In politics Mr. Rainey is a supporter of Democratic principles, and warmly advocates the measures of that party, but has never been a politician in the sense of desiring public office. His entire life has been passed in Illinois, and for almost a quarter of a century he has made his home in Decatur. He is a good citizen, a man of sterling worth, and himself and wife have many warm friends throughout this community.



**W**ILLIAM B. CORMAN, traveling agent for the F. B. Tait & Co. Check Rower, makes his home in Decatur. A native of Illinois, he was born in Jonesboro, Union County, February 8, 1848. His father, Abram B. Corman, was a native of Pennsylvania, and his mother, who bore the maiden name of Caroline C. Sharp, was born in Columbus, Ohio. They became the parents of four children, two sons and two daughters, but two died in infancy, and Sarah died at the age of five years. The mother, who was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was called to her final rest in 1863, at the age of thirty-five years. Her father, William Sharp, was a native of Ohio, and died in De Soto, Ill., at an advanced age. He was a Methodist minister and used to travel with Peter Cartwright when the latter did circuit-riding. The paternal grandfather of our subject

was born in Pennsylvania and there followed farming throughout his entire life. His father was a native of Germany and was the founder of the family in America.

Abram Corman survived his wife until November, 1891, when he lost his life by being thrown out of a wagon and breaking his neck. During the late war he served as one of the boys in blue of the Fifty-fourth Illinois Infantry, and was discharged on account of disability. He was a carpenter and also learned the baker's trade in Ohio. About 1837 he came to Illinois, and drove a peddler's wagon through the State before the day of railroads. In this way he sold goods for Deshon & Provost, of Jonesboro, then the county seat of Union County. In 1854, on the building of the railroads, he took a contract to board railroad hands while the Illinois Central was being constructed. While working near De Soto, an engine was brought up the Mississippi River on a flatboat in pieces, unloaded and taken through the brush to the tracks and there put together. It was one of the first used by the Illinois Central. While at De Soto a number of hands got into a fight and several were killed. Some of the participants were arrested, tried and sent to the penitentiary. The family made their home in De Soto until 1857, when they became residents of Jacksonville. Mr. Corman then acted as foreman of the carpenter department until 1860, when he returned to De Soto and located upon a farm, where he made his home until 1862, when he enlisted in the army. The following year his wife and family returned to Jacksonville, and there Mrs. Corman died.

Our subject had accompanied his parents on their various removals up to this time, but he now started out in life for himself. In the fall of 1863 he went to Decatur and for one season worked on a farm in Macon County. He then went to Murphysboro, Ill., and in the spring of 1865 began serving as teamster in connection with the Commissary Department of the Federal Government in Nashville, Tenn. After the war he remained in Nashville for some time, and then spent about four months in De Soto. In 1868 he again came to Decatur, where he has since made his home. Securing a position as salesman in a dry-goods

store, he was thus employed until 1872, after which he acted as agent for the Singer Sewing Machine Company for two years.

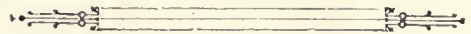
On the 12th of November, 1873, Mr. Corman was united in marriage with Miss Mary W. Skinner, a native of this State and a daughter of George W. and Minerva J. (Beckwith) Skinner, the former a native of Clark County, Ky., and the latter of Breckenridge County, Ky. Three children have been born unto Mr. and Mrs. Corman, all sons, William H. H., S. Wilbur and Earl Washington. The parents are both members of the Methodist Church, and Mr. Corman is a member of Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T. He also belongs to the Iowa State Traveling Men's Association. He has now traveled in the interest of the F. B. Tait Cheek Rower for twelve years and is a successful and popular salesman and a trusted agent of the company. He has had a successful business career, and is a pleasant, genial gentleman, who makes friends wherever he goes.



**A**BRAHAM L. GEPFORD AND CHARLES F. McELROY are the managers, owners and publishers of the *Blue Mound Leader*, of Blue Mound, Ill. They are wide-awake and enterprising young men, and the paper which they publish is not only a credit to themselves but to the city as well. In January, 1892, it was purchased by the present firm from Messrs. Spooner & Nicholls, Mr. Spooner having been its editor since 1887, and Mr. Nicholls for about six months.

Mr. Gepford also owns a hardware store in Findlay, Ill., and makes his home in that place, while Mr. McElroy is the resident partner and manager of the *Blue Mound Leader*. The latter is a young man of only seventeen years, but he has already had five years' experience in the newspaper business, and the paper which he publishes would do credit to many an older editor. He possesses the ambition and enterprise of youth, and these

are plainly shown in the bright and newsy columns of the *Leader*. This paper is independent in politics and is devoted to the interests of the community in which it is published, but it also gives a synopsis of the important events which transpire all over the country. The paper is published on Thursday of each week and has a circulation of about five hundred. Mr. McElroy well deserves success, and the energy and enterprise which seem to be among his leading characteristics will no doubt make for him a prosperous career.



**J**OSEPH BROWN carries on general farming on section 16, Illini Township. He was born in Kensington, Rockingham County, N. H., September 24, 1847. His father, grandfather and great-grandfather were all born on the same farm. Stephen Brown, the father, still holds the original deed to the homestead. In the old Granite State, Stephen Brown married Dolly, daughter of Reuben Batchelder. He came to Illinois in 1866, and spent about one year in Macon County, purchasing a half-section of land, which his sons now own and occupy. He then returned to his native State, and is now residing upon the old homestead, to the ownership of which he succeeded by inheritance. Although seventy-six years of age, he is still hale and hearty.

No event of special importance occurred during the boyhood of our subject, which was quietly passed under the parental roof. His early school privileges were supplemented by a year's study in the High School of Newburyport, Mass. It was in the spring of 1868 that he came West and joined his brother in Macon County, locating on the farm where he now resides. It was then wild prairie, but he soon plowed and planted it, and built a substantial residence, barn, carriage and tool house. A grove of maples surrounds the home, which is very pleasantly located about three miles southwest of Warrensburg.



On the 19th of January, 1871, Mr. Brown was united in marriage in Newburyport, Mass., with Emma D. Pettingell, a native of the Bay State, and a daughter of Capt. Richard Pettingell, who went to sea when a lad of ten years. For many years he sailed on the ocean, but is now living retired. In 1849, he went to California in search of gold. He has made fourteen voyages around Cape Horn and was captured June 3, 1863, during the late war by the rebel ship, "Georgia."

Mr. and Mrs. Brown have three sons: Forest P., Richard S. and Edward P. The eldest is a graduate of the Decatur Business College. They aid the father in carrying on the home farm, all being still under the parental roof.



**J**ACOB TROUTMAN, who is engaged in general farming on section 7, Decatur Township, was born on the 2d of October, 1848, in Fulton County, Ind. His father, Peter Troutman, was a native of Henry County, Ky., and in 1832, at the age of sixteen years, went to Indiana. The paternal grandfather, Michael Troutman, was a native of Scotland, who, having emigrated to America in Colonial days, served under Washington in the Revolutionary War and faithfully aided in the struggle for independence.

The father of our subject, after his removal to the Hoosier State, hewed out a farm in the midst of a heavy forest and devoted his time and attention to agricultural pursuits. He also engaged in the practice of medicine for twenty-five years, but on account of his health he was forced to abandon the profession. In Indiana he wedded Miss Mary, a daughter of Abraham Bruce, and a native of Pennsylvania. Her father, who was born in Germany, crossed the Atlantic and settled in the Keystone State, and from there went with his family to Indiana, becoming one of its early settlers. He was a farmer and millwright and became a wealthy man. The mother of our subject died in Macon County in 1869. His father is still living, and is

now engaged in the real-estate and loan business in Victor, Kan., where he has been living for twelve years. The members of the family are: Elizabeth Jane, wife of J. H. Cox, a farmer of Sunner, Kan.; Joseph, who served throughout the war as a member of the One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, participating in thirty-two battles, and who, after his return home, fell from a tree and broke his leg, which superinduced general debility and resulted in his death; Samuel, who was in the same regiment as his brother and went with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea, and who is now living in Bearsdale; Samuel, a farmer of Hickory Point Township; Phoebe, the wife of Jeremiah Miller, of Decatur; Jacob, who is the next in order of birth; Julia, the wife of Asa Gulick, who resides on the old Troutman Farm in Harristown Township; John, who is in Kansas with his father; and Levi, who died at the age of twenty years. All of the children were born in Indiana. The father was one of the prominent citizens of Fulton County, and is a self-made man, who by his own efforts has become well-to-do. Since a young man he has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and served as Class-leader and Superintendent of the Sunday-school for many years, and he and his family were the principal contributors to the building of the Sharon Church, he being the principal Trustee. Socially, he is a member of the Odd Fellows' society, and in politics is a Republican. He takes great interest in political affairs, and voted for "Hickory" Harrison and for his grandson, Benjamin, and is proud of it.

Mr. Troutman whose name heads this sketch was a lad of five years when he came to Illinois with the family. The journey was made by team, and on reaching their destination they took up their residence in a two-roomed log house with puncheon floor. Upon the old homestead our subject was reared to manhood, experiencing the hardships and trials of frontier life as well as its pleasures and privileges, such as are unknown at this day. He acquired a good education in the district schools of the neighborhood, and in Decatur. He early learned to swing the axe and cradle, and at the age of thirteen began following the old McCor-



mick Reaper, and later helped to turn the sod and haul logs for fencing purposes.

At the age of twenty-one, with one horse, Mr. Troutman began farming for himself where he now lives. He bought the farm when it was wild land, entirely unimproved. He now owns seventy acres and operates three hundred and sixty acres more. Upon his place is a good residence, together with substantial barns and all modern equipments and conveniences. In connection with agricultural pursuits he has served as Postmaster and Station Agent at Troutman since 1888. He keeps a stock of general merchandise at that place and also buys grain and stock.

On the 20th of September, 1876, Mr. Troutman married Miss Sarah, a daughter of Joel Morrison, and a native of Pennsylvania. Unto them have been born five children: Fred B., who has charge of the store in Troutman; Carrie, who died in infancy; Nora, Samuel J. and Minnie Jane, all at home. The parents are widely and favorably known in this community and are people of sterling worth, well deserving the high regard in which they are held. In politics, Mr. Troutman has been a Republican since casting his first Presidential vote for Grant. Socially, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen fraternity and the Masonic lodge. He has witnessed almost the entire growth and development of the county, has seen the wild lands transformed into beautiful homes and farms, has watched the introduction of railroads and all the other improvements known to civilization, and has taken an active and commendable interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community and its upbuilding.



**W**ILLIAM H. BRAMBLE is one of Macon County's honored pioneers, also a prominent architect, contractor, builder and inventor of Decatur. That he is a man of more than ordinary ability is a fact widely recognized, his inventive genius having placed him among the fore-

most men of the State. He was born in Piketon, Pike County, Ohio, September 19, 1821, and is the youngest of three children. James died in early childhood, and Rebecca is now the wife of Dr. Lyman, of Chicago. The father, Henry Bramble, was born and reared in Maryland, and there learned the stone-cutter's trade. When a young man he removed to Pike County, Ohio, where he worked at his trade for a time, and for a number of years engaged in keeping hotel in Chillicothe, Ohio. Later he carried on a hotel for a number of years, after which he removed to Delphi, Ind., where for some time he engaged in merchandising. His next venture was at farming. In connection with his son-in-law, he bought a large farm near La Fayette, Ind., but after several years sold his interest in it and purchased land elsewhere, making his home thereon until after his sons were both married. He then went to live with his son-in-law, Dr. Lyman, in whose home he passed away at the age of forty-six years. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Sarah Turner, was a native of the Buckeye State, and died in Chillicothe, Ohio, when William was quite a young child.

Mr. Bramble whose name heads this record spent his early life in his father's hotel and store. He attended school until about sixteen years of age and then went onto the farm with his father. He is a natural inventor, and his gift in this direction was shown in his early boyhood. While working in the fields he would think of some improvement on the farm implements, and go and embody his idea in material form, much to the detriment of the field which perchance he was weeding. When about fifteen years of age he invented a corn-planter, and when about twenty-one years of age, while lying in bed one night, he suddenly conceived the idea of making a grain scale that would receive, weigh and discharge the grain and add up the amount. This idea took complete possession of him. In order to carry out the invention he sold his farm, erected a hotel near La Fayette, Ind., and built a little workshop. There hour after hour was passed, working and toiling to make a perfect machine. His mind became completely absorbed in the project and the money he received from the sale of his farm was soon spent. People almost

believed that he had lost his reason, so completely did he devote himself to his invention, but after eleven years of labor it was completed. Going to Washington, he received a patent, and on his return began the sale of the automatic grain scale, and at one time sold \$80,000 worth. The success of the invention was astonishing. A machine was placed on exhibition at La Fayette, which received and measured the grain, gave the number of bushels, and calculated the amount it came to at the current price. From the receipt of his sales, Mr. Bramble erected a large hotel in La Fayette, Ind., which still bears his name. He had sold his patent from a model, but when the purchaser came to put it in use it was worthless, so his property was returned and he handed back the money. He then borrowed money to improve his machine, and after six months went to Cincinnati, where he remodeled and perfected his invention. While there he received a gold medal upon it, and one in Baltimore and the World's Fair in New York. The scale being perfected, Mr. Bramble took a partner in business, opened an office in Cincinnati, and began selling the same. He sold about \$100,000 worth of territory, but through the rascality of his partner he lost all he had made, save about sixteen hundred acres of wild land near Council Bluffs, Iowa. The machine was exhibited in every State of the Union and received premiums at hundreds of fairs, and a gold medal at the New York American Institute.

In the spring of 1857, Mr. Bramble went to his property in Iowa, but it and the country all around were wild and unsettled and he did not care to make it a place of residence. He then went to St. Louis, with the intention of returning to Springfield, Ohio, but, coming to Decatur, he determined to locate in this city. It was then a very small place, but with remarkable foresight he believed that it had a future before it. He bought an acre of land and upon it built a brick house, which he afterward sold for \$8,000. He then purchased six and a-half acres of land, upon which he has since built a number of houses that he has sold at different times. He now owns thirteen residences, all on two blocks. He has done considerable contracting and building in this city, a business which resulted from the erection of his first brick house.

Mr. Bramble's inventive genius, however, has been the controlling influence in his life. Not content to engage in the usual routine of business affairs, his genius at one time found expression in an improved bedstead, known as Bramble's Spring Rockaway Bed. This proved successful and met with quite a sale. Many of the beds are still used in Decatur. One of his most important inventions, however, is the Yale Postoffice Lock Box, which is used in hundreds of towns throughout America and Europe. He receives a royalty on every one sold, and this has brought him a princely income. He secured his patent on the same in 1865. He showed the invention to the Postmaster of Boston, who agreed to adopt the box. Trouble concerning this invention followed. The Yale Manufacturing Company, of Stamford, Conn., adopted his ideas and began manufacturing the boxes in the face of Mr. Bramble's patent. A long contest followed, and the United States Court decided that he should receive a royalty on every postoffice box. He has also invented a padlock that brings him in a large income, and he is the original inventor of twenty-seven different styles of locks. A manufactory was established at Terre Haute, Ind., the Bramble Lock Company, of which he was Superintendent, and from whose manufactures he was to receive a royalty, but this went out of existence after some months. He has received twelve medals on his inventions, and his genius has placed him among the most prominent inventors of the country.

Turning from business to private life, we chronicle the marriage of Mr. Bramble and Miss Ann Slayback, a native of Ohio. Three children have been born of their union: Oneis N., who is now employed in the carriage factory in Decatur; Edward G., who is mailing clerk in the postoffice and also owns a store; and Estella F., wife of A. F. Jennison, of Decatur, who is employed as a railway mail clerk.

In politics, Mr. Bramble is a Republican. He has served as Alderman in the ward in which he lived for thirty-five years, and is now filling that position. No man in the city is more popular with voters, a fact which shows the high regard in which he is held. He has had success in election matters and for a long time was the only man the Repub-



lians could elect. He stands high with all the laboring classes and has been an extensive employer of labor. He has contracted on railroad work and graded the line between Decatur and Monticello—finishing the road in ninety days, besides which he has done much grading of residence lawns. He has recently platted a new addition to Decatur of four acres. He is a friend to all educational, social and moral interests, and is recognized as one of the most progressive and public-spirited citizens of Decatur. His support and co-operation are never withheld from any enterprise calculated to promote the general welfare, and though not a member he was for years a trustee in the Baptist Church.



**H**UGH L. ODER, a native of Kentucky, came to this county and settled with his parents on a farm in South Wheatland Township when a lad. His father, George C. Oder, also a native of Kentucky, was born May 24, 1814, and married Mrs. Sarah (Logan) Phillips, widow of Madison D. Phillips, of Kentucky. This marriage was celebrated January 31, 1839. The children of this union were as follows: Timothy, who was born in November, 1839, and died October 7, 1861; Hugh L., born August 23, 1841, died December 9, 1875; Clara E., born January 7, 1843, married Hiram Ward, a farmer of South Wheatland Township; Luey A., born November 2, 1852, married John H. Jones, a farmer of South Wheatland Township; James Nelson, born November 24, 1844, also a resident of South Wheatland Township; William S., born August 15, 1846, who now resides in Webster City, Iowa; Thomas J., born May 28, 1849, who resides in Decatur; and Mary Jane, born April 15, 1851, died August 15, 1851.

Our subject was graduated in the High School of Decatur, and then read law with Judge Nelson for two years. He immediately entered the Law School at Louisville, Ky., and was graduated from that school in 1866 with high honors. His father

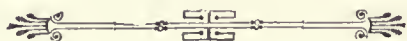
dying when he was young, he was compelled to devote the most of his time to farming, but he would teach as circumstances offered, and finally he worked his way to the front, and came forth as one most gifted for his age.

Our subject began the practice of law in Decatur in 1866, and the following year he chose for his companion Miss Sue F. Tyler, daughter of Elder John W. Tyler, one of the pioneer ministers of this county, whose sketch appears in another place in this RECORD. The wedding was celebrated at the Tyler homestead, five miles east of Decatur. Mrs. Oder comes from a very celebrated family, her great-great-grandfather being a brother of John Tyler, the tenth President of the United States. Her father was an earnest and able minister of the Gospel for sixty years, and two brothers also were early led to consecrate their lives to the ministry—Rev. B. B. Tyler, one of the ablest preachers of the Christian Church, now located in New York City, and the Rev. J. Z. Tyler, Pastor of the Euclid Avenue Christian Church, Cleveland, Ohio, and one of the permanent officers of the National Society of Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor. Mrs. Oder's mother's maiden name was Sarah Roney, and her sketch appears in connection with her husband's.

After his marriage with Miss Tyler, our subject continued about one year alone in the practice of law. He then formed a partnership with John W. Smith, now an attorney in Chicago, which continued about one year. After that he formed a partnership with Hon. John R. Eden, M. C., which continued about three years. Mr. Eden moving away, a partnership was formed, known as Oder, Eldridge & Hostetter, which continued until failing health compelled him to relinquish the active practice of law, in order, if possible, to regain his health. In the spring of 1875 he began traveling, going first to the Northern Lakes; then he sought the advice and skill of a specialist in Louisville, Ky. He afterward went to the Southern States, and finally at Denison, Tex., his demise occurred very suddenly, occasioned by rupture of the membrane of the stomach, caused by chronic dyspepsia. He died December 9, 1875, and his faithful companion brought back the body. The funeral serv-



ices were conducted by the Christian minister, other clergymen assisting in the services, and the members of the legal fraternity attended in a body. The interment took place at Greenwood Cemetery, Deatur, Ill. The following extract from a resolution will give some idea of the high standing already attained by Mr. Oder among his fellow-citizens, although a young man: "As an exemplary Christian attorney, his character is worthy the emulation of every young man who enters the arena to maintain equity and justice as well as the authority of law."



**A**NDREW MOOTHART was born in Shelby County, Ohio, February 12, 1836, and died on the 17th of March, 1886, at fifty years of age. He had come to this county in 1854, and on account of a useful and well-spent life he had endeared himself to many friends, and his death was therefore widely regretted. On account of the high regard in which he was held, and the prominent part which he took in the affairs of the community, it is but just that he should be represented in this volume.

Mr. Moothart was one of nine children born unto John and Mary Moothart. His boyhood days were passed in a quiet manner upon the home farm, and in the public schools he acquired his education. He remained with his parents until his father's death, which occurred when he was seventeen years of age. He then started out to make his own way in the world, and, believing that he could better win success in a more Western field, he went by team to Whitely County, Ind., where he secured work as a farm hand by the month. Remaining in the Hoosier State until 1854, he then came to Macon County, Ill., locating in Whitmore Township, where, as he was unable to purchase land, he operated a rented farm for several years. Practicing economy and industry, however, he soon won enough to buy a tract of land and became owner of eighty acres, upon which

he made his home until 1875, when he removed to the farm on which his widow now resides, on section 10, Whitmore Township. At the time of his death he owned a valuable farm of two hundred acres, which he had placed under a high state of cultivation, making it a very productive and valuable tract.

Mr. Moothart was twice married, his first union being with Hannah Kiser, who died in 1872, leaving four children: Sarah C., wife of Fred E. Gets; John H., Clara B. and Maggie M. Three children of that union are deceased, and in 1872 the mother of the family was called to her final rest. In 1873, Mr. Moothart was united in marriage with Miss Ann L., a daughter of John and Mary (Furringer) Zorger. She was one of eight children, who in order of birth were as follows: Elizabeth and Caroline, twins, the former now deceased; Andrew; Mrs. Ann Moothart; John and Mary, twins; and Susan. Mrs. Moothart was born in York County, Pa., September 29, 1834, and with her parents and two other families came to this State in 1839. They located first in Oakley Township, Macon County, where the father entered land. He then made a claim of one hundred and forty acres of land in Whitmore Township, and developed the farm on which his daughter is now living. He made his home with Mrs. Moothart until his death, which occurred January 18, 1886. His wife passed away May 29, 1876, and both were buried in Union Cemetery.

In his political affiliations, Mr. Moothart was a Republican and always took a great interest in everything tending to build up the county, promote its growth or insure its success. He was never an office-seeker, however. In all church and religious work he was warmly interested. He belonged to the Christian Church, and was a man of great benevolence and kindness, one who in his everyday life, by good deeds, embodied his professions, and throughout life he made the most of his opportunities. His career was a busy one, yet he always found time to faithfully discharge his public duties. He passed away March 17, 1886, and was laid to rest in Union Cemetery. His wife is also a member of the Christian Church, and like her husband delights in doing good.

**W**ILLIAM B. STRINGER, one of the early settlers of Macon County and a well-known and popular citizen, is now living a retired life in Decatur. Many changes have taken place since his arrival. He has witnessed the growth of Decatur from a town to one of the flourishing cities of Illinois, has seen the development of the county, and has ever borne his part in the work of progress and upbuilding. As Mr. Stringer has a wide acquaintance throughout the county, we feel assured that this record of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers.

Born in Montgomery County, Ky., November 25, 1823, he was the fourth child in a family of four sons and two daughters, whose parents were James and Fanny (Kelley) Stringer. The father was also a native of Kentucky, and there spent his entire life. By occupation he was a farmer. He served in the War of 1812, and died at the age of sixty-six years. The paternal grandfather, Edward Stringer, was also born in Kentucky, and was one of the wealthiest and most prominent men of the State. The family is of French extraction. The mother of William was also born in the State of his nativity, and was called to the home beyond at the age of sixty-five.

The subject of this sketch was reared upon the old homestead near Mt. Sterling, Ky., and acquired a good education. His knowledge has been supplemented by reading, experience and observation, and he is now a well-informed man, who maintains his interest in the affairs of the day and keeps well informed on all general subjects. Learning the mason's trade, he followed that pursuit for a number of years, and then became overseer of the slaves on a large plantation, holding the position for several years. It was in 1855 that he left Kentucky and removed to Indiana, settling near Greencastle, where he purchased a farm, upon which he resided until 1863. He then came to Illinois and embarked in general merchandising in Moweaqua, where he carried on business successfully for about fifteen years. Removing to Blue Mound, he there engaged in mercantile pursuits for thirteen years, enjoying a large and lucrative trade, which yielded him a good income and made it possible for him, at the expiration of

that period, to lay aside business cares. Removing to Decatur, he has since lived a retired life.

In 1858 Mr. Stringer married Miss Mary Ann Ribelin, of Montgomery County, Ky., and unto them were born two children: Lidie, wife of Robert Ralings, a large merchant of Kansas, by whom she has one daughter; and Mary, who died at the age of two years.

In his political views Mr. Stringer is a staunch Democrat in national affairs, but at local elections votes independently. For thirty years he has been a member of Decatur Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M., and is also connected with the Odd Fellows' Society. He now owns a highly improved farm of eighty acres, just across the line in Christian County, besides his pleasant home in Decatur, where he and his wife reside. The name of "Uncle Bill" Stringer is familiar throughout the county. He is a worthy representative of one of the best known Kentucky families. Honorable and upright in his business dealings, and pleasant and genial in manner, he has won a host of friends, who esteem him very highly.



**H**ENRY W. DAVIS is the owner of a livery, feed and sale stable at Decatur. He has the honor of being a native of the county which is still his home. He was born November 2, 1835, and is a son of Joseph and Sarah (Myers) Davis, the former a native of Kentucky, and the latter of South Carolina. The Davis family is of Scotch and Welsh descent, and the Myers are of German lineage. The father of our subject, who was a farmer and stock-dealer, came to Illinois in 1828, and for about a year made his home in Sangamon County, whence he came to Macon County in 1829. He here entered land from the Government and also purchased some in what is now Long Creek Township, where he lived for many years. He was a soldier in the Black Hawk War. Although he could ride the wildest pony



that could be found, he never rode on a railroad train. A few years before his death he removed to Mt. Zion Township, where he passed away in 1877, at the age of eighty-four years. His wife, who was a member of the Presbyterian Church, died at the age of seventy-two. Their family numbered seven sons and six daughters, but seven died in early childhood. Those who grew to mature years were Matilda, wife of Claybourn Jones, of Mt. Zion; Lydia, wife of John S. Kizer, of Decatur; John, who married Miss Martha Powell, and lives in Washington, D. C., being a member of the House of Representatives from Kansas; Mary, deceased, who was the wife of Abel Camp, of Long Creek Township; Henry, of this sketch; and Louisa, also deceased.

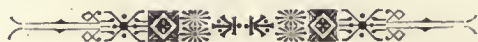
The paternal grandfather of our subject was a native of Virginia and served in the War of 1812. By occupation he was a farmer, and followed that pursuit throughout his entire life. He reared a large family, and died in Macon County at the age of ninety years. The maternal grandfather was a South Carolina farmer, and spent his entire life in that State, dying at an advanced age.

Henry Davis, whose name heads this record, attended the district schools of the neighborhood during his early boyhood, and afterwards became a student in the Illinois College, of Jacksonville. After his college course was completed he engaged in farming during the summer season and taught school during the winter months for seven consecutive years. On the expiration of that period he engaged in the nursery business in connection with farming, devoting his time and attention to that work for eighteen years. He was very successful and built up an excellent trade. In 1881, he came to Decatur and opened a feed and livery stable which he sold out after two years. He then carried on a stable in the southern part of the city for two years, subsequent to which time he embarked in the hotel business and ran a livery stable in connection with it for two and a-half years. Going to Shelbyville, he there carried on a livery stable for four years, and on his return to Decatur leased a very large livery, feed and sale stable, which he is now conducting. He can accommodate from two hundred and fifty to three hundred

horses, and has all kinds of vehicles and everything found in a first-class barn.

The lady who now bears the title of Mrs. Davis was in her maidenhood Miss Martha Stickel, daughter of John and Mary A. (Kizer) Stickel, of Long Creek Township. Our subject and his wife are the parents of five children. Ivan M., the eldest, married Miss Edith Harrington, of Texarkana, Tex., and is employed as book-keeper for the Kizer Lumber Company, of that place. They have one child. Rowena became the wife of William Hughes, who died leaving a daughter, Ruby M. She then became the wife of George L. Douthitt, of Shelbyville, Ill. Byrd L., Minnie S. and Charles R. are still at home.

Mr. Davis manifested his loyalty during the late war by enlisting in the three-months service as a member of Company A, Eighth Illinois Infantry. In politics he was a supporter of the Republican party, but now votes the Prohibition ticket. He and his wife hold membership with the Methodist Episcopal Church. His business career is characterized by straightforward and upright dealings, his life has been well and worthily passed, and he has the high regard of all with whom business or social relations have brought him in contact.



**W**ILLIAM L. BROCK is a retired farmer and highly esteemed citizen of Niantie Township, his home being on section 10. Owing to a life of enterprise and industry he has acquired a competency that enables him in his declining years to enjoy a well-earned rest. We take pleasure in presenting this record of his life to our readers, by many of whom he is well and favorably known.

Mr. Brock claims Indiana as the State of his nativity, his birth having occurred in Montgomery County, November 10, 1839. His grandfather, Elijah Brock, who was a native of Ohio, became one of the honored pioneers of Montgomery County, where was born S. W. Brock, the father of



our subject. In that county he was reared to manhood, and in Wayne County was joined in marriage with Mary A. Palmer. Mr. Brock was a carpenter and joiner by trade and followed contracting and building in Indiana for a number of years. He also owned and operated a farm. In 1857 he came with his family to Macon County, and settled in Niantic Township, where he entered two hundred and forty acres of land from the Government and bought a tract of one hundred and sixty acres adjoining. His death, however, occurred the same year, at the age of fifty-nine years, and his remains were interred in Long Point Cemetery. His wife survives him and is living in Niantic, a well-preserved lady of eighty-one years. Their family numbered three sons and a daughter who grew to mature years. The latter, Martha P., is the wife of Isaiah Hallett, of Macon County. W. L. is the next younger. George W. is a resident farmer of Douglas County, Ill.; and S. H. is a farmer of this county, residing in Niantic.

The subject of this sketch spent the first seventeen years of his life in Indiana, and in the public schools acquired a good English education. He also learned the cabinet-maker's trade, and from an early age has been familiar with farm labor. In 1859 he came to Illinois with his father and helped to open up and improve a farm, but after a time he returned to the Hoosier State, where he worked for two winters as a cabinet-maker. From his father he received a part of the old homestead, and as he has since bought other lands he now owns a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres, lying near Niantic. He has erected a neat and substantial residence and a good barn and planted an orchard and has his fields under a high state of cultivation. In former years he also engaged quite extensively trading and dealing in stock, but he has now practically retired from business cares, leaving his farm to the management of his son.

In Logan County, Ill., February 14, 1861, Mr. Brock was united in marriage with Miss Mary McFarland, a native of St. Clair County, Ill., and a daughter of James McFarland. Her father went to California in 1849, and died in that State. Unto our subject and his wife have been born three children: Lillie, wife of William Erismau, a

farmer of Macon County; C. G., who is married and resides on the home farm, which he operates; and Nora, who completes the family.

Mr. Brock has been a resident of Macon County for thirty-six years, and though he came here empty-handed, he has acquired a valuable property. He and his wife are numbered among the best citizens of the community, and their home is the abode of refinement, culture and hospitality, its doors being ever open for the reception of their many friends. True worth is the only passport they require. In politics Mr. Brock has been a stalwart Republican since casting his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860.



MISS NORA PARKER, who resides at No. 1679 North Water Street, Decatur, is a representative of one of the prominent families of Macon County. She is a native of the city which is yet her home, and is a daughter of Mandless and Susan Ellen (Trotter) Parker, the former a native of Kentucky, and the latter of Illinois. The father was a farmer by occupation and followed that pursuit throughout the greater part of his business career. He came to this State in 1865, locating in Macon County, and soon after his marriage began farming upon a tract of land of eighty acres near Harristown, which was owned by his wife. Her death occurred in 1874. She was a member of what was then known as Stapp's Chapel, but is now Grace Methodist Episcopal Church.

The paternal grandfather of Miss Parker was Caleb Parker, a native of Kentucky. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812, and also defended his country in the Mexican War. He died when more than ninety years of age. Of his family of five children only one is now living, Mandless, father of Miss Parker. The maternal grandfather was a native of Ohio, and was of Scotch-Irish descent, while his wife was of Irish lineage. By trade the former was a carpenter and followed

that pursuit in early life. At a very early day he came to Illinois, locating near Jacksonville, where he lived for many years and followed agricultural pursuits. About 1870 he removed to Decatur, where he embarked in the grocery business. He died on the 5th of March, 1891, at the age of eighty-three years. He was a member of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church.

Miss Parker, whose name heads this record, was reared in Decatur, and acquired her education in the public schools of this city. She is an only child. Her mother died when she was quite young, and she was reared by her grandparents, her father having married again and removed to Georgetown, Ky. Miss Parker is a member of the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. She owns forty-three acres of valuable land, situated two miles northwest of the city, and also a fine home property in Decatur. She is a lady of pleasant address, genial in manner, and has many warm friends throughout the community.



**A**RTHUR O. BOLEN has been a resident of Illinois since his eighth year, and is now engaged in the real-estate, loan and insurance business at No. 104 North Water Street, Decatur. He is a successful and substantial business man and prominent citizen. The birth of Mr. Bolen occurred in Washington County, Ohio, October 15, 1858. His parents were Andrew C. J. and Lydia (Baker) Bolen, who were also natives of the Buckeye State. Their family comprised five children, two sons and three daughters, namely: Arthur O.; Armenia M., wife of Henry Funk, of Maroa, Ill.; Hester A.; wife of John M. Funk, of the same place; Maggie M., wife of Silas Schenck, of Maroa; and Robert D., a resident of Greeley, Colo. The father of these children was a shoemaker by trade, and followed that calling in early life. He later devoted himself to farming, and in 1866 came Westward to Illinois, settling first at Hayworth, McLean County. After a resi-

dence there of six years, Mr. Bolen removed to Maroa, Ill., where he had control of the David Davis land, which he managed successfully until his death, which occurred in 1880, at which time he had arrived at the age of fifty years. Both he and his wife were devoted members of the Christian Church. Four years after the death of her first husband Mrs. Bolen became the wife of Abraham Long, of Maroa, where she still resides. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Enoch Bolen, was a native of Ireland, and came to this country at an early day. He was a cooper by trade, and followed that occupation in Kentucky, where he made his home for many years. His death occurred while he was still in the prime of life. Isaac Baker, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was born in Ohio, and was one of the early settlers of Illinois, having located in DeWitt County in the early 30's. He died at an advanced age, greatly respected and beloved. While a resident of Ohio, he held a number of public offices, but while in Illinois devoted himself to his farm. Of his thirteen children our subject's mother was the eldest. Two of her brothers, Charles and Samuel, were in active service during the late war, and the latter received wounds from the effects of which he afterward died.

The subject of this sketch was reared on his father's farm and received such school advantages as the district afforded. He remained with his parents until attaining his majority, when he rented a farm, which he operated for a year. His next venture was that of going to Maroa, where he bought out a dray line, which he carried on successfully until his father's death. The care of the home farm then fell upon his shoulders, and for two years he was thus employed. Next going to Clinton, Ill., he took charge of the implement store of Leavitt & Royal, and remained in the employ of that firm for one year. About 1881 Mr. Bolen came to Decatur, and was in the employ of Jesse Fisher, a dealer in farm and general implements, continuing with him for a year. The two years succeeding he traveled between New York and Denver selling goods. Some time afterward Mr. Bolen entered into partnership with George W. Lehman. They opened a grocery store, doing



business under the firm name of Lehman & Bolen for four years. Since that time the latter has been engaged in the real-estate, loan and insurance business. In addition to his pleasant residence at No. 1249 North Water Street and other good city property in Decatur, Mr. Bolen owns a farm of one hundred and thirty acres near Arcola, Douglas County. It is to his own industry and good management that he owns the comfortable fortune that he now possesses, for he did not inherit anything, and has had to make his own way unassisted.

Mr. Bolen and Miss Emma Braden were united in marriage May 16, 1881. The lady is a daughter of the late David Braden, of Maroa. Her mother bore the maiden name of Anna Myers. Mrs. Bolen is a member of the Christian Church, and is a lady of much refinement and culture. In his political affiliations our subject is a Democrat. In his business dealings he is noted for his integrity and high sense of honor, and is widely and favorably known.



**G**EORGE S. SIMPSON has for many years been connected with the firm of Haworth & Sons in the manufacture and sale of cheek-rows and corn-planters. He is the originator of improvements on the cheek-rower which are still indispensable in the use of its manufacture. His long service is a high testimonial to his fidelity to the interest of the firm.

Mr. Simpson was born in Indiana County, Pa., May 13, 1843. He came to Decatur in the fall of 1859, and has resided here ever since. His parents, Nathaniel and Margaret (Sprankle) Simpson, were also natives of the Keystone State. The Simpson family is of Irish origin, and was founded in America by the grandfather of our subject, David Simpson, a farmer and miller, who was born in the North of Ireland. When a young man he crossed the Atlantic and located in Indiana County, Pa., where he reared a family of three sons and one

daughter. The maternal grandfather of our subject, Frederick Sprankle, was of German birth. He too was a young man when he left the Fatherland and cast in his lot with a people strange to him, in Jefferson County, Pa. Like Mr. Simpson, he followed the occupations of farming and milling.

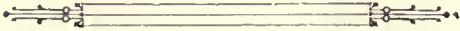
The father of our subject carried on agricultural pursuits in the Keystone State until 1855, when he emigrated to Keokuk, Iowa, where he made his home for a year. He then removed to Assumption, Ill., but a short time before the war went to Denver, Colo. He formerly had served as a scout with Buffalo Bill. After the breaking out of the Rebellion, he enlisted as a private in the Seventh Colorado Cavalry, but his meritorious conduct won him promotion to the rank of Major, a title he did not long enjoy, however, as he never returned from the struggle. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and served as Deacon of his congregation while in Pennsylvania. His wife belongs to the same church. She is now living with her son George and is seventy-eight years of age. Their four children are Agnes, wife of R. C. Cochrane, of Assumption, Ill.; Elizabeth, wife of Robert C. Laforgee, of Decatur; Emma C., wife of Elmer R. Culver, of this city; and George S.

Our subject was only thirteen years old when with his parents he came to Illinois. His educational privileges were very meagre, but he possesses an observing eye and retentive memory, and by his experience he has gained a practical and useful knowledge. Various pursuits engrossed his time and attention until, as before stated, he formed a connection with Haworth & Sons, since which he has employed part of his time in selling their cheek-rows and corn-planters, traveling through Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and Iowa.

On the 26th of April, 1866, Mr. Simpson was united in marriage with Miss Mary P. Haworth, daughter of Mahlon and Sarah (Woolman) Haworth, of Decatur. She is the youngest child living of her father's family, and was born in Port William, Clinton County, Ohio. She came to Decatur in 1856, and was educated in the public schools. Two children have been born unto Mr.



and Mrs. Simpson, George H. and Fred, the latter of whom is at home. The former married Miss Grace Blume, daughter of George P. Blume, of Decatur, and they have one son, George B. George H. is in the real-estate and insurance business. Mrs. Simpson is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Simpson is a Republican in politics, having supported that party since he cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864. He has served six years in the city council and has taken a decided stand in favor of public improvements, having been an untiring worker in the advancement of the city's interests. Our subject and his wife have a comfortable home at No. 367 West Main Street, which is the abode of hospitality, and he also owns other city property. He is widely and favorably known in business circles, and is a popular and genial gentleman.



**J**OHAN L. CONNELLY, M. D., who is engaged in the practice of medicine in Harristown, was born in the capital city of Illinois March 18, 1846. His father, George R. Connelly, was a native of the District of Columbia, and during his residence in Springfield carried on a grocery store. He died of cholera June 9, 1854. The Doctor spent the days of his boyhood under the parental roof, and at the age of twelve began clerking in his uncle's store. He had conceived the idea of entering the medical profession, and during that time he began the study of medicine with Dr. Ryan. He also pursued his studies under the direction of Dr. J. B. Smith, and subsequently entered Rush Medical College, of Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1878, after pursuing a four-years course. Dr. Connelly had worked his own way through college by keeping books; in fact, he has been dependent upon his own exertions since the age of eleven years, and therefore deserves great credit for the success that he has achieved in life.

In June, 1878, Dr. Connelly came to Harristown, where he has since engaged in the prosecution of his profession, enjoying a constantly increasing trade. He is a member of the State Medical Society, and has taken an active part in its discussions and work. He keeps well informed on everything pertaining to the science, and his skill and ability have won him a high reputation. In 1882, the Doctor began breeding trotting-horses. He owns forty-seven acres of land, upon which is a half-mile track. He has thirty-five head of trotting-bred horses, including the fine Hambletonian stallion, "Mammoth," No. 2052, with a record of 2:17 $\frac{1}{4}$ , with six representatives in the 2:30 list. He is a full brother to "Piedmont." He has sold some fine horses at high prices. For fifteen years he has also been engaged in breeding pure-bred Jersey cattle, but now has only a small herd.

On the 3d of September, 1872, the Doctor was united in marriage with Nancy L. Bedford, a native of Paris, Ky., and a daughter of Benjamin F. and Ann Maria Bedford, of the same State. Her father was a large breeder of Shorthorn cattle and trotting-horses of Kentucky, and at one time owned a good many slaves. Coming to Illinois, he spent his last days in Harristown, where Mrs. Connelly was married. She was born May 8, 1838, and died of heart disease June 7, 1889. She was a consistent and leading member of the Christian Church and took an active interest in all that pertained to its upbuilding. Unto the Doctor and his wife were born six children: Maggie P., who died at the age of two years; Susan Helen; George S.; John Lucian, Jr., who died in infancy; Alice Bedford and Laura Watson. The children are all at home.

In his social relations, Dr. Connelly is connected with Summit Lodge No. 431, A. F. & A. M., of Harristown, and is a member of the Christian Church. In politics, he is a supporter of the Democratic party, and in April, 1893, was elected Township Supervisor, which office he still holds. He takes an active interest in everything pertaining to his town and county and gives his support to those enterprises calculated to prove of public benefit. He is a pleasant, genial man and his worth and ability have gained him many friends.

# INDEX.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

### A

Abrams, L. F. . . . . 579  
Aconi, Thomas. . . . . 439  
Adams, D. M. . . . . 684  
Adams, John. . . . . 23  
Adams, John Q. . . . . 39  
Alexander, J. H. . . . . 566  
Allen, Mrs. Amanda. . . . . 588  
Allen, S. C. . . . . 220  
Altgeld, J. P. . . . . 187  
Ammann, Conrad. . . . . 293  
Armstrong, William. . . . . 581  
Arthur, Chester A. . . . . 99  
Ash, Josephus. . . . . 627

### B

Baker, J. N. . . . . 456  
Baldrige, W. M. . . . . 222  
Balmer, Adam. . . . . 436  
Barber, Volney. . . . . 559  
Barnes, William, M. D. . . . . 279  
Barnett, G. M. . . . . 589  
Barnett, J. T. . . . . 376  
Barraekman, D. A. . . . . 546  
Batchelder, N. S. . . . . 364  
Bear, D. F. . . . . 695  
Bear, Ephraim. . . . . 426  
Bear, S. E. . . . . 653  
Beard, James. . . . . 236  
Bell, A. W. . . . . 595  
Betzer, Reuben. . . . . 240  
Beveridge, John L. . . . . 171  
Biddle, J. M. . . . . 545  
Bills, J. N. . . . . 459  
Birks, J. V. . . . . 368  
Bissell, William H. . . . . 151  
Bivans, Robert. . . . . 701  
Black, George. . . . . 234  
Black, N. J. . . . . 540

Black, R. M. . . . . 212  
Blair, J. A. . . . . 385  
Blue Monnd Leader. . . . . 721  
Boardman, C. M. . . . . 577  
Bolen, A. O. . . . . 730  
Bommersbach, Nicholas. . . . . 430  
Bond, Shadrach. . . . . 111  
Bone, T. A. . . . . 345  
Bowen, A. G. . . . . 339  
Bowers, William. . . . . 333  
Braden, J. Y. . . . . 618  
Bradley, William. . . . . 307  
Brandom, Morrison, M. D. . . . . 380  
Breisford, W. C. . . . . 565  
Brenneman, D. W. . . . . 519  
Brenneman, Eli. . . . . 435  
Brett, David. . . . . 648  
Brewster, Mrs. E. J. . . . . 466  
Broek, W. L. . . . . 728  
Bromley, F. D. . . . . 262  
Brooks, D. E. . . . . 521  
Brooks, W. A. . . . . 443  
Brookshier, W. F. . . . . 323  
Broughton, Wait. . . . . 665  
Brown, Davis. . . . . 392  
Brown, E. J., M. D. . . . . 344  
Brown, Hon. J. A. . . . . 269  
Brown, Joseph. . . . . 721  
Brown, J. W. . . . . 597  
Brown, N. F. . . . . 583  
Brownback, J. M. . . . . 253  
Brueck, P. H. . . . . 445  
Bryner, J. H. . . . . 417  
Buchanan, James. . . . . 75  
Bullard, C. S. . . . . 629  
Bunn, D. L. . . . . 335  
Burgess, Sullivan. . . . . 204

### C

Caldwell, C. M. . . . . 252  
Calhoun, Hon. W. F. . . . . 575  
Camp, A. B. . . . . 515  
Camp, J. B. . . . . 586  
Cannon, James. . . . . 349  
Carlin, Thomas. . . . . 135  
Carmean, G. W. . . . . 480

Carmean, W. H. . . . . 615  
Carr, N. A. . . . . 308  
Casner, L. B. . . . . 251  
Cassell, Berry H. . . . . 235  
Cassell, B. H. . . . . 313  
Cassell, Henry. . . . . 402  
Catherwood, W. T. . . . . 678  
Catto, W. M., M.D. . . . . 229  
Chambers, Mrs. Elizabeth. . . . . 413  
Chambers, Laban. . . . . 596  
Chambers, Thomas. . . . . 517  
Chambers, Hon. W. B. . . . . 718  
Chapinan, A. J. . . . . 673  
Chenoweth, Cassidy, M. D. . . . . 202  
Chenoweth, W. J., M. D. . . . . 483  
Cherry, W. F. . . . . 360  
Chilson, R. W. . . . . 415  
Clark, Bradbury. . . . . 610  
Cleveland, S. Grover. . . . . 103  
Clifton, William. . . . . 659  
Cloud, C. W. . . . . 206  
Clough, R. J. . . . . 446  
Coleman, F. H. . . . . 318  
Coleman, Theodore. . . . . 243  
Coles, Edward. . . . . 115  
Collins, A. L., M. D. . . . . 620  
Collins, Mrs. Naomi, M. D. . . . . 445  
Condell, W. J. . . . . 457  
Conely, J. A. . . . . 674  
Connard, C. E. . . . . 406  
Connelly, J. L. . . . . 732  
Conover, George. . . . . 622  
Conover, Tylee. . . . . 690  
Conrad, Prof. J. H. . . . . 619  
Cooper, A. A. . . . . 654  
Cornan, W. B. . . . . 720  
Craig, D. W. . . . . 497  
Crocker, John. . . . . 550  
Crocker, John, Sr. . . . . 568  
Crocker, J. H. . . . . 535  
Cullom, Shelby M. . . . . 175  
Culp, H. S. . . . . 636  
Culver, J. H. . . . . 362  
Cussins, W. T. . . . . 468

### D

Daggett, Albion. . . . . 702

Daly, Hardy. . . . . 654  
Damery, George. . . . . 216  
Davidson, B. W. . . . . 611  
Davidson, D. C. . . . . 525  
Davidson, Mrs. S. A. . . . . 681  
Davis, H. W. . . . . 727  
Davis, James. . . . . 473  
Davis, Mrs. S. C. V. . . . . 661  
Davis, S. C. . . . . 473  
Davis, Thomas. . . . . 259  
Davis, W. H. . . . . 394  
Dawson, C. H. . . . . 536  
Dawson, J. A. . . . . 484  
Dempsey, George. . . . . 393  
Denison, C. M., M. D. . . . . 474  
Despres, F. E. . . . . 214  
Devore, C. W. . . . . 279  
Dickson, Adam. . . . . 281  
Dickson, Archibald. . . . . 255  
Diehl, A. N. . . . . 201  
Dill, J. W. . . . . 509  
Dillehunt, B. F. . . . . 224  
Dillehunt, S. M. . . . . 376  
Diller, John. . . . . 448  
Diller, Samuel. . . . . 353  
Dingman, James. . . . . 651  
Dodd, J. M. . . . . 434  
Dodson, William. . . . . 478  
Donahey, J. N. . . . . 361  
Dougherty, J. R. . . . . 311  
Draper, O. H. . . . . 697  
Draper, T. J. . . . . 556  
Duncan, Joseph. . . . . 131  
Dunham, Dayton. . . . . 225  
Durfee, B. K. . . . . 630  
Durning, James. . . . . 562

### E

Ebert, J. H. . . . . 539  
Eckels, J. P. . . . . 677  
Eckert, Matthias. . . . . 314  
Edwards, Ninian. . . . . 119  
Ehrhart, G. W. . . . . 280  
Eichenger, Michael. . . . . 302  
Ewing, W. L. D. . . . . 127  
Eyman, A. H. . . . . 644



Eyman, Jerome.....657  
Eyman, J. M.....573

## F

Faith, Joseph.....671  
Farnham, C. M.....203  
Farron, G. T.....642  
Ferguson, W. L.....444  
Fifer, Joseph W.....183  
Fillmore, Millard.....67  
Fletcher, C. M.....606  
Freeland, A. S.....273  
Ford, Elias.....356  
Ford, Thomas.....139  
Fort, Gooldy.....488  
Frazier, E. R.....658  
Freeland, A. S.....273  
Freeland, D. J.....391  
French, Augustus C.....143  
French, C. W.....695  
Fuller, J. N.....263

## G

Gaddis, F. M.....375  
Garfield, James A.....95  
Garver, C. H.....485  
Geddes, James.....291  
Gerber, Samuel.....526  
Gilman, George.....609  
Good, Emanuel.....312  
Good, John.....593  
Good, J. C.....458  
Goodwin, Rev. M. M.....711  
Gorin, J. R.....585  
Gourley, M. L.....640  
Grady, T. C.....688  
Grant, Ulysses S.....87  
Grason, Capt. William.....574  
Graves, C. J.....344  
Gray, J. M.....558  
Green, Joshua.....508  
Greenfield, Mrs. Virginia.....638  
Grimes, Mrs. E. T., M. D.....544  
Gross, Charles.....447  
Ground, P. R.....547

## H

Hall, Alonzo, M. D.....379  
Hamilton, John M.....179  
Hammer, W. L.....211  
Hamsher, B. K.....283  
Hardy, G. P.....479  
Harkrader, I. A.....475  
Harnsberger, G. G.....628  
Harpstrite, Edward.....297

Harrison, Benjamin.....107  
Harrison, William Henry.....51  
Hartley, C. J.....419  
Hartwig, J. H.....381  
Haworth, J. W.....358  
Hayes, Rutherford B.....91  
Hays, F. L.....326  
Hays, J. R.....437  
Heft, Samuel.....564  
Hell, H. D., M. D.....219  
Highly, H. L.....271  
Hight, J. L.....683  
Hight, R. W.....258  
Hill, A. H.....230  
Hill, A. T.....466  
Hill, J. E.....698  
Hiser, G. W.....373  
Holman, D. T.....467  
Holmes, J. P.....625  
Hopkins, A. F.....317  
Huff, W. J.....223  
Hunt, P. H.....397  
Hutchin, Walter.....414

## J

Jackson, Andrew.....43  
Jacobs, Noah.....377  
Janvrin, Emery.....700  
Jefferson, Thomas.....27  
Jennings, Isaac.....640  
Jensen, Burchard.....453  
Johnson, Andrew.....83  
Johnson, Hiram.....449  
Johnson, Milton.....688  
Johnston, George.....632  
Jones, Claybourn.....707  
Jones, C. L.....461  
Jones, E. A.....315  
Jones, H. C., M. D.....435  
Jones, James.....691  
Jones, Lindsay.....687  
Jones, T. V.....216

## K

Keister, J. F.....524  
Kennedy, C. P., M. D.....286  
Kineaid, Mrs. Margaret.....663  
King, Joseph, M. D.....205  
King, J. S., M. D.....200  
Kinsman, G. C.....388  
Kizer, J. S.....561  
Knight, Aaron.....522  
Kramer, Abram.....306  
Krone, N. L.....338

## L

Lammert, Rev. L. W.....215  
Laux, Charles.....531

Lawton, Thomas.....428  
Leavitt, Hon. T. N.....634  
Leforgee, Jesse.....438  
Lehman, J. M.....465  
Lebn, J. P.....520  
Leslie, Joseph, M. D.....322  
Lessman, Rev. H. W.....241  
Likens, J. R.....463  
Lincoln, Abraham.....79  
Livingston, M. C.....260  
Lockhart, Prof. M. E.....383  
Louergan, M. V., M. D.....617  
Lord, Thomas.....379  
Loring, G. V.....210  
Lyon, G. S.....298  
Lyons, W. T.....504

## M

Madison, James.....31  
Maffit, D. A.....643  
Major, J. W.....646  
Markley, J. T.....635  
Marsh, John.....635  
Martin, David.....326  
Mason, W. W.....603  
Matteson, Joel A.....147  
Matthew, J. B., M. D.....281  
May, H. F.....296  
McClellan, Edmiston.....305  
McConnell, W. S., M. D.....357  
McCune, C. A.....476  
McDonald, A. F.....546  
McDonald, J. W.....605  
McDonald, R. F.....543  
McElroy, C. F.....433  
McGorray, Benedict.....365  
McGorray, B. A.....501  
McKinley, J. H.....600  
McKinney, David.....325  
McKinney, William.....325  
McLean, C. A., M. D.....677  
McLean, W. T., M. D.....407  
McNabb, Ebenezer.....348  
Meriweather, R. H.....554  
Miller, F. W.....557  
Miller, John.....403  
Miller, J. H.....424  
Miller, J. R.....213  
Miller, Joseph.....266  
Miller, Martin.....328  
Mills, A. H.....381  
Mills, I. R.....398  
Mills, Joseph.....292  
Moffett, J. M.....367  
Moffett, Hon. W. T.....505  
Moffitt, Hon. D. C.....301  
Monroe, James.....35  
Moore, Daniel.....709  
Moothart, Andrew.....726  
Morgan, E. A., M. D.....498  
Morris, Robert.....538  
Moser, Frank.....717  
Mösser, J. R.....633  
Mowry, H. C.....272  
Mueller, H.....567

Myers, J. A.....637  
Myers, N. D., M. D.....242

## N

Nap, Eli.....405  
Nelson, Hon. W. E.....232  
Nicholson, A. R.....580  
Nicholson, J. P.....489  
Nientker, Frederick.....682  
Nowlin, Bryant.....553  
Nowlin, J. B.....521

## O

Oder, H. L.....725  
Oglesby, Richard J.....103  
Oутten, W. C.....199

## P

Page, H. P.....213  
Palmer, John M.....167  
Park, Edwin.....282  
Parke, V. H.....295  
Parker, J. H.....523  
Parker Miss Nora.....729  
Patterson, Robert.....670  
Peek, J. K.....624  
Peddecord, J. J.....548  
Perl, Peter.....226  
Peter, J. W.....693  
Peverly, H. E.....496  
Pierce, Franklin.....71  
Polk, James K.....59  
Powers, Hon. G. W.....477  
Powers, Samuel.....339  
Preseott, H. M.....408  
Price, T. M.....359  
Pritchett, T. A.....374  
Provost, P. B.....274

## Q

Quickel, Tobias.....563

## R

Rainey, C. P.....675  
Rainey, J. M.....719  
Rau, John.....645



Ray, Joseph.....555  
Renfro, A. A.....260  
Reynolds, John.....123  
Ritchie, G. G.....518  
Ritchie, William.....694  
Roberts, T. J.....416  
Rork, Joseph.....623

S

Salisbury, Enoch.....282  
Sawyer, John, Sr.....382  
Schafer, Theodore.....505  
Scheneck, Daniel.....490  
Scheneck, W. T.....509  
Schroll, D. L.....616  
Sehr, II, G. W.....294  
Schroll, William.....233  
Schwab, Christian.....698  
Schwab, Frederick.....676  
Scott, Adam.....669  
Scott, F. D.....656  
Scott, John.....562  
Scroggin, T. J.....581  
Seiberling, P. M.....253  
Semon, George.....516  
Shaddock, J. M.....241  
Shafer, Joseph.....420  
Shaffer, S. K.....458  
Shastid, J. S.....507  
Shellabarger, D. S.....462  
Shellabarger, Isaac.....708  
Shelton, David.....414  
Shipley, B. F.....560  
Shlaudeman, Frank.....254  
Shlaudeman, Henry.....316  
Shorb, W. H.....427  
Sibley, B. F., M. D.....343  
Sigler, Reuben.....664  
Simpson, G. S.....731  
Sites, F. A.....626

Skelley, L. F.....198  
Smallwood, J. P.....239  
Smith, B. M.....557  
Smith, Hon. E. O.....195  
Smith, H. B.....680  
Smith, L. A.....261  
Smith, M. A.....231  
Smith, W. C.....245  
Smull, Henry.....713  
Spangler, Mrs. Elizabeth.....425  
Spangler, Jacob.....401  
Spencer, Mrs. Mary.....501  
Stafford, H. H.....221  
Stafford, O. C.....363  
Stahl, B. M.....429  
Stein, August.....647  
Stewart, A. L.....621  
Stocks, Joseph.....662  
Strever, H. M.....576  
Stringer, W. B.....727  
Strope, T. B.....503  
Stuart, J. T.....502  
Sullivan, L. H.....346  
Snmms, A. T.....438  
Swartz, Mrs. S. R.....303

T

Tait, F. B.....264  
Tait, J. D.....209  
Tait, J. S.....638  
Taylor, T. M.....256  
Taylor, Zachary.....63  
Thatcher, C. P.....331  
Thomas, C. W.....553  
Thompson, Capt. G. W.....607  
Thompson, W. H.....453  
Thornhill, Col. J. W.....549  
Thrift, A. J.....679  
Tobey, Robert, M. D.....328

Tohill, John.....606  
Tohill, N. W.....542  
Towl, Levi.....450  
Traughber, A. C.....537  
Traughber, Mrs. E. J.....587  
Traver, William.....645  
Troutman, Jacob.....722  
Troutman, Michael.....495  
Troutman, Samuel.....630  
Tucker, J. C.....696  
Tully, W. J.....423  
Turpin, Mrs. Elizabeth.....711  
Tuttle, B. B.....285  
Tuttle, C. A.....347  
Tuttle, S. A.....355  
Tyler, J. W.....527  
Tyler, John.....55

U

Ulery, Eli.....672

V

Van Buren, Martin.....47  
Veech, A. J.....604  
Veech, George.....510  
Vollmer, Anton.....699

W

Wacker, John.....350  
Waddell, T. W.....387

Wade, Edward.....304  
Walker, Elijah.....580  
Walston, R. L., M. D.....354  
Ward, Frank.....244  
Ward, Hiram.....499  
Ward, John.....257  
Warnick, Ira.....404  
Warren, J. K.....394  
Washington, George.....19  
Weatherford, W. II.....692  
Weaver, Samuel.....625  
Wheeler, L. W.....464  
Wheeler, J. D., M. D.....321  
Whitley, W. L.....582  
Whitmer, H. M.....265  
Whitsel, Daniel.....594  
Wikoff, J. H.....610  
Wikoff, Lemuel.....567  
Wikoff, P. M.....337  
Wikoff, P. W.....539  
Willard, J. G.....270  
Williams, W. O.....583  
Willis, Jacob.....324  
Willoughby, E. T.....276  
Wilson, James A.....486  
Wilson, J. A.....541  
Wilson, R. D.....480  
Winslow, J. T.....598  
Wise, C. F.....712  
Wood, John.....155  
Woods, Robert.....454

Y

Yates, Richard.....159  
Young, Benedict.....274  
Yonng, J. J. H.....477



# PORTRAITS.

|                                   |                                |                                |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Adams, John..... 22               | Crocker, Mary N..... 571       | Harrison, Benjamin.. 106       | Oglesby, Richard J..... 162     |
| Adams, John Q..... 33             | Cullom, Shelby M..... 174      | Harrison, W. H..... 50         | Palmer, John M..... 166         |
| Altgeld, J. P..... 186            | Davis, James..... 470          | Hayes, R. B..... 90            | Pierce, Franklin..... 70        |
| Arthur, Chester A..... 98         | Davis, Mrs. E. A..... 471      | Hiser, G. W..... 370           | Polk, J. K..... 58              |
| Bissell, William H..... 150       | Devore, C. W..... 278          | Hiser, Mrs. G. W..... 371      | Reynolds, John..... 122         |
| Beveridge, John L..... 170        | Diller, Samuel..... 352        | Heil, H. D., M. D..... 218     | Sibley, B. F., M. D..... 342    |
| Bond, Shadraeh..... 110           | Dingman, James..... 650        | Jackson, Andrew..... 42        | Smith, Hon. E. O..... 194       |
| Bowers, William..... 330          | Dingman, Mrs. James..... 650   | Jefferson, Thomas..... 26      | Spangler, Jacob..... 400        |
| Bowers, Mrs. William..... 331     | Dougherty, J. R..... 310       | Jensen, Burchard..... 452      | Scott, Adam..... 668            |
| Brooks, W. A..... 442             | Dunean, Joseph..... 130        | Jensen, Mrs. Burchard..... 452 | Tait, Mrs. C. R..... 208        |
| Brown, J. A..... 268              | Edwards, Ninlan..... 118       | Johnson, Andrew..... 82        | Tait, J. D..... 208             |
| Buchanan, James..... 74           | Ewing, W. L. D..... 126        | Jones, Claybourn..... 704      | Taylor, Zachary..... 62         |
| Canup, A. B..... 512              | Fifer, Joseph W..... 182       | Jones, Mrs. Claybourn..... 705 | Troutman, Michael..... 492      |
| Camp, Mrs. A. B..... 513          | Fillmore, Millard.. 66         | Jones, Lindsay..... 686        | Troutman, Mrs. Michael..... 493 |
| Carlin, Thomas..... 131           | Ford, Thomas..... 138          | Jones, Mrs. Lindsay..... 686   | Tully, W. J..... 422            |
| Carmean, W. H..... 612            | Freeland, D. J..... 390        | Lincoln, Abraham..... 78       | Tyler, John..... 54             |
| Carmean, Mrs. W. H..... 613       | Freeland, Mrs. Martha..... 390 | Madison, James..... 30         | Tyler, J. W..... 526            |
| Catto, W. M., M. D..... 228       | French, Augustus C..... 142    | Mason, W. W..... 602           | Tyler, Mrs. J. W..... 526       |
| Chambers, J. R..... 410           | Garfield, James A..... 94      | Matteson, Joel A..... 146      | Van Buren, Martin..... 46       |
| Chambers, Mrs. Elizabeth..... 411 | Geddes, James..... 288         | McElroy, C. F..... 432         | Washington, George..... 18      |
| Chenoweth, W. J..... 482          | Geddes, Mrs. James..... 289    | Moflitt, Hon. D. C..... 300    | Wood, John..... 154             |
| Cleveland, S. Grover..... 102     | Good, John..... 590            | Monroe, James..... 31          | Wheeler, J. D., M. D..... 320   |
| Coles, Edward..... 114            | Good, Mrs. John..... 591       | Moser, Frank..... 716          | Yates, Richard..... 158         |
| Crocker, J. H..... 521            | Grant, U. S..... 86            | Moser, Mrs. Frank..... 716     |                                 |
| Crocker, John, Sr..... 570        | Hamilton, John M..... 178      | Mosser, J. R..... 632          |                                 |











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





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



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



Thank you for your order !

This media compilation, our respective advertisements and marketing materials are protected under U.S. Copyright law. The Federal Digital Millennium Copyright Act and various International Copyright laws prohibit the unauthorized duplication and reselling of this media. Infringement of any of these written or electronic intellectual property rights can result in legal action in a U.S. court.

If you believe your disc is an unauthorized copy and not sold to you by **Rockyguana** or **Ancestry Found** please let us know by emailing at

<mailto:dclark4811@gmail.com>

It takes everyone's help to make the market a fair and safe place to buy and sell.