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PAST AND PRESENT

OF

PIATT COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

TOGETHER WITH

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF MANY PROMINENT AND INFLUENTIAL CITIZENS.

CHARLES McINTOSH,
ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

ILLUSTRATED.

"A people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors, will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote generations."—MACAULAY.

CHICAGO:
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING CO.
1903.



"Biography is the only true history."—Emerson.



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INTRODUCTORY.

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 BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD 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 this county to a 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 those, 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 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 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 never could be found, though repeated calls were made at their residence or place of business.

September, 1903. THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING CO.

General | 22 Sept 59 Mrs. J. Ennis 29 Sept 59 Annotation

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PAST AND PRESENT

—OF—

PIATT COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY HISTORY—1820-1840.

One of the richest agricultural districts in the world is the small county of Piatt, situated near the middle of the great state of Illinois. It lies in the great prairie region of the United States, and is a part of the rich alluvial plain of the Mississippi valley, which is noted all over the world for its wonderful fertility. The soil is a rich warm loam, particularly adapted to the raising of corn, and large quantities of it are produced each year. Oats is also a staple crop, and wheat is raised successfully along the timber. Food for stock is produced in abundance, and large number of cattle, horses, hogs and sheep, are raised each year. The county is distinctly an agricultural one, at least ten thousand of its seventeen thousand people living in the country. There are no large cities, Monticello, the largest having a population of some two thousand.

In point of size, Piatt county is a little less than the average of the state.* Its area is 440 square miles. Its greatest length is thirty-four miles, and its greatest width fifteen miles.

The surface generally is level, sloping slightly to the southwest. The principal river of the county is the Sangamon, which crosses near the center of the county, flowing in a southwesterly direction. This river has no very large branches, the principal ones on the north being Madden's Run, Goose Creek, Wild Cat Creek, and on the south Camp Creek and Willow Branch. Some of the land in the south part of the county slopes southeast and drains into the Kaskas-

*Four other counties of the state have the same area as Piatt, as follows: DeWitt, Grundy, Hamilton and Williamson. Thirty-five counties have a less area, as follows: Alexander, 220; Bond, 380; Boone, 288; Brown, 306; Calhoun, 251; Cumberland, 350; Douglas, 410; DuPage, 340; Edwards, 220; Franklin, 430; Gallatin, 340; Hardin, 180; Henderson, 380; Jersey, 360; Johnson, 340; Kendall, 321; Lake, 394; Lawrence, 362; Marshall, 350; Massac, 240; Menard, 311; Monroe, 380; Moultrie, 340; Perry, 432; Pope, 360; Pulaski, 190; Putnam, 170; Richland, 380; Rock Island, 420; Saline, 396; Schuyler, 414; Scott, 252; Stark, 290; Union, 400; and Wabash, 220. These figures are taken from the official report of the Secretary of State. The population of Piatt county in 1900 was 17,706. At that time, twenty-eight counties of the state had a less population, as follows: Bond, Boone, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Cumberland, Edwards, Gallatin, Hardin, Henderson, Jersey, Johnson, Kendall, Lawrence, Marshall, Mason, Massac, Menard, Monroe, Moultrie, Pope, Pulaski, Putnam Richland, Schuyler, Scott, Stark, Wabash.

kia, a branch of the Mississippi through the Lake Fork of the Okaw River. The "divide" between the Sangamon and Kaskaskia basins is a ridge extending in a northeasterly direction between Bement and Monticello.

Piatt County was not settled as early as those in the southern part of the state. When Illinois was admitted as a state in 1818, it claimed a population of some 45,000 souls, not one of which lived within the present limits of our county.

The settlement of the southern part of the state first came from two causes. In the first place, the early settlers of Illinois, came generally from the south, from Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, etc., and would naturally settle the southern part of the state first. Then, too, the Indians in the northern part of the state were very hostile to the English settlers. They were in sympathy with the French and cherished resentment towards all the English for many years. The Ft. Dearborn massacre in 1812 helped to delay the settlement of the northern part of the state for some time.

Up to 1822, what is now Piatt County was uninhabited save by wanderng tribes of the Kickapoo and Pottawatomie Indians, and by the animals of the prairie and the forest. Along the river and creeks was the timber, and back from these waterways were the prairies covered over in summer and fall with the tall prairie grass waving backward and forward in the breeze, making it look at a distance much like a rolling sea. The deer, the wolf, and the fox were very much in evidence. During the rainy season much of the land was under water, and the country looked like one vast lake.

The same year in which Edward Cole was elected second governor of the state and the same year that witnessed the first great contest in our state over slavery, came George Hayworth into our county from Tennessee and built the first cabin ever erected within the limits of what is now Piatt county. The cabin was built in Monticello on the Lodge place. Soon after this he built another cabin, having some friendly Indians to help him. He lived in the county three years and then moved to Danville. In the fall of the same year, James Martin came to the county from Ohio. He built a cabin north of Monticello on what is now the Rhoades place. Mr. Martin's wife died within the first year, so he sold out his place to Mr. Daggott and went back to Indiana. The next spring he persuaded his nephew, John Martin and his niece, Mrs. Furnace, to accompany him back to Illinois and he returned and built a cabin near White Heath. Mr. Daggott lived on the place he purchased from Mr. Martin for about two years and then moved into Champaign county.

About 1824, Mr. Holliday came to the county and built a cabin near Mr. Hayworth's on what is now a part of Monticello. He sold his cabin to Mr. Solomon Carver, who sold it to Mr. Cordell. In 1829 Mr. Cordell moved into the cabin.

In April, 1824, Mr. Abraham Hanline and his four sons, (Abraham, Jacob, James and Nathan), his wife having just died, took a claim of one hundred and sixty acres near the Coon Spring north of Monticello and commenced at once the task of clearing the ground and building the cabin. The same year Mr. York built a cabin where Mr. Geo. Varner now lives which was the first house ever built within the limits of what is now Goose Creek township. In 1830 Mr. Cordell built a cabin on the Woolington place north of Monticello. In 1830 the York and

Cordell claims were the only ones on the north side of the Sangamon river between Friend's Creek and Cheney's Grove.

In the spring of 1829, Mr. James A. Piatt, from whom the county is named, bought the Hayworth claim paying $150 for it, and giving all but $18 of it in tinware. He moved to the county that spring from Indiana, and bought in all 600 acres of land, on part of which the city of Monticello is now located.

In 1830 Mr. Frye put a cabin at the mouth of Goose Creek. The same year, Mr. Terry came to the county and built two cabins, one for himself, and the other for his mother-in-law, Mrs. Randolph. In 1831 Mr. Olney, a captain in the Revolutionary war, built a cabin on what is now the Mr. Ezra Marquiss place. His son-in-law, Mr. Lawrence, built a cabin near him. One of his sons took possession of the Frye cabin, and the other built a cabin where Mr. William Piatt now lives. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence both died here. Their sons became dissatisfied with the place and moved away. In 1833, Mr. Abraham Marquiss came to the county and took possession of the cabin where Wm. Piatt's residence now is. In 1832, Peter and Mary Souders settled in what is known as the Argo settlement in the northeastern part of what is now Sangamon township.

Between 1830 and 1840 the settlers came into Piatt county rapidly. Among those who came about this time may be mentioned the following: Abraham Marquiss, Ezra Marquiss, William Barnes, John and Richard Madden, Samuel Oulrey, Joseph Mallory, Isaac Williams, Samuel Sever, Cyrus Widick, Michael Dillow, Mr. Ater, Mr. Bailey, James Hart, Jesse, Richard and William Monroe, James Utterback, Joseph and Luther Moore, Ezra Fay, Daniel and Samuel Harshbarger, Simon and Nathaniel Harshbarger, Samuel Havely, Abraham Collins, John Tenbrook, Samuel West, A. J. Wiley, A. Rizeor, John Argo, John Welch, William Smock, Peter Adams, George and Silas Evans, the Armsworths and the Coons.

Such in brief is the history of the county up to 1840. We who live in Piatt county at the present time and enjoy all the comforts of civilized life can have no adequate conception of the privations of the early settlers.

The first settlements were always made in or near the timber because their houses were made of logs and they would build the house were the logs were. Then, too, they must have fuel for the winter, and if they lived in the timber, it did not have to be hauled very far.

When they first came, they must bring with them enough bread and similar provisions to last until a crop could be raised. Corn furnished a large part of the diet. Johnny-cake for breakfast and dinner, and mush and milk for supper were things nearly always on the "bill of fare." There was a great deal of wild fruit, plenty of wild game, including turkeys and deer, and an abundance of fish in the rivers. They would find a "bee tree" occasionally and rob the faithful workers of their sweets. Afterwards the "truck patch" furnished an abundance of garden vegetables for the tables. In some places they made a great deal of maple sugar.

The first task of the settler was the erection of his cabin. These were usually sixteen feet square. They would get large logs for sills and on these lay the "sleepers" for the puncheon boards which constituted the floor of the cabin. The house was then built up with logs until about seven and a half feet high, then the "butting pole sleepers" were

laid on the ends. These were logs that projected about 18 inches over the others, on the projecting ends of which were placed the "butting poles" which gave line for the first row of clapboards, which formed the roof of the cabin. These clapboards were made to lap about a third of the way, and were sometimes kept in place by heavy poles laid along the roof. The cracks were then daubed with mud, the door made of rough boards with large wooden hinges and a wooden latch, the string of which always hung out as a sign of welcome, put in place. One or more small windows containing a few pains of glass, the fireplace occupying nearly one whole end of the room, large enough to contain a back log heavy as any man would care to carry, and the cabin was ready for occupancy. The furniture was of the most primitive kind. In one corner the bed or beds, sometimes made by driving sticks in the wall and supporting the other end from the floor and covering the slats with straw ticks; the table—a puncheon slab supported by four legs made by boring large auger holes in the lower part of the slab and inserting the sticks used for legs. The chairs were made much like the tables only they had but three legs. Occasionally, split bottomed chairs would be found. The old fashioned spinning wheel stood in a corner, perhaps in another the cumbersome loom, while over the door hung the rifle and powder horn always ready for instant use. A rude cupboard to hold the dishes was all else needed. But few "store goods" were used. The settlers were so far from market, and the cost of transportation was so great that they could buy but few articles for every day use.

When the cabin was finished and occupied, they commenced to clear the ground for the crop. They had not yet learned that the prairie soil could be cultivated. The prairies were covered over with luxuriant crops of prairie grass, which, on the low places, grew from six to eight feet in height. The roots were very tough and fibrous, and it was very hard to plow with the implements they then had. The early settlers thought it never would be settled.

In the meantime, the women of the household were not idle. Nearly every farmer kept a few sheep. From these, enough wool was secured for home use. The "linsey-woolsey" made of equal parts of cotton and wool was a very important article for the clothing of the early settlers. The spinning wheel was found in nearly every home, and frequently the loom, and the women made all the clothes for the entire family. The children were given some work to do as soon as they were old enough and they were early inured to labor.

In early times the nearest mills were on the Sangamon and Wabash Rivers, and the people would go to Danville for their "store goods" and for their flour.

Some of the early settlers had a home-made arrangement, for mashing the corn, called a "hominy-block." This was made by making a hole about a foot and a half deep in a block of wood. Corn was placed in the hole and pounded with another block sometimes supported on a sweep fastened to the side of the house. The finer part of the corn was made into bread and the coarse part was used for hominy. The first large mill in the county was made in 1838, and was on the Sangamon River about two miles north of Monticello.

During this time, the mails were carried on horseback in saddle bags. Most of the mail was letters, postage ranging from ten

to twenty-five cents, and could be paid at either end of line, but was usually paid by the receiver. When the stage routes were established through the country in 1839, the mail was carried by stage.

The ague season commenced usually in August and lasted several months. Sometimes whole families would be "shaking" at once. Typhoid fever was very common.

One of the greatest difficulties was the prairie fire. In the fall the people would protect their farms by ploughing furrows around them, and sometimes by ploughing furrows wide apart and burning the grass between them. Fires sometimes came, burned the stacks of hay and wheat and sometimes fields of corn. Fires moved very rapidly. Prairie fires prevented growth of timber, except on highlands or in broken country near streams.

Green head flies were very bad. For about six weeks in late summer, travelers had to go at night. These flies sometimes killed horses, goading them to death with pain, loss of blood and incessant kicking to become rid of them.

This part of the history would not be complete without a brief account of the "deep snow," and "sudden freeze." The "deep snow" came in the winter of 1830 and 1831. The snow commenced to fall on the 29th of December and continued falling for three days and nights. The snow was about four feet deep on a level, and in some places was drifted 18 and 20 feet deep. The snow lasted the rest of the winter, not all melting off until about the first of April. It was a winter of great hardships for the settlers. They depended a great deal on the wild game for their winter meat, and upon the corn for the other diet. When the snow fell but little of the corn was gathered and game could not be had. It literally starved to death. Before snow fell, deer were fat as could be, but before the snow passed away they were so poor they were not fit to eat. It was almost impossible to travel. In the spring the snow melted, the ground was flooded and it was almost as difficult to get around as it had been in the winter.

The "sudden freeze" occurred in January 1836. It had been raining in the morning and was not very cold. The storm came from the northwest, and reached our county a little afternoon, perhaps two o'clock. The temperature fell suddenly from about 40 degrees above zero to twenty below and much suffering followed. The face of the country was changed almost instantly from water to ice. The roads were left sharp and it was sometime before horses could be taken from barns. Jacob and Samuel Deeds were frozen to death while on their way to West Okaw. Such are some of the privations of the early settlers, yet we must not think that their life was altogether a bitter one. They had their "bright spots," just as we do now. Human nature is pretty much the same now, as it always has been, and it demands a period of relaxation occasionally. These were obtained at the "quilting bee," the "corn shucking," and the "apple bee." At the "quilting bee," ladies for miles around would assemble some afternoon. Busy hands then worked hard and fast for the work must be gotten out of the way for the fun in the evening. In the evening the gentlemen came, and the time was spent in some boisterous games or in a dance.

The corn husking usually took place in large barns, and both the men and women participated. One of the features of the evening was to find the red ears of corn. When a lady found one, she was entitled to a

kiss from every gentleman present; and when a gentleman found one he was allowed to kiss every lady present. This feature was always a source of unlimited fun and frolic. When the husking was done the the old violin was brought out and the merry dance began, which lasted until day light.

In those days the people were noted for their hospitality, and their interest, the one in the other. They would go miles to help at a "raising" or to nurse a sick neighbor. The following incident illustrates the spirit of the times. A new settler borrowed a plough of an old settler and when he returned it he thanked him, and asked him how much he should pay him for the use of it. "Pay," he said, "look here, my friend, you don't know me do you? Now sir, I want you to understand that whenever I have anything you wish, all you have to do is to come after it; and when through with it, if it suits your convenience, to return it, do so; if not, I will come after it when I need it. I want you to understand farther sir, that whenever you have anything I want, I shall come and get it, and if it suits my convenience to return it, I shall do so; if not you can come and get it."

CHAPTER II.

1840-1903.

When Macon county was organized in 1829, it included what is now Piatt county. Along about 1837 or 1838 some of the settlers commenced to think that it was too far to go to Decatur for the legal county business and they commenced to agitate the matter of forming a new county. A meeting of those interested was called, and committees appointed to draw up and circulate petitions to the legislature asking that a new county be organized. The petition was prepared by George A. Paterson, a schoolteacher of the county. It was proposed to form a county out of parts of Macon, DeWitt and Champaign counties. Isaac Demorest and William Wright circulated the petition on the west side of Champaign county. They received very little encouragement, and the idea of having any part of Champaign county in the new county was abandoned. Abraham and Ezra Marquiss, and William Barnes circulated the petition in DeWitt county and were successful in getting a good many to sign it. George A. Paterson, James and John Piatt took the petition into Macon county and obtained many signatures. After the petition had been signed by a large number, it was decided to appoint Mr. Paterson to present the petition to the legislature. It was presented on New Year's day, 1841. An effort was made to have the new county called Grundy, but it was not successful and on the 27th of January the bill passed the legislature, and Piatt county was ushered into being. The act creating it defined its boundaries as follows: Beginning where the north line of town fifteen north intersects the middle of range four east and running thence north through the middle of range four to the middle of town nineteen, thence east to the west line of range five, thence north to the northwest corner of town nineteen north, range five east, thence by a direct line to the southwest corner of section seven, town twenty-one north range six; thence east to the east line of range six; thence south along the east line of range

six to the north line of town fifteen north; thence west along the north line of town fifteen to the place of beginning.

The entire population of the county at that time was perhaps 600 or 700.

Monticello was chosen as the county seat and the first county election was held that April, 1841. It was not under township organization at first, and John Hughes, W. Bailey and E. Peck were the first county commissioners. Joseph King was elected circuit clerk, James Reber, judge; and John Piatt, sheriff.

The first term of court was held in the Devore Hotel, known in those days as the "Old Fort" which stood where the Ayre meat market now stands. This court convened May 14, 1841. Hon. Samuel H. Treat presided as judge.

The first grand jury of Piatt county was impaneled at the October term, which convened October 15, 1841, and was composed of the following persons: George A. Patterson, foreman; William LeForgee, Samuel Harshbarger, William Piatt, Jesse Moore, John Fisher, J. S. Madden, Peter Croninger, John Welch, Samuel Suver, Thomas Ater, William A. Patterson, Warner Kelms, Henry Adams, James Morain, George Argo, Thomas Anderson, and Jonathan Scott. The grand jury returned no indictments which testifies to the good character of the early settlers.

But little law business was done in those early times, and it is said that the first four terms of court did not occupy one-half a day.

For the purpose of holding elections, the county was divided into three precincts Monticello, Sangamon and Okaw. George Boyer was appointed overseer of the poor for Sangamon precinct, James McReynolds for Monticello precinct, and Samuel Harshbarger for Okaw precinct. In 1843 Geo. Patterson was appointed county assessor and Edw. Ater, county collector. About this time the court house was built. It was a one-story frame building located on the present court house site, and was built by Judge Ricket. This did service for several years but was afterwards moved to the west side of the square, and eventually burned down.

A jail was not built for several years, what prisoners the county had being confined in the jail at Champaign. The first jail was built where the Monticello caloboose now stands, two blocks east and one north of the square. It was sixteen feet square and was built of hewn logs 12 inches square. It had a log floor and a log ceiling. This did service until the new jail was erected.

The population was increasing, being 1606 in 1850.

In December, 1851, H. C. Johns, Enoch Peck and William Madden were appointed commissioners to divide Monticello precinct and to make another precinct and report at the next term of the county court. In March, 1852, H. C. Johns and Enoch Peck made their report laying out a new precinct commencing at the northeast corner of section four, T. 18 N. R., 5 E., running west with the township line to the county, thence south with said county line to the southwest corner of the county, thence east with the south line of the county to the southwest corner of Okaw precinct, thence north to place of beginning, making a territory six miles wide by eighteen miles long. Liberty was recommended as name of precinct and the residence of Scott Armsworth was recommended as a central place for holding elections. Scott Armsworth, Enoch Peck and Peter Adams were the judges of the first

election held in Liberty precinct. They received a dollar each for their services at this election. In September, 1852, a strip of territory one and one-half miles wide and six miles long was taken from Sangamon precinct and added to Monticello. The total vote polled that fall was 334.

The court house that has done service to the present time was built in 1856 and 1857. The contract was awarded to George Dempsey and John Lowry, March 7, 1856; the contract price being $10,936, to be paid in four equal installments, one-fourth when foundation was completed, one-fourth when enclosed, one-fourth when finished, and one-fourth a year after completion.

The building was completed the next spring, and formally accepted by the board June 15, 1857. In addition the contractors were allowed $22 for painting, $23.50 for lighting, $10.50 for prisoners' boxes and $24.9 for window blinds.

The building has been a good one, and in all these years has had but few repairs. The court house originally had a cupola, but it was demolished by a storm in July, 1871, and was never replaced. The building was a two-story brick one, 50x65 feet.

On the lower floor were the vaults and offices of the county and circuit clerks, and the offices of the county judge and treasurer.

On the upper floor were the offices of the state's attorney, and sheriff, and the court room.

The coroner, surveyor and county superintendent have not had offices in the court house for several years. The coroner and surveyor have no public office. That of the county superintendent was in the Smith building, then in the Tatman building over the post-office, then in the Bender building, and then in the Dighton Block, where it is now located.

The same year the court house was begun the first newspaper ever published in Piatt county, was started. It was called the Monticello Times, and was edited by Mr. James D. Moody. The first issue appeared in November, 1856. The Piatt County Agricultural Society was organized the same year.

At about this time, the first railroad was completed through the county. The first railroad through the county was the main line of the Wabash through Cerro Gordo and Bennett townships, which was put through in 1856.

This helped to bring settlers into our county quite rapidly, and the decade from 1850 to 1860 witnessed the county's most rapid growth, the population in 1860 being nearly four times as great as in 1850.

In June, 1858, the Bement precinct was laid out with following boundaries, commencing at the northeast corner of Section 1, Township 18, Range 6, thence west to the northwest corner of Section 3, Township 17, Range 5 east, thence south along the section lines to the southwest corner of Section 3, Township 16, Range 5 east, thence east along the section line to the southeast corner of Section 1, Township 16, Range 5 east, thence north along said section line to the southwest corner of Section 31, Township 18, Range 6, thence east along the township line to the southeast corner of Section 36, Township 18, Range 6, thence north along the line of said township to the place of beginning.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION.

On November 18, 1859, the question of adopting township organization was submitted to the voters of the county, and the result of the election was 420 votes for

township organization and 194 votes against adopting it. On the second day of January the County Court, consisting of A. G. Boyer, county judge, John Mosgrove, associate, and Reuben Bowman, coroner, ordered that James Bryden, of Monticello, C. D. Moore, of Bement, and Ezra Marquiss, of Goose Creek, be appointed commissioners to divide the county into townships preparatory to township organization. On February 25, 1860, William F. Foster was appointed one of the commissioners to divide the county into townships, to fill vacancy caused by the death of James Bryden. The commissioners made the following report at the March term of the County Court, 1860:

Report to the Honorable County Court, Piatt County, State of Illinois:

We, the undersigned commissioners appointed by the court aforesaid at its last term to divide the County of Piatt into townships under the late law, beg leave to submit the following report: After a careful examination of the county and a consideration of the relative positions of the several settlements of the same, we proceed to divide it into eight townships which are named and are as follows, to-wit:

BLUE RIDGE TOWNSHIP.

Bounded as follows: Beginning at the N. W. corner of Sec. 18, T. 21 N., R. 6 E., thence east on county line to the N. E. corner of the county, thence south on the county line to the S. E. corner of Sec. 24, T. 20, R. 6 E., thence west to the county line, thence in a northeasterly course along the county line to the place of beginning.

GOOSE CREEK TOWNSHIP.

Bounded as follows: Beginning at the N. E. corner of Sec. 25, T. 20 N., R. 5 E., thence west to the county line, thence S. W. along county line to the N. W. corner of Sec. 6, T. 19 N., R. 5 E., thence S. on the county line to the N. E. corner Sec. 24, T. 19 N. R. 4 E., thence W. on county line to the N. W. corner Sec. 22, T. 19 N., R. 4 E., thence south on county line to the S. W. corner of Sec. 34, T. 19 N., R. 4 E., thence east to the S. E. corner Sec. 36, T. 19 N., R. 5 E., thence north to the place of beginning.

SANGAMON TOWNSHIP.

Bounded as follows: Beginning at the N. W. corner of Sec. 30, T. 20 N., R. 6 E., thence east to county line, thence south on county line to the S. E. corner of Sec. 36, T. 19 N., R. 6 E., thence west to S. W. corner of Sec. 31, T. 19 N., R. 6 E., thence N. to place of beginning.

MONTICELLO TOWNSHIP.

Bounded as follows: Beginning at N. W. corner of Sec. 2, T. 18, R. 5, thence east to county line, thence S. on county line to the S. E. corner of Sec. 36, T. 18, R. 6 E., thence W. to S. W. corner of Sec. 35, T. 18 N., R. 5 E., thence north to place of beginning.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP.

Bounded as follows: Beginning at N. W. cor. of Sec. 3, T. 18 N., R. 4 E., thence east to the N. E. corner of Sec. 3, T. 18 N. R. 5 E., thence S. to S. E. corner of N. E. quarter Sec. 22, T. 17 N., R. 5 E., thence W. to county line, thence N. on county line to place of beginning.

BEMENT TOWNSHIP.

Bounded as follows: Beginning at N. W. corner of Sec. 2, T. 17, R. 5 E., thence east to county line, thence south on county line to the S. E. corner of Sec. 36, T. 17 N., R. 6 E., thence west to the S. W. corner Sec. 35, T. 17 N., R. 5 E., thence N. to place of beginning.

CERRO GORDO TOWNSHIP.

Bounded as follows: Beginning at the N. W. corner of S. W. quarter Sec. 22, T. 17 N., R. 4 E., thence east to the N. E. corner of S. E. quarter Sec. 22, T. 17 N., R. 5 E., thence S. to county line, thence W. on county line to the S. W. corner of county thence north on county line to place of beginning.

DOUGLAS TOWNSHIP.

Bounded as follows: Beginning at the N. W. corner of Sec. 2, T. 16, R. 5 E., thence east to county line, thence S. on county line to the S. E. corner of the county, thence W. on county line to the S. W. corner Sec. 35, T. 16 N., R. 5 E., thence N. to place of beginning.

The above we conceive to be the best division it can be to secure the fulfillment of the requirements of the law and at the same time meet the wants of the inhabitants.

Respectfully submitted.

C. D. MOORE,
WILLIAM T. FOSTER,
EZRA MARQUISS.

Dated at Monticello, Piatt County, Illinois, this 27th day of February, A. D., 1860.

The report of the committee was approved and the last session of the county court under the old system of county government was the March term of 1860, ending April 2. The first session of the board of supervisors was held May 28, 1860, and the following members constituted the first board: Blue Ridge, John Meliza; Goose Creek, Seth C. Langlon; Willow Branch, Elias Hall; Cerro Gordo, William Cole; Unity, Royal Mitchell; Bement, Caleb D. Moore; Monticello, William Motherspaw; Sangamon, Ananias B. Knott.

At this meeting the name of Liberty township was changed to Willow Branch.

On motion of C. D. Moore, the compensation of the supervisors was fixed at two dollars per day for attending the meetings of the board. The next few years were very busy ones for this board. The families of the soldiers in the war had to be cared for, a jail was built, and a poor farm started.

PIATT COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR.

No state in the union was more loyal to the Federal Government in the dark days of the Civil war than was Illinois. It was Illinois that furnished the chief executive of the nation for this trying time, and nobly did she stand by him. When Lincoln issued his first call for troops in 1861, the authorities informed Governor Yates that the quota of Illinois was six regiments. Governor Yates issued his proclamation April 15, 1861, and in ten days 10,000 volunteers had offered their services. They could not all be accepted, and it is said that some of them wept when refused admission. In 1862, and again in 1864, when calls for troops were made, Illinois responded cheerfully. In this, Piatt county did her full share—and more. Out of a population of 6,124, she sent out 1,055

soldiers, almost one-sixth of her population. The average of the state was 100 soldiers for every 742 inhabitants, while Piatt count sent 100 men for 580 inhabitants. Nor were those who for various reasons did not go to the front lacking in patriotic spirit. Early in the war, we find the county issuing bonds, and borrowing money to care for the families of the volunteers in the front. One person was appointed in each township (usually the supervisor) to look after the widows and families of the soldiers, and to see that they were provided with the necessaries of life. When the war closed and the soldiers returned the county gave them a big dinner. This was held on the 16th of August, 1865. A committee from the Board of Supervisors had charge of the dinner. Two beeves were killed, and other victuals in proportion. The county appropriated for the dinner $184.94.

JAIL.

At the meeting of the Board of Supervisors in December, 1866, a resolution was passed, making an appropriation of twelve thousand dollars to build a county jail, and authorizing the issuing of bonds for twelve thousand dollars, drawing interest at ten per cent. A committee of three persons—Hiram Jackson, H. C. McComas and John W. White—was appointed to fix upon a location for the jail. Lewis Bond was appointed to make the plan for the county jail and to procure specifications for it. These were prepared by Dennis and Sutton, of Springfield, and the contract for building it was let to them in March for $8,800. In March, 1867, H. G. McComas, J. M. White and Ezra Marquiss were appointed a committee to purchase a site for the location of the jail. They selected and purchased the last half of outlot No. 4 in original town of Monticello for the sum of $1,000. Work was at once commenced, and the building completed in the fall of '67. At its meeting in November the board refused to receive the jail, but some concessions were made, and the jail was received by the board in February, 1868, and the final payment on it made. The first sheriff to occupy it was George F. Miller.

The old jail and lot were then sold to the president and trustees of the town of Monticello, in April, 1868, for $350.

The jail has been repaired from time to time and has been condemned repeatedly by grand juries that have examined it.

POOR FARM.

In August, 1862, Piatt county acquired a half-interest in a farm of 293 acres for $2,948.52, southwest of Monticello, the other half being owned by James Miner. On July 23, 1863, the following resolution, introduced by H. S. Coonrod, was adopted:

Resolved, by the Board of Supervisors of Piatt county, that immediate steps be taken to procure the title of James Miner to the undivided half of the farm now owned by him in joint tenancy with the county, for the purpose of making a poor farm out of the same. The committee consisted of H. S. Coonrod, D. Stickle and J. C. Heath.

The attempt to buy the interest of James Miner was not successful, and in September, 1863, it is ordered that H. S. Coonrod be empowered to make contract with James Miner for providing for the poor of Piatt county. James Miner was to be paid $2.50 per week for keeping each pauper, and to pay $200 a year for the county's one-half of the farm. Coonrod is to maintain supervision of said paupers, and the said paupers shall

be received by the said James Miner as a county charge only on the order of the overseer of the poor of one of the townships, or of the said Coonrod.

In September, 1865, a resolution was adopted appointing McComas, Marquiss and Chambers a committee to sell the county portion of the poor farm, and to purchase not less than 200 acres of land suitably situated for a poor farm, provided that if they can sell the whole farm to a better advantage by buying Miner's half, then they can do so. James Miner appears before the county board in December, 1865, and offers to sell his interest in the county farm at $28 (twenty-eight dollars) per acre. The offer accepted and on June 6, 1866, James G. Miner transfers to the Board of Supervisors of Piatt county for the use of the inhabitants of said county his interest in the undivided half of the county farm for $4,116. Miner was to run the affairs until the first day of October next, and to pay one-third of the corn in the shock and one-third of the small grain in the half-bushel, and to keep the paupers until expiration of his lease from first of March next at three dollars and fifty cents per week. Just before this he had been receiving four dollars a week for adults and three dollars and fifty cents per week for children.

From October, 1866, to October, 1867, he runs the farm without rent, keeps the paupers and receives one thousand dollars for his services.

In December, 1870, the committee on poor farm report that "the erection of a good, substantial brick building is absolutely necessary," and they are authorized by the board to proceed with the erection of a building, to adopt the plans and specifications they think best, the building to cost not to exceed five thousand dollars. The committee, consisting of Hiram Jackson and John R. Klapp made a contract with John C. Lowry, William Beatie, Sr., James Brown, John Merryman and Charles Stough for the erection of the building, which was approved by the board. The building was completed the following summer and accepted by the board in September, 1871. It was a brick building, two stories and basement, containing eighteen rooms, six on each floor.

RAILROADS.

The main line of the Wabash running east and west through Bement and Cerro Gordo townships in Piatt county was constructed in 1855 and 1856. The constructing gang worked from both ends of the line and came together near what is now Cerro Gordo. The Chicago division of the Wabash was completed and put in operation through the county in 1873. This road was formerly called the Chicago & Paducah, and was laid by the Bloomington & Ohio River Railroad Company, which was chartered in 1867.

What is now a branch of the Illinois Central, between Champaign and Decatur, through Sangamon, Monticello and Willow Branch townships of our county, was put in operation between Champaign and Monticello in December, 1870, and was finished through to Decatur two years later. This road was chartered as far back as 1861, as the Monticello Railroad, but nothing was done toward building any road until after the war. The charter was changed and the company fully organized in 1865, and active work of constructing commenced in 1867. The road was afterwards bought by the Indiana, Bloomington & Western, was sold and reorganized as the Champaign, Havana & Western. It was bought by the Wabash

and finally bought by the Illinois Central, which still owns it. The road from Champaign to Clinton through Sangamon and Goose Creek townships of our county is now owned by the Illinois Central. It was chartered in 1867 as the Havana, Mason City, Lincoln and Eastern Railroad, and was built through the county in 1872. That same year it was consolidated with the Monticello road just given, and its history from that time on was identical with the road between Champaign and Decatur.

The Big Four Railroad through Blue Ridge township was put through the county in 1867. It was chartered as the Danville, Urbana, Bloomington & Pekin Railroad, afterwards consolidated with the Indianapolis, and Danville, and then became known as the Indianapolis, Bloomington & Western, and later as the Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati & St. Louis.

The Indiana, Decatur & Western Railroad was built through our county in 1873. The road was projected as far back as 1847, and the company was originally called the Indiana & Illinois Central road.

DREDGE DITCH.

Special Drainage District of the Counties of Piatt, Champaign and Douglas.

One of the streams in the southern part of the county is called the Lake Fork branch of the Okaw river, usually called Lake Fork for short. The name is very suggestive. The river has but very little fall and is a very sluggish stream. In the rainy season it would overflow its banks and the whole country round about would resemble a great lake,hence the name. The land was the rich black loam, but was not very valuable, because it would overflow, and a crop was by no means sure.

A plan was set on foot to dredge the Lake Fork in the southeast part of the county. The question of forming a drainage district under the state law was submitted to a vote of the people and the question carried. On the seventh of October, 1882, an election was held in the Concorn schoolhouse for the purpose of electing the drainage commissioners. The election resulted in the election of Alfred Jay, Samuel L. Busich and Anthony Clark. These were the first drainage commissioners. Before work on the ditch could be commenced, the land had to be viewed, and the amount of the benefits to the various landowners determined, and the assessments made. There were a great many objections to the decision of the commissioners with regard to the assessment, and they were restrained by the court for awhile and were delayed in various ways, so that three years elapsed before active work was commenced.

On September 21, 1883, C. D. Moore, county surveyor, was employed to survey the ditch and prepare a plat and profile. The original ditch extended from the north line of Sec. 36, T. 18, R. 6, to the Crain bridge, a distance of about eleven miles.

This was done that fall and submitted to the commissioners at the meeting held March 1, 1884. The plat was approved, and it was decided to advertise for bids to be opened March 31, 1884. When the commissioners met, March 31, no bids were submitted. Nothing more was done until September 20, 1884, when the following motion was adopted:

Resolved, That the width and depth of the ditch to be dug be as follows: The width from Crain's bridge to the south line

of Sec. 1, Township 17, R. 6, be thirty feet at the top, twenty-five feet from thence to south line of Sec. 36, T. 18, R. 6, and twenty feet from thence to the north line of said section 36. The bottom of said ditch to be one-fourth as wide as the top, and the depth one foot more, at all points than the depth as fixed by C. D. Moore in the profile approved March 1, 1884.

The commissioners advertised for bids which were to be received and contract let October 16, 1884. The board, however, adjourned from time to time, and the contract was not let until the following spring. The contract was awarded to McGillis & Co., at eleven and nine-tenths cents per cubic yard, with the condition that if the ditch was completed by April 1, 1886, they were to be allowed an additional one and six-tenths cents per cubic yard.

A short time after the contract was let the firm of McGillis &. Co. assigned the contract to Pollard, Goff & Co., and at a meeting of the commissioners held July 22, 1885, it was decided that with the consent of Pollard, Goff & Co., they would make the ditch six feet wide on the bottom from one end to the other, and two feet deeper than the bottom of the ditch as shown by C. D. Moore's profile from the north end to within one mile of the south end, and from that point the depth to increase gradually until it is three feet deeper than the bottom of the ditch as shown by the plans and specifications. The width of top of ditch to remain as original contract. The time for the completion of the ditch was extended to June 1, 1886.

These changes were accepted by Pollard, Goff & Co. and active work was commenced in the summer of 1885, at the north line of Sec. 36, T. 18, R. 6, in Monticello township. The work continued all summer and fall and all the next year until in November, 1886, they reached the Moore graveyard in Unity township. On the second of February, 1887, the boat was burned. The ditch, however, had been completed as far as the original ditch extended, in all over two hundred thousand cubic yards of dirt had been removed. As the ditch had been completed within the time, the price paid for the work was thirteen and one-half cents per cubic yard, and the ditch had cost in the neighborhood of thirty thousand dollars.

The farmers near Mackville formed a special mutual drainage district (called District No. 7), and cleaned out the ditch above and below Mackville with teams and scrapers. The ditch was afterwards extended about three miles. Some claim now that the outlet is not large enough, and they are contemplating the extension of the work at least as far as the county line on the south, and possibly into Moultrie county. A number of laterals have been put in, and that part of the county is getting to be well drained, so that now there is not a better farming region anywhere. It has added greatly to the value of the land, also. To illustrate, in 1882, the year the ditch was commenced, the Dr. Clapp farm of four hundred acres, sold for $10,000—$25 per acre. Perhaps $35 would have been an average price for land in that vicinity. Now it could hardly be bought for four or five times that amount. At first, though, the taxes were very high, and it was a great hardship to many of the farmers to pay. The present commissioners are Ed. Moyer, M. F. Walsh and Michael Morris.

PIATT FAIR.

(Note. I am indebted to Judge M. R.

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

Davidson for the information about the earlier fairs.)

The Piatt County Agricultural Society was organized in 1856. No record of the early proceedings of the society can be found. In 1861 an election of officers of the society was held in the court-house, at which time the following officers were chosen: President, Jacob Smith; Vice-Presidents, J. C. Johnson, H. S. Coonrod, Ezra Marquiss, Secretary, A. T. Pipher; Treasurer, Elias Hall and directors, John M. Barnes and Dr. Kelly.

The first fairs were held on the grounds east of Mr. Bear's residence in Monticello. In 1861 the society bought fifteen acres north of town, where the present fair grounds are located. The only fence around the grounds was a rail one, and there were no buildings. Jesse Warner, C. P. Davis, and Dr. Farra were appointed a committee to see what could be done. It was decided to mortgage the ground to get money to improve with. J. C. Johnson furnished the money, and the ground was fenced, and two cheap buildings erected. The grounds were put in shape by persons who donated their labors. There is very little resemblance between the early fairs and the modern ones. The early fair was a gathering in the interest of the farmer; it was an annual county picnic, and an annual occasion for meeting old friends. No races were held. It was morally clean and a distinct success socially, but a failure financially. As Capt. C. P. Davis expressed it, "We knew the debit and credit side of our ledger, and the debit side was always in excess." At times the people were solicited for private contributions to keep up the honor of the society for it has always made it a point to keep all obligations in good faith.

All attempts to introduce races met with violent opposition inside the association until 1876, when there was a change in the officials of the fair, and consequently a change in its management. A race course one-third of a mile long was constructed, which was surveyed by the surveyor of the Monticello railroad free of charge. J. W. Warren and C. P. Davis carried the chain without pay. That year the fair was a financial success. Every one wanted to see the new grounds, and to see what the new management would do. Capt. C. P. Davis was secretary, and J. W. Warren, treasurer, and they acted as a committee on privileges.

It was not an easy matter to make the fair a financial success, and some new device had to be resorted to each year to draw the people. One year the principal attraction was to be a grand balloon ascension, and it was advertised all over the county to take place on a certain day. When the people came to the fair, they found that they were required to procure a balloon ticket in addition to the regular admittance ticket before they could be admitted to the grounds. Some of the people demurred. They didn't want a balloon ticket; they came to see the fair and when the balloon went up, it would be an easy matter for them just to turn their backs. But such an excuse would not go, and the visitor must get the balloon ticket before he could be admitted to the grounds. When the time came, it was too windy for the balloon to go up, and a veritable howl balloon tickets, and the management saved themselves from bodily harm, only by promising faithfully that it should go up the next day. They fulfilled their promise, for the next day the old balloon went up about fifty feet, and the people were satisfied.

Another scheme to get a large attend-

ance was to have some eminent man speak on some current topic of general interest. Schuyler Colfax was the orator at one fair, Ex-Governor Oglesby at another. Later they had chariot races, a "guideless wonder," bicycle races, high diver, jubilee singers, captive balloon, etc.

In this time, the fair was put on a firmer financial basis, twenty-eight more acres were bought, a new amphtheatre was built, several buildings and many new stalls added, and a good supply of water for the fair furnished. In 1891 steam power was provided for the machinery on exhibition.

The receipts for some of the years are as follows: 1877, $1825; 1886, $5225; 1891, $6892; 1897, $6272.

In 1901, the week of the fair was very rainy, and the attendance was not large. In 1902 the society cleared about a thousand dollars. In 1903, C. A. Tatman, who had been secretary of the fair for over twenty years, resigned, and a new organization was effected. The name of the society was changed to the Piatt County Board of Agriculture, and the officers elected are as follows: President, C. E. Moffitt; Secretary, C. H. Ridgely; Vice-President, J. D. Mackey; Treasurer, O. W. Moore; Directors, W. W. Royer, J. A. Mathews, M. F. McMillen, J. L. Bodman, R. M. Dobson, F. Bales, John Phalen, B. R. White and Samuel Howe. The first fair under the new management will be held August 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28, 1903. It will be the fortieth annual fair.

COUNTY PAPERS.

The Piatt County Herald was started in April, 1874, by H. D. Peters. Mr. Peters was an able editor and managed the paper successfully for eighteen years.

The Piatt Independent was started by G. A. Burgess in December, 1887. In 1892 Mr. Burgess bought the Herald of Mr. Peters, and the Herald and Independent were consolidated under the name of The Piatt County Republican, and it has been run under that name to the present time. G. A. Burgess is editor and manager.

The Piatt County Pilot was started in April, 1896, by L. S. Kilborn and Son. It was run by them as an independent concern until the following November, when it was purchased by a stock company incorporated under the name "Piatt County Pilot." C. H. Kilborn was chosen editor and manager. In May, 1900, it was purchased by L. S. Kilborn and Son, the present owners.

The Monticello Bulletin is the oldest paper in the county. The name has been changed a number of times, but the Bulletin can justly be claimed to be the successor, several gnerations removed of the Monticello Times, whose first issue was printed in November, 1856. Mr. James D. Moody published the paper for a short time, and then sold out to J. C. Johnson. Mr. Johnson sold out to James Outten. After a time Mr. Outten sold an interest in the paper to Mr. Hassett, and the name of the paper was changed to the Sucker State, The paper was next edited by Messrs. Gilliland and Tritt. Thomas Milligan succeeded them, and the name of the paper was changed to the Conservative. W. E. Lodge edited the paper from 1862 to 1864, at which time he sold out to N. E. Rhoades, and the paper was conducted under the auspices of the Union League. In the political campaign of 1864 the paper was called The Piatt County Union and was edited by M. A. Bates. In 1865 the paper was sold to Jas. M. Holmes, and the name was changed to the Piatt Independent.

It was published under this name for about seven years, and then the name was changed to the Piatt Republican. In 1876 the paper was sold to H. B. Funk, and became as the Monticello Bulletin, and has since been run under that name. Mr. Funk edited the paper for several years. W. E. Krebs is remembered by our citizens as the witty editor of the Bulletin. Mr. Krebs sold out to Mr. Evan Stevenson, who edited the paper very ably for about a year. C. E. Gaumer was the next editor, who sold out to H. W. Buckle, the present editor and manager.

IMPROVEMENTS OF COUNTY BUILDINGS.

In June, 1901, the Board of Supervisors visited the county farm to see what was needed there. It was found that the buildings were inadequate, and at the request of the committee on public buildings and grounds, Mr. C. S. Bainum, a professional architect, prepared plans and designs for buildings needed to cost about twelve thousand dollars. The buildings were to be of brick, two stories and a basement, with slate roof, and to be provided with convenient and modern equipment. The plans were presented to the Board of Supervisors, and with some modifications, were accepted, and Mr. Bainum was directed to prepare complete plans and specifications. The board advertised for bids, and on the 26th of August, the contract was let to George Lux for $11,750.

The buildings were completed the next year, and formally accepted by the Board of Supervisors. The buildings are all of brick, heated by steam, and are very comfortable and convenient. They are three stories high the sleeping rooms on the lower floor being provided with iron grated doors, so that the occupant can be locked in the rooms if necessary. One part of the building is set apart for the men, another for the women.

Following is a complete list of the poor farm stewarts: James G. Miner, E. Garver, G. Turk, Solomon Leitz, W. R. Hyde, John Lohr, W. R. Hyde, D. R. Kemper, George A. Lindsley, Ben Cole.

COURT HOUSE AND JAIL.

At the meeting of the Board of Supervisors held September 10, 1902, on motion of William L. Plunt, of Sangamon township, it was decided to submit to the voters at the next general election, a proposition to issue the bonds of the county to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars, to erect a court house to cost not more than seventy-five thousand dollars, and to repair the jail at a cost not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars.

A great deal of interest was taken in the matter, and the proposition was vigorously discussed by our newspapers and citizens, which discussion continued up to the election which was held November 4, 1902.

The result of the election was a majority of 167 votes in favor of the proposition to issue the bonds of the county for the purpose of building new court house, and repairing jail.

Steps were at once taken to get suitable plans for the new building. A committee from the Board of Supervisors was appointed to visit a number of county seats and inspect the court houses.

January 20, 1903, the bonds were sold to the First National Bank of Monticello at a premium of $1050, and accrued interest.

In March, 1903, it was decided to accept the plans prepared by Architect Joseph W. Royer, of Urbana, and he was instructed to

prepare suitable plans and specifications. The contract was let July 8, 1903, to H. B. Walters, of Danville, for seventy-five thousand dollars, building to be completed by July 15, 1904. It is to be a three story brick building, with modern conveniences.

On the lower floor on the east side will be the office and vault of the county treasurer, and in the south east corner the Board of Suprvisors' room.

In the northwest corner will be the rooms of the county school superintendent. South of these will be the vault of the county clerk, and in the southwest corner will be a public waiting room.

On the second floor above the rooms of the county superintendent will be the office of the sheriff. South of this will be the rooms of the county clerk.

The county court room extends across the south end of this floor. In the southeast corner is the office of the county judge. Just north of him is the state's attorney's office, and north of that the office and vault of the circuit clerk.

On the third floor is the circuit court room. In addition to this, there is a room for the law library, the circuit judges' private room, the attorney's consultation room, the petit jury room, the grand jury room, ladies' waiting room, and gentlemen's waiting room

The heating plant for the building is at the jail. The old court house was sold at public auction on May 26th, and bought by Lodge Bros., for $138.01, which included the heating plant and the plumbing. By the first of August the entire building was torn down, and the work of getting the ground in shape for the new building commenced.

The work on the jail was also begun. The contract for the repair of the jail was let to V. Jobst and Son, of Peoria, for twelve thousand, four hundred and eighty-eight dollars, work to be completed in four months. The contract for the cell work was let to Van Dorn Iron Works Co., of Cleveland, Ohio, for eight thousand, six hundred dollars.

The contract for the heating plants for court house and jail, and for laying of mains was awarded to Field, Shorb & Co., of Decatur, for fifteen hundred dollars, and four dollars per lineal foot for laying the mains.

The work of breaking the ground for the new court house commenced August 10, and the work is being pushed rapidly forward.

Following is a list of the county officers since the organization of the county:

STATES' ATTORNEY.

James McDougal, David Campbell, M. R. Rust, John R. Eden, J. P. Boyd, D. L. Bunn, M. V. Thompson, Samuel R. Reed, Peter A. Hamilton, Albert Emerson, Charles Hughes, James Hicks, H. H. Crea and Charles F. Mansfield, the present states' attorney.

COUNTY JUDGES.

James Reber, John Hughes, James Ater, A. G. Boyer, H. C. McComas, G. L. Spear, Hiram Jackson, William McReynolds, W. G. Cloyd, H. E. Huston, M. R. Davidson, and F. M. Shonkiveler, the present official.

COUNTY CLERKS.

Joseph King, J. D. Hillis, James F. Outten, J. L. Miller, W. F. Cox, J. A. Helman, W. L. Ryder, John Porter, A. L. Rodgers and B. F. Kagey, the present county clerk.

CIRCUIT CLERKS.

James S. Reber, J. C. Johnson, A. G. Boyer, L. J. Bond, W. T. Foster, W. H. Plunk, G. A. Stadler, Robert Hudgen and J. C. Tippett.

COUNTY TREASURERS.

(While the county was not under township organizaion the sheriff acted as county treasurer.)

N. E. Rhoades, Charles Watts, S. E. Langdon, J. T. VanGundy, Nelson Reid, Theodore Gross, E. W. Walker, Dan Hall, E. W. Walker, S. M. Funk and Isaac N. Biebinger.

SHERIFFS.

John Piatt, Edward Ater, Charles Harris, George Heath, Samuel Morain, G. M. Bruffett, Peter K. Hull, Renben Bowman, F. H. Lowry, E. P. Fisher, W. B. List, George F. Miller, John Kirby, W. H. Plunk, E. P. Fisher, W. M. Holmes, J. E. Andrew, George F. Miller, J. M. Woolington, C. A. Shiveley, J. M. Woolington and Freeman Clow.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS.

At first this officer was called school commissioner. The school commissioners were as follows: Joseph King, W. H. Piatt, George A. Patterson, Joseph Kee, Thomas Milligan, John Huston, The first county superintendent was J. W. Coleman. The other county superintendents are as follows: C. A. Tatman, C. J. Pitkin, Mary I. Reed, G. A. Burgess, George N. Snapp, Allen B. Martin, James H. Martin and Charles McIntosh.

SURVEYORS.

James Reber, George Heath, James Bryden, C. D. Moore, Wm. McReynolds, C. D. Moore, Henry Eatherton and W. J. Day.

CORONERS.

Reuben Bowman, W. M. Barnes, M. N. Secrist.

MASTER IN CHANCERY.

A. G. Bowyer, A. T. Pipher, S. R. Reed, E. A. Barrington, Albert Emerson, Frank Pittman, H. H. Crea and R. I. Tatman.

GROWTH IN POPULATION.

The following table will show the county's growth in population:

In 1850, 1606; in 1860, 6127; in 1870, 10,953; in 1880, 15,583; in 1890, 17,062; and in 1900, 17,706.

CHAPTER III.

SCHOOLS OF THE COUNTY.

The pride of Piatt county is in her schools. The school work has been organized and systematized to an extent much greater than in many counties of the state. The first schools were very crude ones. They were subscription schools, and the main object was to make the children able to write a little, to read some and to "cipher."

The first school houses were like the first dwellings, of logs. There were no desks, the pupils sitting on benches made by putting some legs in a puncheon log. A board along the side of the room held up by sticks driven into the sides of the school house, were the writing desks. The teachers would come around occasionally to set the "copy." In the earliest houses the light came through paper greased with " coon grease," the only windows that the houses afforded. Since that time the schools have made rapid progress, and we have a system of schools of which the people are justly proud.

At first but few districts were organized and these extended over a great deal of territory. As the country developed, new districts were formed bringing the schools nearer to the people. At the present time there are 101 school districts in the county, most of which contain four sections or a little more. The largest school district in the county is the Bement district, which has ten and one-fourth sections. A few districts have five and six sections. Watson numbers 50 and Elwood number 53, contain eight sections. A few contain less than four sections. The smallest districts in the county are Hammond, district 84, which contains two sections and 200 acres, and Love, number 85, the smallest in the county, which contains but two and one-fourth sections. In all these are 90 rural schools in the county, and 13 graded schools as follows: Atwood employs six teachers; Bement, eleven; Cerro Gordo, six; Cisco, three; DeLand, four; Hammond, four; LaPlace, three; Mansfield, six; Milmine, two; Monticello, thirteen, 10 in one school and three in the other; Pierson, two and White Heath, two. The Bement, Cerro Gordo, Mansfield and Monticello schools are on the accredited list of the state University.

The funds to support the schools are derived from four different sources, the state, county, township and district. The state appropriates a million dollars annually for the support of the schools. The proceeds of the sale of public lands is loaned to the state, and the interest on this (one sixth part excepted which goes to the State University) is distributed to the schools of the state. The interest on the surplus revenue which was loaned to the state by the federal government during Jackson's administration (Illinois gets $477,919.24), is distributed to the counties by the state auditor in proportion to the number of children under twenty-one years of age, as determined by the last state or federal census. The amount due each county is sent to the county superintendent as a warrant on the state treasurer. This warrant is cashed by the county treasurer who turns it in when making settlement with the state treasurer in lieu of so much taxes.

The county fund is the proceeds of the sale of the swamp lands of the county. The amount in our county at this time is $7,565. This amount is loaned by the county superintendent and the interest is distributed to the schools in the same way that the state funds are distributed. Fines and forfeitures imposed by justices of the peace and police magistrates for misdemeanors are distributed in the same way.

The township fund is the proceeds of the sale of the sixteenth section in each township. The amount of this fund varies from $500 to $13,660, according to the location of the sixteenth section, and when the land was sold. Every township in our county has sold its section, and has the money loaned out on interest. The interest on this fund is distributed by the trustees to the different schools of the townships, in proportion to the number of children under twenty-one

years of age, at the meetings held in April and October.

The principal of the township funds is as follows:

16—6	$ 1,563 00
17—6	5,916 28
18—6	500 00
19—6	1,175 00
20—6	1,400 00
21—6	5,000 00
16—5	13,660 00
17—5	2,965 56
18—5	1,072 76
19—5	2,145 00
20—5	4,000 00

The district fund is the annual tax levied by the board of school directors.

Every since 1878, Piatt county teachers have had an organization called the Piatt County Teachers' Association, alternating between Bement and Monticello. The membership for the last few years has included nearly every teacher in the county. Membership is obtained by the payment of an annual fee of twenty-five cents, which is used in defraying the expenses of the association. In all sixty-five regular meetings have been held. The meetings are held the latter part of September, October, November, January, February and March. For the last two years the association has been divided into sections for the morning work, as follows: high school section; country school section, grade section and primary section. In the afternoon the teachers meet in general session and usually have a teacher from neighboring city school, normal school or university to address them. Resident teachers of the county furnish the rest of the program, which consists of a discussion of the books in the course for the year in the Illinois Teachers' Reading Circle, and a discussion of matters of interest to teachers. About eighty-five percent of our teachers are regular attendants at teachers' meetings. The officers of the association for next year are as follows: President, Supt. J. T. Gale, of the Monticello schools; Vice-President, Prin. H. H. Kirkpatrick, of the DeLand school; Secretary, Kathryne Heath, of Monticello; Treasurer, Charles McIntosh, county superintendent. The executive committee is made up of these persons, and three other elected members as follows: Winifred Hammond, Gertrude Dockum and Lilly Lanier. The executive committee arranges the course of study for the year, and the different programs.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Two years ago the Piatt County School Directors' Association was formed for the improvement of the schools of the county. The first meeting was held in the Monticello high school building. About seventy-five were present, and a very interesting program was carried out. A constitution was adopted and a permanent organization effected. The object of the association was to bring the directors in close touch with the schools and with each other so that the efficiency of our schools might be increased. L. H. Alvord was elected president; Mrs. Maye Duncan, secretary, and P. B. Maxhimer, L. A. Melvin and G. A. Lindsley and Charles McIntosh program committee.

The second meeting was held in the high school building at Monticello, September, 1902. At this time the following officers were elected: President, P. B. Maxhimer; Secretary, W. W. Lefever. An important action taken at this meeting was the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That this association recommend that all school boards in the county appropriate a suitable amount each year (at least fifteen dollars) to be spent under their direction for books for the library, for pictures for the school, or other similar purposes.

The next meeting will be held in Monticello in October.

At the meeting of the Piatt County School Directors' Association held last September, the subject of school text books was discussed, and it seemed to be the unanimous feeling of the directors present that there should be a uniformity in the adopted text books of the county. A resolution was adopted providing for a committee of fifteen persons, ten to be chosen by the Piatt County School Directors' Association, five by the Piatt County Teachers' Association, with the county superintendent as chairman of the committee. The directors' association chose the following persons: Charles Adkins, Charles Burns, A. T. Smothers, A. A. Harlan, H. C. Marquiss, J. H. Coon, W. F. Stevenson, O. W. Moore, J. H. Easton and P. B. Maxhimer.

The teachers' association chose J. G. Gale, J. E. Underwood, Clark Blacker, Lennia Hart and Winifred Hammond.

A preliminary meeting of the committee was held in the county superintendent's office Saturday, April 25, at which the following members were present: Charles Adkins, A. T. Smothers, A. A. Harlan, H. C. Marquiss, O. W. Moore, J. H. Easton, J. T. Gale, J. E. Underwood, Clark Blacker, Winifred Hammond and Charles McIntosh.

The subject of county uniformity of text books was discussed, and the members present were unanimously in favor of county uniformity. A motion was carried that the committee recommend the adoption of books in three subjects. It was decided to concur in the action taken by the teachers' association in recommending the adoption of Montgomery's primary history for sixth grade, McMaster's school history for the seventh and eighth grades, Rational grammar for the seventh and eighth grades.

It was also decided to make a thorough examination of the different readers on the market, and to recommend a series for adoption in the county. The committee then adjourned to meet again May 29.

Notices were at once sent to all the book companies that publish readers and they are invited to submit samples. The committee met again May 29. The following members were present: Charles Burns, A. T. Smothers, W. F. Stevenson, O. W. Moore, A. A. Harlan, H. C. Marquiss, J. H. Easton, J. T. Gale, J. E. Underwood, Winifred Hammond and Charles McIntosh. Charles Adkins was not present, but he sent his written opinion, and vote on readers. Representatives of the different book companies were given an oppportunity to present the merits of their respective books. After discussion, the committee decided to recommend the adoption of the Cyr's readers for the regular or basal text in the county, and the progressive readers and stepping stones to literature for supplementary use. It was also decided to send a circular letter to every school director in the county giving the recommendations of the committee.

ANNUAL INSTITUTE.

An annual institute is held each year. This year the institute was held June 1-5, with the following instructors: Miss Edna Keith, of the Western Illinois Normal

school, who had charge of the primary work; Prof. Henry Johnson, of the Eastern Illinois State Normal, who had the work in history, and Prof. F. G. Blair, who had the work in reading and literature. The work in country school management was conducted by County Superintendent Charles McIntosh, for the beginning teachers.

STATE COURSE OF STUDY.

The State course of study is now being used in every school in the county. It is a course prepared under the direction of the State Teachers' Association and is in general use all over the State. The advantages which it has over the old text book method is that instruction will be much broader, so that they get not just simply the views of one man, but they study the subjects.

In enforcing the use of this course of study the county superintendent sends out each month to all the teachers questions on the month's work just studied. On a specified Friday the sealed questions are given to the pupils. In the spring the county superintendent, in person, conducts an examination of the advanced pupils. Central examinations, as they are called, are held in twelve or fourteen different places in the county. The questions are made out by the county superintendent and the papers are graded by him. From three to ten or twelve different schools are at these examinations, so that there is given an opportunity to compare the work done in the different schools. Those who make an average of 75 per cent. in the central are eligible to the final, which is held the latter part of March or the first of April. Those who make an average of 75 per cent. in the final are considered as having satisfactorily completed the year's work. When a pupil has completed both the seventh and eighth year's work he is entitled to a common school diploma, and when he has completed both the ninth and tenth years' work he is entitled to a diploma in the higher course. Within the last five years a great deal of interest has been taken in the higher work in our country schools and the interest in it has grown. The fourth annual county commencement exercises were held this year at Monticello Wednesday afternoon, June 17, and at Cerro Gordo Thursday evening, June 18, 1903. Sixteen diplomas were given to the graduates of the higher course and thirty to the graduates of our common school course. A common school diploma will admit the holder to any high school in the county without further examination, and the higher course diploma will give the holder certain credits in the high school, so that the high school course can be completed in about two years.

The following statistics with regard to the schools may be of interest: Number of children in county under 21, 6,952; number children in school, 4,313; number rooms used in graded schools, 58; number of volumes in libraries, 11,450; amount of bonded school debt, $42,645; amount of money raised by special tax last year, $81,975.67; amount paid teachers, $57,037.65; paid for new school houses, $3,087.54; total expenditures for school purposes, $82,428.87; number of public high schools, 5; number of schools that enrolled fewer than five pupils, 1; fewer than 10, 2; fewer than 15, 14; amount received from State Auditor last year, $2,620.58; interest on county fund, $456.65; received from fines and forfeitures, $30.

MONTICELLO TOWNSHIP.

The first school taught in Monticello township was by James Outen. The school

house stood west of Monticello, near the river. The first school in the town of Monticello was held in the first court house, and was taught by George A. Patterson.

The first school house built in the city was a block south of the square next to the Presbyterian church lot. Esquire A. J. Wiley donated the ground and helped build the house.

The old brick school house in the south part of town was built in 1857-8. Isaiah Stickle was the first teacher in the new house. At first only three rooms were completed, two below and one upstairs. In 1869 or 1870 the upper room was divided. This was used for school purposes until the present new brick building was erected. In 1903 the old house was sold and torn down.

In 1894 a new, large, ten-room house was erected. It is one of the most substantial buildings in the county, erected at a cost of $22,000. It is heated by steam, has a splendid system of ventilation and is provided with water.

A four-room frame building in the north part of town was erected in 1877. Three rooms of this are now used.

In all, Monticello employs thirteen teachers. There are three teachers in the high school and one of the teachers gives half her time to teaching music in the grades.

The list of principals of the schools are as follows: Isaiah Stickle, Mr. Babcock, Mr. Scovell, W. F. Gilmore, A. T. Pipher, J. A. McComas, Mr. Porter, John P. McIntosh, Arthur Edwards, P. T. Nichols, Jesse Hubbard, Gilbert A. Burgess, Amelia E. Sanford, H. F. Baker, W. H. Skinner, F. V. Dilatush, W. R. Humphrey, James H. Martin, F. E. Auten, P. T. Nichols, J. H. Martin, E. A. Fritter, J. H. Meneely, W. C. Hobson, J. E. Webb and J. T. Gale, the present principal (1903).

There is a good high school course and its graduates are admitted to the State University without examination. This year's graduating class numbered nineteen, the largest in the history of the school.

Margaret Davison, of last year's class, won the scholarship at the competitive examination last summer. J. T. Gale was the superintendent. The enrollment of the school is about 500. There is a library of 200 volumes, and the apparatus and library used for the high school is estimated at $550. They have one of the finest school grounds in the county.

Besides the schools in town there are the following country schools in the township: Stringtown, Dighton, Prairie Chapel, Ridge, Haneline, Independent, New York, Casner, Anderson and Dublin. Each of these schools has a good library, and most of them nice pictures. The Dublin school has nicely framed pictures of Lincoln, Columbus, Longfellow and Washington, a colored Italian copy of the Dance of the Muses and an Italian copy of Sistine Madonna. Prairie Chapel has a fine grove in the school yard. The school house at Haneline is brick. The Casner school is a small one, having but four pupils last year.

BEMENT TOWNSHIP.

The first school in Bement township was taught in the village of Bement by Henry C. Booth in 1856. The length of the school was but three months and the salary was $40 per month.

A two-room building was erected in 1859. F. E. Bryant was the contractor and J. M. Camp was the builder. Previous to

this time they had used rented buildings. The school grounds, which are used even to the present time, and make a fine campus, were donated by L. B. Wing and William Rea. In 1866 four additional rooms were added, although they were not all used for some time. Two more rooms were built on in 1886 and four more in 1892, making in all twelve school rooms. A steam heating plant was put in in 1884.

On September 4, 1898, the building was struck by lightning during a storm and was damaged to the amount of $1,350, which was paid by the insurance companies.

In April, 1899, the entire frame building was destroyed by fire. The fire originated in the night from some unknown cause, and before it was discovered the building was past saving.

Arrangements were at once made for a new building, and in the fall of 1899 and 1900 a magnificent new building was erected, which is one of the handsomest of any of the smaller towns in the State. Cost, $27,000.

It contains eleven school rooms, besides offices, recitation rooms, etc. It is heated by steam, has drinking water on each floor and has a very efficient system of ventilation.

N. G. Hinkle, now in Champaign, was a director of this school for twenty-one years and was a very interested and capable director.

The following is a list of the school principals: H. C. Booth, S. K. Bodman, J. W. Richards, C. D. Moore, J. B. Lovell, A. S. Norris, J. A. Helman, J. R. Johnson, J. N. Patrick, E. M. Cheney, Mrs. Shirk, F. M. Fowler, Asa W. Mason, H. A. Coffeen, W. J. Cousins, J. H. McComas, G. C. Gantz, A. C. Butler, Thomas Sterling, Miss Bell Sterling, R. O. Hickman, T. C. Clendenen, I. N. Wade, W. E. Mann, P. K. McMinn, William Condericker, Charles W. Groves, A. B. Martin, J. M. Martin, Charles McIntosh, E. L. McDuffee, C. H. Andrews and Arthur Verner.

The school was placed on the accredited list of the State University in 1881, under Mr. Clendenen, but was afterwards dropped. Under the superintendency of J. M. Martin it was again placed on the accredited list, and has been on the list continuously ever since.

Many of its graduates have entered the State University and have made very creditable showings. At least five of its graduates have won scholarships given by the State.

In 1896 Anna Mitchell won the scholarship, the schools under the supervision of Charles McIntosh.

In 1897 Ida M. Hinkle, schools under supervision of Charles McIntosh.

In 1898 Charles Dawson, schools under supervision of Charles McIntosh.

In 1900 Clarence Holcomb, schools under supervision of C. H. Andrews.

At this same time S. R. Noe was awarded a scholarship and credited to DeWitt county. He graduated under E. L. McDuffee.

In 1878 a frame school house was built in the southern part of the district to accommodate those living at a distance from Bement. Joanna Fleming was the first teacher in the school. This house has been repaired and remodeled from time to time and is now in very good condition. The "Bement Rural," as it is called, has a library of over 200 volumes.

There are nine rural schools in the township, as follows: Ray, Moma, Davies, Fisher, Concorn, Mitchell, Bement Rural, Coffin, Moore. Davies has a cupola and a

bell, and a flower garden. It has also one of the best rural school libraries in the county.

CERRO GORDO TOWNSHIP

At first the scholars from Cerro Gordo attended a school situated over in Macon county. The first school house in the township was built in Cerro Gordo on the site of the present school building about 1857. Andrew McKinney was the first teacher in the house, and taught the school for three years.

In 1867 a two-room brick building was erected at a cost of $6,000. In 1873 a two-room wing of the same size and material was added. In 1881 a one-room frame addition was added. The rooms were heated by stoves, some of which had two, one in either end. This house did service until 1900, when it was replaced by a handsome six-room modern building, heated by a furnace, and modern in every respect. In 1900 the high school course was revised and enlarged and made four years instead of three. Its work was also accredited at the State University. The following is a list of its principals: Andrew McKinney, Mr. Green, John Garver, Mr. Welch, P. H. Harris, E. Duncan, A. D. Beckhart, T. C. Fuller, Miss Olive E. Coffeen, Joshua Thorpe, A. R. Jolly, B. F. Stocks, W. S. Hall, George N. Snapp, W. H. Givler, J. E. Wooters, I. C. Baker, John Loeffler, C. O. DuBois, A. L. Starr, George S. Morris, S. Cass and Earl Q. Snider.

MILMINE.

The present two-story brick school house at Milmine was erected in 1871 and cost $4,500. Jasper N. Wilkinson was its first principal and was followed by A. D. Beckhart, W. H. Chamberlain, Allen S. Stults, John A. Smith, Frank East, Mr. McKinney, Charles Hughes, M. M. Morris, Joel Dunn, George E. Stuart, John J. Wilkinson, A. C. Duncan, C. C. Walsh, Thomas Gilvere, Charles McIntosh, J. P. Rose, I. N. Biebinger, Warren Sanders, George F. Arps, F. S. Betz and Mattie G. Johnson, the present principal. Milmine is a two-room school, and its pupils have been making very creditable showings in central and final examinations recently.

LA PLACE.

The LaPlace school building was erected in 1884. It was a two-room building, erected by Josiah Gunkle, the contract price being $1,999.40. The school board at that time consisted of A. S. Hawthorne, president; James A. Fleck, clerk, and S. S. Miller. In 1903 they built a two-room addition to the house, the contractor being Frank Michael. The cost of the new building and the repairs on the old was $2,250. The list of teachers is as follows: 1884, George S. Morris and Alta Dawson; 1885, George S. Morris and Naomi Smith; 1886, J. A. Hardenbrook and Naomi Smith; 1887, E. O. Humphrey and Nellie Espy; 1888, E. O. Humphrey and Maye Gannon; 1889-1897, A. C. Duncan and Maye Gannon; 1897 and 1898, Arthur Verner and Nellie Hoyt; 1899, J. E. Underwood and Mary Mohler; 1900, J. E. Underwood and Mary Mohler; 1901, J. E. Underwood and Alice Dillow; 1902, J. E. Underwood and Minerva Goodrich; 1903, J. E. Underwood, Grace Hobson and Minerva Goodrich.

The first graduating exercises were held in 1902, with four graduates.

The high school course was revised in 1903 and now consists of three years work. The enrollment in the school is 110. The school sentiment in the district is good.

Beside these three graded schools there are the following schools in Cerro Gordo township:

Gulliford, Pemble, East Union, Star, Pleasant View, Voorhies, Center 16-5, Centennial, Prairie Dell, Center, Center 16-4, Clark and Lintner.

Pleasant View and Centennial have fine groves in the school yard and the properties in each of the above districts is well kept up. Lintner district is contemplating the erection of a new school house.

GOOSE CREEK TOWNSHIP.

The first school house erected in Goose Creek township was a log house near where the Piatt school house now stands. George A. Patterson was the first teacher. The next school established in the township was the Morain school. These were both large schools, the average attendance being from sixty to eighty pupils.

DeLand is the only village school in the township. It now has a four-room house, heated by steam, built in 1887.

The principals at DeLand are as follows: B. F. Stultz, E. E. Carrier, C. D. Thomas, C. H. Wells, Thomas Gilvere, A. C. Staley, Edward C. Graybill, H. S. Davis, Arthur Verner, Noah A. Young and H. H. Kirkpatrick, the present principal. The rural schools in the township are as follows:

Mount Vernon, Wisegarver, Western, Fairview, Pleasant Falls, Harmony, Piatt Morain, Ashland, Prospect, Enterprise, Kentucky. The Kentucky school house was built in 1902.

SANGAMON TOWNSHIP.

George A. Patterson taught the first school in Sangamon township. The house was a log school house and stood north of White Heath near the site of the old White school house. James Outen, S. K. Bodman, W. H. Reese, H. Timmons, Charles Hughes, Pamelia (Combes) Hughes, Sadie Reed and others are among the early teachers in this township.

White Heath has a two-room frame house, built in 1893. The principals of the school are as follows: J. T. Gale, Florence (Tippett) Duvall, D. W. Carper, Alfred Ewington, C. M. Morris, Lennia Hart, Clark Blackner. The country schools in the township are as follows: Galeville, Sunny Mound, Argo, Madden, Centerville, White, Lodge, Union, Camp Creek and Prairie Dell. The White district has recently completed a modern, one-room building, one of the best arranged in the county. The windows are all on the north side. The Argo district let the contract recently for a similar building, to be completed this fall.

WILLOW BRANCH TOWNSHIP.

Judge Edward Ater taught the first school in Willow Branch township about 1840 in a log school house on Willow Branch. Among the early teachers of the township may be mentioned the following: Robert L. Barton, J. Hull Brown, Caleb and Riley Tatman, the Suver sisters and Thomas Lamb, Jr.

Cisco has the only village school in the township. At first this district was very small, but it has been gradually reaching out until it has nearly four sections and maintains three rooms.

In 1900 they built a modern, four-room brick house, well lighted, heated and ventilated. It is heated by a furnace. The cost of the building complete was about $6,000.

The principals of these schools have been as follows: C. C. Walsh, J. E. Nichols, George N. Dunham, D. C. Shaff, Chester M. Echols, John C. Hall, D. C. Shaff, T. H. Pease, E. S. Jones, J. R. Simer and Henry C. Gross, the present principal.

The other schools in the township are as follows: New Union, Excelsior, Wild Cat, Shady Nook, East Cisco, West Cisco, Oak Grove, Willow Branch, Havely, Riverside, Dillow, Hanover, Baker, Grove.

The Riverside school house was built in 1900 and the East Cisco in 1901. The Willow Branch school has always been a large one. Recently the house has been extensively repaired, new seats put in and a well sunk.

UNITY TOWNSHIP.

The first school house in Unity township was a very primitive one, even having the paper windows. It was taught by John Collins about 1842. The first school house in Mackville was built in 1858 and was taught by James Lewis. Among the early teachers in the township may be mentioned the following: Peter A. Hamilton, Gilbert A. Burgess, George W. Poole, J. A. Hawks, J. H. Easton, Mrs. J. A. Hawks, Joseph Trenchard, John A. Hardenbrook and wife, C. H. Righter and Miss Anna Davis.

The first school houses were Shonkwiler, Harshbarger, Mackville and Tryon. Pierson first belonged to the Tryon district and was a part of that district until 1882. The last school in the old Tryon school house was taught by William Wilson in 1882-3. The house stood just south of A. B. Chambers and a mile and a half south of the Easton school house. In the spring of 1883 the Pierson district was formed. George F. Righter taught the first school here in the school year of 1883-4. He was followed by Belle Barnes, William Loveless, Emily Godwin, John H. Easton, Anna Davies, Bell (Righter) Snider, Alberta Easton, B. M. Godwin, Rhoda Lowe, Otto C. Adams and Edward Erhardt.

In the meantime the village of Pierson had been growing and they had to have a larger school house, so in the fall of 1892 the present two-room building was completed. Miss Mollie Birks was the first principal, teaching there the school year of 1892-3. The other principals at Pierson in order are as follows: Holton Hall, John P. Rose, F. S. Betz, Alice Withers and Henry C. Gross.

Up to 1876 the pupils from Hammond attended the Love school, which was sitsituated northwest of Hammond, near where the present Hammond cemetery is. In 1876 the school house was moved into Hammond. John Hughes taught the first school in the new location. Among the other teachers in the one-room school house at Hammond may be mentioned: Laura Hines, Levi Harber, Mr. Humphrey and Amos M. Sharp.

In 1882 a new two-room house was built and George S. Morris was the first principal. In the summer of 1896 two additional rooms were added. The building is now a four-room frame house, heated by a furnace. The rooms are nicely decorated and some good work is being done there. Four teachers are employed. The list of principals is as follows: George S. Morris, Frank Godwin, W. W. Larrabee, D. L. Baker, John Loeffler, William Theobald, L. C. Foster, Warren Sanders, Jennie B. Burks, J. T. Gale, S. S.

Mountz and N. B. Bonham, the present principal.

The Atwood district was organized as a union district in the spring of 1884. The town of Atwood is built right along the county line, between Piatt and Douglas, the county line being the main street of the village. Previous to 1884 the Atwood children on the Douglas side went to the Otter school and those in Piatt county went to the Mackville school. Either school was about a mile and a half from town. A four-room house was erected in 1884. Three rooms were used the first year and James Hicks was the first principal. In 1886 four rooms were used. Afterwards a two-room addition was built and the house now contains six rooms. In 1901 a steam heating plant was installed. For some time there was considerable opposition to the district from the Douglas side. The Atwood district maintained school in the old Otter house until 1894, when two sections in Douglas county were taken from the Atwood district and those who objected to the management of affairs at Atwood were placed in the Garret district.

Following is the complete list of the Atwood principals in order: James Hicks, John Smith, George S. Morris, T. J. Haney, Charles Gott, W. E. Knott, C. H. Bonnell, M. A. Hester and M. A. Thrasher, the present principal.

There are ten rural schools in the township, as follows: Baird, McCabe, Shonkwiler, Baker, Morgan, Leavitt, Easton, Harshbarger, Love and Maple Grove.

BLUE RIDGE TOWNSHIP.

The first school house was built about 1854.

The Mansfield school is the only graded school in the township. The first house in Mansfield was a frame one, which stood in the east part of town.

The brick house was built in 1893 at a cost of about $12,000. It is a modern brick building of six rooms, heated by steam. A four years' high school course was adopted in 1902, and its work has been accredited by the State University. The principals are as follows:

G. N. Snapp (2), 1890-91; L. D. Stearns (4), L. B. White, C. C. Faust, J. M. Markel and T. L. Cook.

The rural schools in Blue Ridge township are as follows:

Blue Ridge, Langley, Van Meter, West Point, Gillespie, McGath, Watson, South Prairie, Klinger, Victory, Pleasant Grove, Number Six, Elwood.

The Gillespie is a modern one-room house, built in 1901. The McGath house was extensively repaired in 1902 and practically made into a new house, and the West Point school house was repaired and worked over in 1903, and the Langley school in 1900. The Blue Ridge school house is brick, all the others are frame.

CHAPTER IV.

MONTICELLO.

The location of Monticello is almost an ideal place for a town. The country is rolling and affords excellent drainage; it is near the river and is in the center of a very fine farming and stock country. It is the oldest town in the county, having been laid out in

1837, four years before the county was organized. Just before this the nearest town at which they could trade was Decatur, about twenty-five miles away by road. The people around here thought that that was too far to go to do their trading and concluded to start a town. A committee consisting of Abraham Marquiss, William Barns, Major McReynolds and J. A. Piatt was appointed to select a location for a town. They searched up and down both sides of the Sangamon and finally decided on the present location. It was indeed a good selection, and they would have had to search long and carefully to find a better one.

It is in the midst of a fine country and is just rolling enough to make a good location. The principal streets of the city are sloping and will almost drain and clean themselves.

The land was once owned by James A. Piatt, who sold part of it. The four men mentioned above formed a stock company and laid out the town. It was platted by James A. Piatt, surveyed by Mr. McClelland and named by Major McReynolds after the home of President Jefferson. The plat was recorded July 1, 1837.

On July 4th a grand barbecue was held. This was done to attract people to the new town and to sell the lots. The barbecue was very successful from both points of view. A large crowd attended the barbecue. Beeves, hogs and sheep were roasted and a general good time was had. A number of lots were sold, the price obtained being in the neighborhood of $2,700.

The original plat of Monticello did not include the Heyworth house, erected on what is now the Lodge place. The first house in the limits of the city was a small store house which stood on the northwest corner of the square, where the First National Bank is now located. It was built in 1837 by Mr. Cass, the first merchant in the town. The first dwelling house was built in 1839 by Mr. Nicholas Devore. The house was several years in building and went by the name of "Old Fort" for a number of years. The second dwelling house in the town was built by John Tenbrooke. It was a log house and served for a hotel. The third house was erected by James Outten just opposite the jail. The fourth house was a little blacksmith shop near the Honselman House, one block south of the square. In 1839 this was the extent of Monticello.

In 1841 Daniel Stickel opened the first regular store in the town on the south side of the present square. J. C. Johnson opened the first drug store and was the first regular postmaster. The first physician who settled in Monticello was Dr. King. The first preaching in the town was at the home of Mr. Outten, where a circuit rider of the M. E. church stopped once a month. In 1843 and 1844 Rev. Peter Cartwright held meetings in the old court house. He was quite a noted character in his day.

The first church in the town was built in 1848, two blocks south and one west of the square. It was a Methodist church.

Monticello was made a city in 1872. The first election under the new system of government was held December 17, 1872, and Daniel Stickel was elected first mayor and William T. Foster, B. B. Jones, E. G. Knight, J. A. Hill, John Keenan and James M. Holmes aldermen. William D. Shultz was elected clerk; A. T. Pipher attorney; J. T. VanGundy treasurer.

In 1893 (December 5) the city was laid off into three wards for the administration of municipal affairs.

The electric light plant was put in in

1891, the city water works system installed in 1892, the town hall was built in 1896 and the Allerton library was founded in 1897.

The system of wards was abolished in 1902.

Following is a list of the mayors:

1872-1876—Daniel Stickle.

1876-1878—C. P. Davis and S. H. Hubbell.

1878-1880—Samuel Reed.

1880-1882—W. H. Plunk.

1882-1884—Bert Emerson.

1884-1885—Julius A. Brown.

1885-1887—W. H. Plunk.

1887-1891—A. L. Rodgers.

1891-1893—John E. Andrew.

1893-1895—R. T. Ayre.

1895-1897—John E. Andrew elected. Served a short time and resigned. Reber Huston was appointed by City Council to fill vacancy until election could be held. Election held June 25, 1895, and W. J. Britton elected, who filled out unexpired term.

1897-1899—John A. Bender.

1899-1901—John E. Andrew.

1901-1903—Allen F. Moore.

1903—Wilbur F. Stevenson.

MONTICELLO WATER WORKS.

The first definite action looking towards city water works was taken in 1889. At the meeting of the City Council held September 3, 1889, a petition signed by forty-four citizens was read, asking the council to take action to establish a system of water works. On motion of Alderman C. N. Rhoades the mayor was instructed to appoint a committee of seven to investigate the matter and report conclusions—three of the committee to be members of the council and four of them citizens. Mayor A. L. Rodgers appointed the following persons on the committee: J. A. Bender, W. R. Yazle, R. R. Meredith, J. A. Brown, W. H. Plunk, G. A. Stadler and F. V. Dilatush. The committee made a very careful investigation of the matter and made a report to the council November 5, 1889 as follows:

A supply of water can be obtained anywhere in the northern portion of the city in three different ways—by using the well purchased of the coal company, by sinking a large surface well fifty or seventy feet deep, or by putting down two or three tubular wells about three hundred feet deep. Any of these methods will furnish water in abundance; but for the best and purest water we recommend the deep tubular wells, as that which will give the most satisfactory results for the least money. Of the various systems of water works in use the "combined system" of direct pressure from the pump, together with an elevated tank, would be the most durable and economical for our city. This system would be the most effective in use, least expensive to operate, and the first cost to protect a width of six blocks from north to south through the business portion of the city would not exceed $15,000. This includes sinking the wells, pump, tank, power house, etc., in fact, the system completed, tested and ready to be received by the city. Under the present law owing to the low valuation of the city's taxable property but $13,500 could be raised by bonds, 5 per cent. of the valuation being the limit for which a city can bond itself for water works. By raising $1,500 additional by a special tax our city can be as effectually protected as any city can be, and in view of the helpless condition in case of fire at present, we believe our city cannot afford to be longer without this aid.

We therefore recommend that you submit the question to a vote of the people, placing the cost at a maximum of $15,000, all of which is unanimously concurred in by your committee. Signed by all members of committee.

The council postponed action on the report of the committee and nothing more was done with the matter for nearly a year. On September 2, 1890, the council decided "to proceed to buy location for water works for city" and the clerk was directed to advertise for bids for sinking a six-inch well. It was decided to buy from H. E. Huston the east half of lots 5 and 6 and all of lot 7, block 10, in Rawlins' addition to Monticello, for $330, as a location for well and plant.

October 15, 1890, the contract for sinking the well was let to the J. W. Mohler Company at the following price: First 100 feet, $2.25 per foot; next 50 feet, $2.75 per foot, and from 150 to 500 feet, $3.00 per foot. The well was finished the following spring and was put down 311 feet.

On October 13, 1891, an ordinance was passed providing for bonding the city for $9,000 for the purpose of instituting a water-works plant. The bonds were sold to Farson, Leach & Co.

The contract for the construction of the water works plant complete with the exception of the pipe lines was awarded to George Cadogan Morgan for $10,450. The contract for water mains laid complete with all connections was awarded to Mueller Plumbing and Heating Company for $12,890. The work was completed and the plant installed in 1892.

Later an eight-inch well 209 feet deep was sunk. The water in each well stands within twenty feet of the top and is unusually clear and pure. The working valves of the pump are 100 feet down. The water tower is seventy feet high and forty-one feet in circumference at the base. On top of this is the stand-pipe, fifty feet high, twelve feet in diameter at base and ten feet at top. The tank holds about 36,000 gallons.

The water is first pumped into a reservoir, which holds 56,000 gallons, and is forty feet in diameter. On the eight-inch well is an Aurora pump and on the six-inch well a Cook pump. The water is forced from the reservoir by a Dean pressure pump. The stroke of this pump is fourteen inches, the plunger is eight and one-half inches in diameter, and the steam cylinder ten inches in diameter. The pump will throw 600 gallons per minute. In case of fire the water is pumped directly into the main, and some idea of the force with which it is sent may be obtained when you are told that they have sent water over a three-story elevator (Peck's) at least 100 feet away.

There are two seventy-five horse-power boilers, put in new in 1899. J. J. Bell is the city engineer and has been for the past two years. William Hodson is night man.

The fire company was organized in 1893. It is a very efficient organization and has done excellent work for the city. Perhaps the worst fire it has ever had to fight was the Peck elevator fire. The fire originated in the upper story and before the fire company arrived it had spread over nearly the whole roof, and it seemed impossible to save the building. The boys went to work with a will and in a short time had the fire under control. The roof had to be replaced, and quite a good deal of repairs made on the upper story, but aside from this, the damages to the building by fire were not very great. The company responds readily to all calls for help in case of fire and is worthy of commendation.

The following persons compose the team

at present: John Miller, chief; T. A. Tull, secretary; Scott Tinsman, Thomas Widderheim, Will Fisher, Will Skelton, Ben Facius, Robert Hubbard, George Peck, Wade Mitchell, Claude Weaver, R. M. Zybell and Samuel Cooper.

TOWN HALL.

At the town meeting held at the Baptist church on April 2, 1895, Daniel Hall made the following motion, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the sum of $15,000 be raised by taxation in the township of Monticello, Piatt county, Illinois, in the year 1894, for the purpose of buying site and erecting thereon a town hall and a room for a public library for the use of the inhabitants of said township.

On motion of J. E. Evans the moderator was authorized to appoint a committee of five to procure a site and to proceed to erect thereon a town hall and a room for a library. The moderator, Wm. H. Kratz, appointed Caleb A. Tatman, Frank V. Dilatush, George F. Rhoades, James L. Allman, Herbert D. Peters.

The committee purchased the west half of outlot 2, original town of Monticello, as a site for said building at $1,500. H. D. Peters resigned and J. W. Coleman was chosen in his place.

The original plans for the building were drawn by Seely Brown, which were accepted and paid for by the committee, who advertised for bids for the erection of the house according to the plans and specifications. The committee considered all the bids too high and all were rejected. The contract for the building was let July 13, 1896, to Mr. Gill, who drew a plan similar to the original one made by Mr. Brown. The contract price was $13,000, which included everything complete, except heating, seating and stage fixtures. The building was completed and accepted the following spring, at the town meeting held April 6, 1897, the committee appointed to have charge of the erection of the building was dicharged and the building was turned over to the town board. At this same meeting, on motion of C. A. Tatman, the chair appointed a committee of six to act as a library committee in all matters pertaining to the Allerton library. The chairman (W. E. Krebs) appointed C. A. Tatman, J. W. Coleman, F. V. Dilatush, A. C. Thompson, G. F. Rhoades and James L. Allman. The work of this committee is done by the town board, which at the present time consists of the following persons: H. P. Harris, supervisor; Albert Hirt, town clerk; M. N. Secrist and W. J. Porter, justices of the peace.

The Monticello Cemetery Association was organized May 2, 1873. The following were its first officers: President, J. W. Coleman; secretary and treasurer, H. E. Huston; directors: W. E. Lodge, Charles Watts, George F. Miller.

Twenty acres of ground were purchased about a mile north of town and laid out on modern landscape plans. This work was in charge of Dr. J. W. Coleman, who has been president and superintendent since its organization. The ground was well chosen, being broken, thus permitting of ornamentation. Excellent taste has been displayed in laying off the grounds. The driveways and walks are kept in excellent condition, and the cemetery is one of the most beautiful in the State.

On the highest rise a large block has been reserved for the soldiers. In the center of this is a tall pole, from which "Old Glory" floats on Memorial Day.

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

The financial affairs have been well managed. Besides the original twenty acres one tract of seven acres and another of eight acres have been added, so that the ground now extends to the Camp Creek road, and in all are thirty-five acres—all paid for.

There are something over one thousand graves in the cemetery.

William Milligan has had the care of the grounds for over four years and takes great pride in keeping them in order.

The present officers of the association are as follows: President, Dr. J. W. Coleman; secretary and treasurer, A. L. Rodgers; directors: S. R. Reed, M. Hazzard and W. F. Lodge.

FARMERS' ELEVATOR.

Steps are being taken to form a Farmers' Grain Company for the purpose of getting an elevator and shipping their own grain. A meeting of the farmers was held in the Town Hall July 6, 1903. S. H. Minear acted as chairman of the meeting. The matter was discussed and W. W. Royer, James L. Allman, John Salyers, N. P. Kelley and J. M. Smith were chosen as commissioners to apply for a license to form a grain company. It was voted to have the capital stock of the company $10,000, shares $50 each and limit ownerships to four shares.

Already similar companies have been formed at Bement, Galesville, Atwood, Lodge, Voorhies.

The Allerton library was founded in 1897 by Agnes C. Allerton.

Mrs. Allerton furnished the books, furniture and pictures. At first there were 2,500 volumes. Since then 1,700 volumes have been added and the total number now is 4,200.

Monticello township furnishes the light, heat and salary of librarian.

The books have been very carefully selected, the reference library being unusually good. There are over 500 volumes of bound periodicals and the following magazines are complete: New England, Century and Harper. All who live in the township are entitled to the privilege of the library. Those outside may have the privilege of the library by paying $2.50 per year.

BANKS.

The first bank in Monticello was started November 1, 1870, under the firm name of Robert Huston & Co., H. V. Moore being one of the firm. In 1872 A. J. Dighton was taken in as a partner and the business was done under the firm name of Huston, Moore & Dighton. In 1878 A. J. Dighton died and the business was conducted under the firm name of Houston & Moore. In 1880 Mr. Moore bought out Mr. Huston and the bank was run by H. V. Moore. In 1883 W. H. Plunk became interested in the bank and ever since it has been conducted under the firm name of H. V. Moore & Co. It does a large general banking business, and on account of its wise and conservative management and the financial standing of its owners it is considered one of the safest banking institutions in the State.

In November, 1883, Dr. William Noecker started a private bank in the room now occupied by the First National Bank. About six years later George A. Stadler was taken in as a partner and the business was conducted under the firm name of William Noecker & Co. Later John N. Dighton came in as a partner.

On December 15, 1892, the bank became the First National Bank of Monticello, with a capital stock of $100,000.

The following were the officers: Wil-

liam Noecker, president; John N. Dighton, vice-president; O. W. Moore, cashier; William Dighton, assistant cashier.; Directors: William Noecker, J. L. Allman, F. V. Dilatush, C. A. Tatman, A. C. Thompson, John Kirby, J. N. Dighton, W. F. Stevenson, R. T. Ayre.

These officers were continued until the death of William Noecker in 1897, when the following officers were elected and are the officers of the institution at this time:

President, John N. Dighton; vice-president, William Dighton; cashier, O. W. Moore; assistant cashier, George B. Noecker. Directors: J. L. Allman, F. V. Dilatush, William Dighton, C. A. Tatman, A. C. Thompson, John Kirby, J. N. Dighton, W. F. Stevenson, R. T. Ayre.

The bank was remodeled in 1899 and a burglar-proof steel-lined vault put in. It is fitted with safety deposit boxes and other modern steel furniture.

The deposits June 9, 1903, were $377,474.06.

The Dighton-Dilatush Loan Company was organized October 31, 1900, for the purpose of making real estate loans. The capital stock of the company is $30,000.

The following are the present officers: President, John N. Dighton; vice-president, William Dighton; cashier, F. V. Dilatush; assistant cashier, Frank Hetishee.

Directors: John N. Dighton, William Dighton, Frank V. Dilatush, C. J. Bear, H. L. Timmons, J. M. Bender, W. H. Firke, E. L. Croninger and J. S. Ater.

HARRINGTON BROTHERS.

For about twenty years Harrington Brothers have been manufacturing buggies. They have always been striving to make the most substantial and attractive buggy for the least money. The factory was erected in 1900 and consists of a two-story brick, 40x56, and a three-story frame building, 35x70. All together the factory contains 13,630 feet of floor space. There is a well lighted show window. The factory employs fifteen hands.

The firm makes a specialty of mail wagons for rural routes. The body of the wagon is 31x56, covered with heavy sail duck and well painted. The interior is fitted with suitable desk, with six letter-boxes and six paper boxes with lock and stamp drawer.

The Piatt County Loan Association was incorporated March 26, 1886, and commenced business April 10, 1886. Its business has been managed conservatively and it is one of the best institutions of its kind in the State. It never loans more than 60 per cent. of its appraised value on a new building or 50 per cent. on an old one. As a result of its conservative management it has never had a foreclosure in its seventeen years of business. The following are its officers:

President, H. D. Peters; vice-president, W. C. Handlin; treasurer, O. W. Moore; secretary, A. L. Rodgers. Directors: H. D. Peters, Willliam P. Smith, J. A. Bender, C. A. Tatman, W. C. Handlin, C. S. Coe, A. B. Tinder, Willliam E. Rodgers, H. N. Knight.

The total assets for the year 1902 were $98,994.02.

This association has done a great deal of good for Monticello by making it possible for some of the best business buildings in the town to be erected

It has not only helped in the erection of a number of business buildings for the better accommodation of the citizens of the town,

but it has enabled a number of citizens of limited means to own their own homes and has thus helped to improve and beautify the city.

ELEVATORS.

The first grain elevator in Monticello was erected in 1872 by Piatt, Hubbell & Co. In 1878 a gristmill was connected with the elevator. Later it was made into a corn mill and was fitted with machinery to make meal, grits, hominy and corn flour. It makes a splendid grade of meal and grinds a great deal in fall and winter and supplies the local trade and ships a great deal to neighboring towns.

In 1893 the elevator caught on fire. The fire originated in the third story, and when discovered the fire had broken through the roof. The fire was at least fifty feet from the ground, and it was only by the heroic efforts of the fire company that the elevator was saved. A great deal of grain is shipped from this elevator every year.

In 1876, Knight & Tinder erected an elevator on the then Chicago & Pacific Railroad. This elevator was destroyed by fire on January 6, 1884. A new one was built that summer, and has been in use to the present time, now being owned and operated by E. G. Knight & Son. The building is to be rebunilt this fall, and a modern grain elevator put up. In 1900 the firm put up a modern elevator near the Illinois Central railroad track. It is conveniently arranged for handling grain, and up-to-date in every respect. E. G. Knight has been in the grain business for thirty-four years, commencing to buy grain in Monticello in 1869.

TELEPHONES.

The first telephones in Monticello were put in in 1895 by the Monticello Mutual Telephone Company. There were forty shareholders in the company, each taking a phone, and there was no provision made for renting the phones to outside parties. In 1897 this company became merged into the Piatt County Telephone Company, an organized stock company, of which W. F. Lodge has the controlling interest, and is the president and general manager. The owners of shares in the Mutual Telephone Company surrendered them for so much telephone service rendered by the new company.

The company now has exchanges in Monticello, Bement and DeLand, and has a number of farmers' lines connecting with these exchanges.

HOTELS.

The Monticello hotel building is a three-story brick building near the square, erected by J. C. Johnson. It was remodeled and greatly improved in 1897, and furnished with modern conveniences. Until recently it has been conducted by David Deter and son.

The Sackriter hotel was erected in 1892. It is a three-story brick near the square. It is provided with modern hotel equipment. The proprietor, Henry Sackriter, has been in the hotel business since 1890.

LIGHT PLANT.

The Monticello Light and Power Company was organized in 1891. They secured a fifty-year franchise from the city and erected a brick power house west of the Illinois Central depot, and the plant was started in 1892. They have the contract from the city for lighting the streets. They have a forty light arc machine, each light being 2000 candle power.

For residence lighting they have an 800 light alternating incandescent machine. There are two 60 H. P. boilers and a 120 H. P. engine.

It is a stock company with the following officers: President, C. A. Tatman; Secretary, J. P. Lodge; Treasurer, J. N. Dighton; General Manager, W. F. Lodge.

DIRECTORS.

C. A. Tatman, C. J. Bear, W. F. Stevenson, W. F. Lodge, J. P. Lodge.

PEPSIN SYRUP COMPANY.

Pepsin Syrup Company was organized in 1893 by C. H. Ridgely, Dr. W. B. Caldwell, Harry H. Crea and others, the object being the manufacture and sale of Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin.

This remedy soon became popular in central Illinois, and the field of operations was gradually enlarged. Mr. Crea finally secured a controlling interest which he held until June, 1899, when he disposed of his stock to Allen F. Moore and A. C. Thompson. Mr. Moore is president and manager of the company and Mr. Thompson is vice-president.

The medicine has won its way by reason of its merit, and the field has been extended by judicious advertising until it is now sold in nearly every state and territory in the Union, in Mexico and Canada. The business has shown an increase every year since the present management secured control, and the future prospects of the company are very gratifying. A large force is employed in the laboratory, in the offices and on the road. The company now imports direct several of the ingredients of the medicine, Egypt and China furnishing two of the articles used in its manufacture.

H. D. PETERS COMPANY.

The business of H. D. Peters Company, manufacturers of writing tablets and cigars, is an off-shoot of the printing business of H. D. Peters, who, for eighteen years, was proprietor and editor of the Piatt County Herald former business merging into, and finally superceding the latter. This firm does business over the larger part of Illinois, and some in Indiana, keeping constantly employed a corps of traveling men, selling their own products. From a sale of a few hundred dollars of tablets a year, their sales now reach three to four carloads, nearly all their own product. The business in the cigar line has also increased in like proportion. This firm still conducts a printing business, having for thirty years been thus continuously engaged, making it the oldest printing firm doing business in the county, and one of the oldest in the state.

From a room 18x30 feet in the second story of the Opera building, they have expanded to a building of three rooms 29x90, with a warehouse 20x80, with urgent need of increased room. The business of the firm has shown a steady growth from its inception, and employing constantly from twenty-five to thirty people, has become one of the leading enterprises of the city.

MONTICELLO CHURCHES

THE M. E. CHURCH.

The records of the Methodist Episcopal church at Monticello go back to 1843, just

two years after the county was created. At that time, it was one of the churches on the Monticello circuit. The records state that the First Quarterly Conference was held November 23, 1843, with W. B. Trotter, presiding elder, and Addison Gadsid pastor in charge. In 1844 Rev. Peter Cartwright became presiding elder. He was a noted character in his time, and a man of great personal influence. The first church building was erected in 1871, while James C. Buckner was pastor. It was a frame building, and stood where Mr. E. W. Lumsden is now living. Later they built a parsonage just north of the church. In 1857 a great revival was held and four hundred came into the church on probation. The same year the parsonage grounds were enlarged and fenced. In 1859 the Camp Creek church, then on this circuit, was built, and was dedicated by Granville Moody, of Ohio.

In 1861 a bell was bought by the Mite Society, and was put on a foundation between the church and parsonage. In the next few years it seems that the church became badly disorganized. Many of the men on the circuit went to the war. In 1865 a big revival was held and there were 127 accessions to the church. That same year the church was placed in the Champaign district.

In 1868 the Monticello church was constituted a station with Ira Emerson as pastor. The membership was 138, with four local preachers, and one exhorter.

In 1869 the present church building was commenced. It was dedicated December 17, 1870, by Rev. Hiram Buck. It is a large, comfortable brick building just one block from the square. The building was overhauled this spring, papered and painted, and is now in good condition.

The parsonage was built in 1890. It is a two-story frame building, two blocks east of the church. The present church membership is 230. Following is a list of the pastors:

1843, Addison Gadsid; 1844, John A. Brittenham; 1846, L. C. Pitner; 1847, James C. Buckner; 1848, I. L. Green; 1849, W. J. Newman and Joseph Lane; 1850, A. Doncarloss; 1852, William C. Blundell; 1854, Christian Arnold; 1856, Miles A. Wright; 1857, Edward Rutledge; 1859, A. B. Garner; 1861, Isaac Grove; 1863, D. P. Lyon; 1865, James B. Hoots; 1867, James T. Orr; 1868, Ira Emerson; 1870, W. H. H. Adams; 1872, P. C. Carroll; 1873, George M. Fortune; 1874, I. Villars; 1875, Mr. Everhart; 1876, J. Montgomery; 1877, J. A. Muse; 1878, David Gay; 1879, G. S. Alexander; 1882, E. A. Hamilton; 1885, P. N. Minear; 1887, G. D. Dubois; 1889, J. D. Frye; 1890, M. S. McCoy; 1892, J. S. Wolforth; 1894, James Foxworthy; 1897, W. S. Calhoun; 1900, J. H. Waterbury; 1902, J. S. Dancey, present pastor.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Presbyterian church at Monticello was organized in 1842 by Rev. Joseph Adams with ten members, as follows: James Huston, Sarah Huston, Mary Neyhart, Archibald Moffitt, Samuel Moffitt, James J. Patterson, Anna Patterson, Elizabeth Young Hugh O'Neal and Mary O'Neal. All by letter from some other church. The early years of the church seem to have been very discouraging ones. For several years it was without a pastor, both its elders died, and the membership was reduced by deaths and removals. To Rev. John Huston belongs the honor of being the real founder of the church. He labored faithfully for the

church, enduring hardships and making sacrifices, such as few men would make. He preached here for about six years, spending part of his time in the country churches near Monticello. Under his leadership the church membership was increased, and the church put on a better basis.

In 1871 the present church building was erected. It is a frame house 35 by 60 feet, with brick foundation. It was built under the supervision of Architect J. M. Combs, and cost about four thousand dollars.

In 1866 the church built a two story frame parsonage just south of the church at a cost of $1150. In August, 1900, the church bought lots in the block south of the square for $2,050 from Mr. and Mrs. George Lewis and W. E. Lodge. They expect to erect a church building on these lots in the near future.

Following is a list of pastors: Joseph Adams; R. H. Lilly; 1858-1864, John Huston; 1865-1867, T. P. Emerson; 1867-1869, J. H. Densmore; 1869-1872, S. A. Hummer; 1874-1876, W. R. Glen; 1876-1880, A. F. Ashley; 1881-1884, M. P. Ormsby; 1884, Rev. Coyle; 1885-1887, Fred L. Forbes; 1887-1889, Maurice Waller; 1890-1893, Daniel E. Long; 1894-1898, M. E. Todd; 1898, H. G. Gleiser.

LODGES.

MASONIC ORDER.

Fraternal Lodge No. 58, A. F. and A. M. was organized in 1848, with the following charter members: Peter K. Hall, Master; William Laforge, S. W.; R. Carlyle, J. W.; J. J. Patterson, William Marquiss, John P. Tenbrook and J. C. Johnson. The lodge owns the hall over the First National Bank, and has very pleasant rooms. The regular communications of the lodge are held the Saturday of each month, on or before the full moon. The present officers are as follows: W. M., J. E. Evans; S. W., J. T. Vent; J. W., Carl S. Reed; Treasurer, H. Sackriter; Secretary, R. I. Tatman; S. D., A. H. Wildman; J. D., B. F. Craig; S. S., W. J. Britton; J. S., G. R. Dawson; Chap., A. T. Pipher; Marshall, L. B. Tinder; Tyler, John Lohr.

Maxwell Chapter No. 48, R. A. M. was organized January 25, 1859, with the following members: Peter K. Hall, H. P.; James J. Patterson, King; A. G. Boyer, Scribe; Wm. Noecker, C. H.; B. Cassell, P. S.; James A. Hill, R. A. C.; Charles Watts, G. M. 3d V.; Wm. T Foster, G. M. 2nd V.; L. J. Bond, G. M. 1st V.; Charles Watts, Secretary; John Mosgrove, Treasurer; M. M. Harshbarger, Sent.; Members, J. O. Sparks, F. E. Bryant, T. T. Pettit, Charles Marquiss, and S. H. Bender. The stated convocations are held Thursday, on or before the full moon each month. The officers are as follows: H. P., A. T. Pipher; R. A. C., J. M. Woolington; King, R. T. Ayre; M. of 3d V., John V. Ayre; Scribe, Henry Martin; M. of 2nd V., A. H. Wildman; C. of H., J. E. Evans, (deceased); M. of 1st V., C. A. Tatman; P. S., F. A. Odernheimer; Treasurer, H. Sackriter; Secretary, G. A. Burgess; Sentinel, William Worsley.

Monticello Council No. 27, R. and S. M. was organized August 31, 1866, with the following charter members: A. T. Pipher, T. I. G. M.; Charles Watts, D. G. G. M.; J. C. Johnson, P. C. W.; E. P. Fisher, M. of

E.; L. J. Bond, Recorder; Wm. Noecker, C. of G.; N. Haneline, C. of C.; J. A. Piatt, Sentinel. The stated assembly is held on Thursday after the full moon of each month. The present members are as follows: T. I. M., A. T. Pipher; I. D. M., G. F. Miller; P. C. W., W. J. Britton; Treasurer, H. Sackriter; Recorder, G. A. Burgess; C. of G., R. T. Ayre; C. of C., J. E. Evans; Steward, Henry Martin; Sentinel, William Worsley.

I. O. O. F.

Selah Lodge, No. 403, I. O. O. F., was instituted August 26, 1869, with the following charter members: A. T. Pipher, James C. Harrington, W. D. Shultz, Michael Hazzard, Jacob McClain, Pierre Hahn. The first officers of the lodge were as follows: A. T. Pipher, N. G.; James C. Harrington, V. G.; W. D. Shultz, Recording Secretary; Michael Hazzard, Treasurer.

The lodge owns lots and a store building on the southwest corner of the square which were purchased of H. E. Huston for $1,500.

The present officers of the lodge are as follows: N. G., George A. Lindsley; V. G., John Fitzwater; Recording Secretary, Horace Meacham; Financial Secretary, D. N. Kemper; Treasurer, C. Wengenwroth.

The encampment branch of the order was organized July 9, 1873, with the following charter members: Joseph T. Van Gundy, Wm. E. Smith, James Houselman, Louis Katz, John Kousho, Henry Sackriter and James C. Harrington. The first officers were as follows: Joseph T. Van Gundy, C. P.; Louis Katz, H. P.; James C. Harrington, S. W.; James Houselman, J. W.; W. E. Smith, Scribe; John Kousho, Treasurer. The lodge is known as Fraternal Encampment No. 145, and meets in the Odd Fellows' Hall the first and third Mondays of each month. John Fitzwater is C. P; J. M. Woolington, Scribe and H. C. Harrington, Treasurer.

K. OF P.

The K. of P. lodge in Monticello was instituted October 17, 1889, with the following charter members: A. J. Woolington, George A. Stoddler, F. L. Farra, G. T. Priestly, E. W. Walker, W. A. Miller, W. A. Smock, A. M. Thorp, (deceased), W. I. Wikoff, W. S. Miller, J. D. Knott, D. S. Hill, (deceased), G. N. Snapp, M. M. Holmes, C. G. Schofield, A. V. Washington, S. B. Ewing, C. Hughes, H. Lure, J. E. Marquiss, J. A. Bender, A. Fithian, H. H. Crea and C. E. Rhoades. The lodge is now in a flourishing condition. The present officers are as follows: C. C., A. C. Edie; V. C., D. C. Kelly; K. R. and S., O. L. Markel; M. of E., George Fisher; M. of F., S. J. Minear.

CHAPTER V.

EARLY SETTLEMENT BY TOWNSHIP BEMENT.

The first settlement in Bement township was made about 1854 by Wm. Bailey. In the summer of the same year, Bement was surveyed, the land at that time belonging to Mr. Joseph Bodman. The first settlers in the town were Joseph Bodman, J. H. Camp, J. M. Camp, William Ellise, T. T. Pettit and Marion Pettit. The lumber for the first house was hauled from Champaign. It was erected in 1855 by T. T. Pettit and J. M. Camp, and was owned by Joseph Bodman.

The house stood just west of the present brick hotel building. The second house was built west of the first one. Mr. Force and wife came to Bement in 1855. For awhile they boarded in Monticello. In the spring of 1856, they moved into the third house ever built in Bement. Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Yost came to Bement in 1856, built a house, but soon moved on a farm north of town. Mr. B. G. Hopkins moved on a farm west of Bement, since known as the Elihu Fisher farm. F. E. Bryant moved to Bement in 1856, and run the first store. He erected the first brick building in the town. The first hotel was built in 1857, called the Sherman house. It stood on the main street of the the town, but on the erection of the Masonic building, it was moved back on the corner where the Christian church now stands, and remained there until moved away to give room for the handsome church building. The Pennsylvania hotel, afterwards known as the Thomas House, and kept for a number of years by Royal Thomas, was built in 1888, and is still standing. At that time there were no sidewalks in the town, and no trees, thus presenting a very marked contrast to the beautiful shaded streets and substantial sidewalks of the present time.

The first bank in the town was owned by Milmine and Bodman.

The M. E. church was organized in 1858 under the pastorate of Rev. Edward Rutledge, a minister on the Monticello circuit. The meetings were first held in the schoolhouse, and afterward in Bryant's Hall. The first church was erected in 1864, and was dedicated in October, by Rev. Hiram Buck. In 1865, Bement was detached from the Monticello circuit, and with Milmine and Cerro Gordo formed a new circuit. In 1867 Bement was constituted a circuit and Rev. H. S. Tryon was the first pastor. The parsonage was erected in 1876, at a cost of $1,600.

The Christian church was organized in 1862. The first church building was erected in 1867, and cost about $800. The building stood where the present brick hotel now stands. This lot was afterward sold and a handsome modern building erected.

The Presbyterian church was organized in 1868, with eight members. The church was built in the early 70's. In 1880 a storm blew down the church steeple and belfry, and by noon the next day $200 was subscribed for its repair. The church owns a handsome parsonage, costing about $1,700.

The Catholic church was built in 1866, at a cost of $2,100. This was connected with the church at Ivesdale for a time. A handsome residence for the priest has been erected just north of the church.

The Bement Lodge, No. 365 A. F. and A. M. was chartered October 1, 1861; Bement Chapter, No. 65, Royal Arch Masons October 7, 1864. The Masonic building was erected in 1876. The Irwin Lodge, No. 344, I. O. O. F. was chartered October, 1867.

There is also a K. of P. lodge organized recently that is now in a very prosperous condition.

The Haldeman mill was erected in 1868 by Horace and William Haldeman, and G. C. Nichols, and did a flourishing business for many years. A few years ago the building was sold to the Farmers' Elevator Co., and the machinery shipped away.

In 1890 a stock company put in a three hundred electric light plant. W. J. Day has been manager and superintendent of the plant since it was started. At first the Haldeman mills furnished the motive power for the plant, but in 1896 they erected a power house

of their own just north of the brick hotel. They now have about 800 lights.

A system of city water-works was put in about 1893. In 1900 a handsome new brick school building was erected at a cost of $27,000.

Population in 1890, 1,129; in 1900, 1,484.

Bement has a very creditable newspaper, the Bement Register, publishd by M. O. Curry.

Bement is an important railroad center, being a division point of the Wabash. The Wabash have recently put down a big well, and most of their engines on these runs take water and coal here.

UNITY TOWNSHIP.

The first settlers in Unity township were the Monroes, Shonkwilers, Harshbargers and Moores who settled on Lake Fork about 1836 or 1837. The first village in the township was a little settlement started by Mr. McNutt, and hence called Mackville, Here Mr. McNutt kept a small store, and supplied the early settlers with the few "store goods" which they used. The first church in the township was erected in 1858, and the first school was taught the same year. Dr. Mitchell was the first regular physician of the place. Mackville, at one time, was a fair sized town, but when the railroad was put through, the town of Atwood was started, and Mackville commenced to go down.

Atwood was laid out in 1873 on land owned by Mr. Levi Budd. The first house in the place was a store building erected in 1873 by Richard Hetton and David Barrett. They each moved a dwelling house over from Mackville, and these became the first residences of the town. L. C. Taylor was the first postmaster at Atwood, Dr. Bennerfield the first physician, and Joseph Moore kept the first hotel.

The Christian church of Atwood was dedicated August 15, 1880, by Rev. John T. Phillips. The M. E. church was built at Mackville, and dedicated in 1872, but moved to Atwood in 1882. The Baptist church was dedicated March 18, 1893.

Atwood has strong Masonic and Odd Fellow lodges. The town of Atwood is partly in Piatt county and partly in Douglas, the main street of the town being the county line road between the two counties. The population of the town on the Piatt side was 320 in 1890, and 403 in 1800. The population of the entire town was 530 in 1890 and 698 in 1900.

Hammond was laid out in 1873. The first house in the town was a grain-office built near where Evans and Bunyans' lumber yard is now located. Alonzo Newton put up and kept the first store in the town, and also erected the first residence. Mr. J. M. Wortham opened a store in 1873, and is still in business in the place, occupying a handsome corner brick store built recently. M. D. Cook was the first postmaster and kept the first drug store. W. R. Evans had the first hardware store, George Ragland was the first blacksmith and Dr. Abrams was the first physician of the place.

The M. E. church was organized in 1876 and dedicated the first church in the town in 1882. The Christian church was organized in 1877 and dedicated their building in 1883. The Baptists have recently dedicated a handsome new church. The hotel was built by W. H. Lewis, of Lovington, in 1874. The first bank in Hammond was conducted by S. F. Musson in 1895. In 1899 a modern brick bank building was erected, now owned by

the State Bank of Hammond. T. J. Kizer is president, O. D. Noe, vice president and J. A. Vent, cashier. The depots were built in 1895. T. J. Kizer's large grain elevator was built in 1881. The population of the village in 1900 was 481.

The town of Pierson was laid out in 1881. The postoffice was started in 1877, and Francis F. Flack was the first postmaster. The postoffice was called Dry Ridge at first, and changed to present name later. The Baptist church was dedicated in 1881. The Christian church was dedicated in 1903.

The churches in the country are as follows: The Harshbarger church, about four miles north of Atwood, the oldest church in the county; the Antioch church, built in 1864; a Christian church about six miles northwest of Atwood and the Prairie Chapel church, a Christian church built in 1891, about a mile east of Voorhies.

CERRO GORDO TOWNSHIP.

The first settlers in Cerro Gordo township were the Cunninghams, who settled north of La Place. The first who settled in the neighborhood of Cerro Gordo were the Howells, who came in before the railroad was built. After the railroad was completed the settlers came in rapidly. The first town called Griswold, but when the postoffice was moved from north of town on what was known as the "Gordy Beck" place (on the stage line between Monticello and Decatur), the name of the postoffice came with it, and the place was called Cerro Gordo instead of Griswold. The first house in the town was the section house for the railroad hands. Andrew McKinney put up the first dwelling, and he and A. L. Rodgers conducted the first general merchandise store in the town. John Prosser was the first physician and John Fields was the first blacksmith in the town. The first school building was erected in 1866, and the first church in 1857.

The Presbyterian church of this place was organized in Willow Branch township, but most of its members moved into Cerro Gordo. The church building was erected about 1860. Originally, the congregation was large, but the membership is small at present.

The M. E. church building was erected about 1866 by Mr. John Smith, and dedicated by Rev. Hiram Buck. In recent years a handsome modern church building has been erected, and the church is in good condition.

The German Baptist church was built in 1878, at a cost of about $2,000, and was donated together with the ground on which it stands, by Mr. Metzger.

An electric light plant was installed in the place in 1903.

Cerro Gordo has never had a saloon, and the moral sentiment of the town is high. It is an almost ideal residence town.

It is in the center of a very rich farming and stock country, and a great deal of grain and stock is shipped from here.

Population in 1890, 939; in 1900, 1,008.

LAPLACE.

LaPlace was laid off in 1873, and was named by G. W. Stoner. The first house built in the town was the hotel erected in 1874. Jacob Reedy was the first postmaster of the town, Dr. Pierson the first physician. The M. E. church was organized in the fall of 1874. The church building was erected in 1877. The two-room school building was erected in 1884, and a two-room addition to this in 1903. The John S. Ater Bank was

started there several years ago. The country around LaPlace is very fine farming country and a great deal of grain is marketed each year. There is a strong lodge of Odd Fellows who own a two-story brick building with lodge room above.

MILMINE.

Milmine was originally called Farnsworth, and was laid out by Enos Farnsworth, who put up the first residence in the town. Mr. Farnsworth sold the plat to Milmine and Kems. Milmine and Bodman opened the first store, which was run by E. B. Sprague. The first postoffice was kept by Hiram Barber, and was called Milmine, a name now given to the town.

The school building was erected in 1872. It is a two-story brick building.

The Christian church was organized in 1879. They have a very nice comfortable church. The Church of God also has an organization, and a good building.

A bank was started in Milmine in 1903.

There are two large elevators and a great deal of grain is shipped from this place.

Lintner is a small station in this township on the I. D. & W. railroad. It was named, from William Lintner, of Decatur, who formerly owned a great deal of land in that vicinity. It has a general store, a grain elevator, a blacksmith shop and several dwellings. It is a good grain market.

Burrowsville is a postoffice two miles east of Lintner. It has a grain elevator and a store.

WILLOW BRANCH.

Willow Branch township claims the distinction of having the first brick house ever built in the county. As early as 1842, Mr. George Widich made brick near Monticello. Some of the first settlers in the township were the Aters, Pecks, Armsworths, Wm. Madden, John West, S. D. Havely, Michael Dillow, George Widick, Peter Croninger and Henry Adams.

Cisco is the only village in the township E. F. Dallas was the first grain merchant in the town, Dr. Caldwell now of Monticello, practiced medicine here for several years. Washington Nebaker kept the first dry goods store; Walker and Carter, the first hardware store. James Glick was the first blacksmith and J. B. Hamilton was the first druggist. The village of Cisco was platted April 24, 1874, by Hiram Dodge, Erastus F. Dallas, Abraham Runkle and Thomas Watson.

A modern M. E. church building was erected there recently. Cisco has a bank, two large grain elevators and a number of business houses. It has grown quite rapidly in last two or three years. The town has one paper, the Cisco Press.

The first cabin on Goose Creek was built where George Varner now lives. The early settlers were the Olneys, Abraham Marquiss, Ezra Marquiss, Sr., Wm. Piatt and wife, Mr. Welch and Mr. Hubbart.

The only village in the township is DeLand, where a great deal of business is done. The village was laid out by Thomas Bondurant in 1873. S. C. Langdon owned the first dwelling house in DeLand. R. B. Moody and John Vail built a store in 1873. Dr. J. A. Davis was the first physician.

DeLand has two banks, two grain elevators, and some good substantial business houses. The population of the village in 1900 was 411.

BLUE RIDGE.

Among the early settlers in Blue Ridge

township are the following: William Pierce, Richard Webb, Jacob Denning, Joseph Aikens, Noah Coffman, Mr. Gillespie, Lafayette Cox, James Watson, Mr. Keenan, Thomas Brothers.

The town of Mansfield was laid out in 1870 by Gen. J. L. Mansfield, and named in his honor. The first church building was an Episcopal church erected in 1873. The Wabash and Big Four Railroads cross at this place. It is a good grain market and thousands of bushels of grain are marketed here each year. It has two banks. The business part of the town is well improved, there being some modern brick store buildings. The Odd Fellows own a very nice building here. The population in 1890 was 533; in 1900, 708.

SANGAMON.

Sangamon township was one of the early ones settled. Among the early settlers may be mentioned the following: Mrs. Nancy Ingram, Mr. and Mrs. Hanline, Mr. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Souders, Oulreys, Maddens, Mackeys, Coons and Argos.

Centerville is the oldest town in the township, and was started by Mr. Archibald Moffett, who built the first house. The town was laid out and named about 1850.

White Heath was laid out in 1872. The land was owned by Mr. Frank White and was bought by Mr. Heath, hence the name. James Webster erectetd the first dwelling. Miss Frank and Mr. Vin Williams put up the first hotel and opened the first store in the place. Dr. Unangst was the first physician.

The town of Galetville was first called Calef's Station and was changed to the present one in honor of Mr. Calef's wife, whose maiden name was Gale. The first store building was erectetd in 1876 by Mr. Calef, and the first residence was built and occupied by John Donlan.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

J. C. LANGLEY.

J. C. Langley is the cashier of the First National Bank of Mansfield. Although yet a young man he occupies a prominent and influential position in business circles, and one may safely predict for him a successful future because he possesses laudable ambition and enterprise which are indispensable elements of business advancement. Mr. Langley was born in Mansfield on the 26th of September, 1873, and is a son of Andrew J. and Celia A. (Curtis) Langley, who are residents of Blue Ridge township, Piatt county. Both the father and mother are natives of Pennsylvania, and after their marriage they came to Piatt county in 1865, becoming pioneer settlers of this section of the state. The subject of this review is the third in a family of four living sons.

Reared upon the home farm in Blue Ridge township, James. C. Langley attended the public schools and afterward entered the University of Indiana, where he pursued a literary and also a business course, being graduated in that institution with the class of 1890. In the same year after his completion of his collegiate course, Mr. Langley entered the Mansfield Bank, and later became cashier of the Commercial Bank of Mansfield. Throughout his business career he has been identified with financial interests and thoroughly understands the banking business in every department. On leaving the Commercial Bank he became cashier and afterward second vice president of the State Bank of Mansfield, and in 1902 he resigned his position there and opened the First National Bank of this city, which is capitalized for twenty-five thousand dollars. Its officers are William D. Fairbanks, president; Andrew J. Langley, vice president; J. C. Langley, cashier; and H. P. Gladden, teller. The directors of the bank are John N. Darst, John Gardiner, William DeGrofft, James Caldwell, Joseph Seitner, in addition to the three officers mentioned. Although the existence of the bank covers a comparatively brief period it has already won favor with the public because of the excellent business methods which have been instituted there, and not a little of the success of the bank may be attributed to the enterprise, close application and broad knowledge of banking methods possessed by J. C. Langley. It was on the 9th of January, 1902, that the bank was founded and subsequently the First National Bank building was erected and splendidly equipped for carrying on the business. It has the triple time Hall safe and Hall vault, and every precaution is taken to insure safety for depositors. Mr. Langley has also engaged in the insurance business as a member of the firm of Clemans & Langley, and in this enterprise has a good clientage.

On the 27th of October, 1897, occurred the marriage of James C. Langley and Miss Elena Ryerson, a native of Gibson City, Ford county, Illinois, and a daughter of C. G. Ryerson, who was one of the early settlers of that county. In addition to his

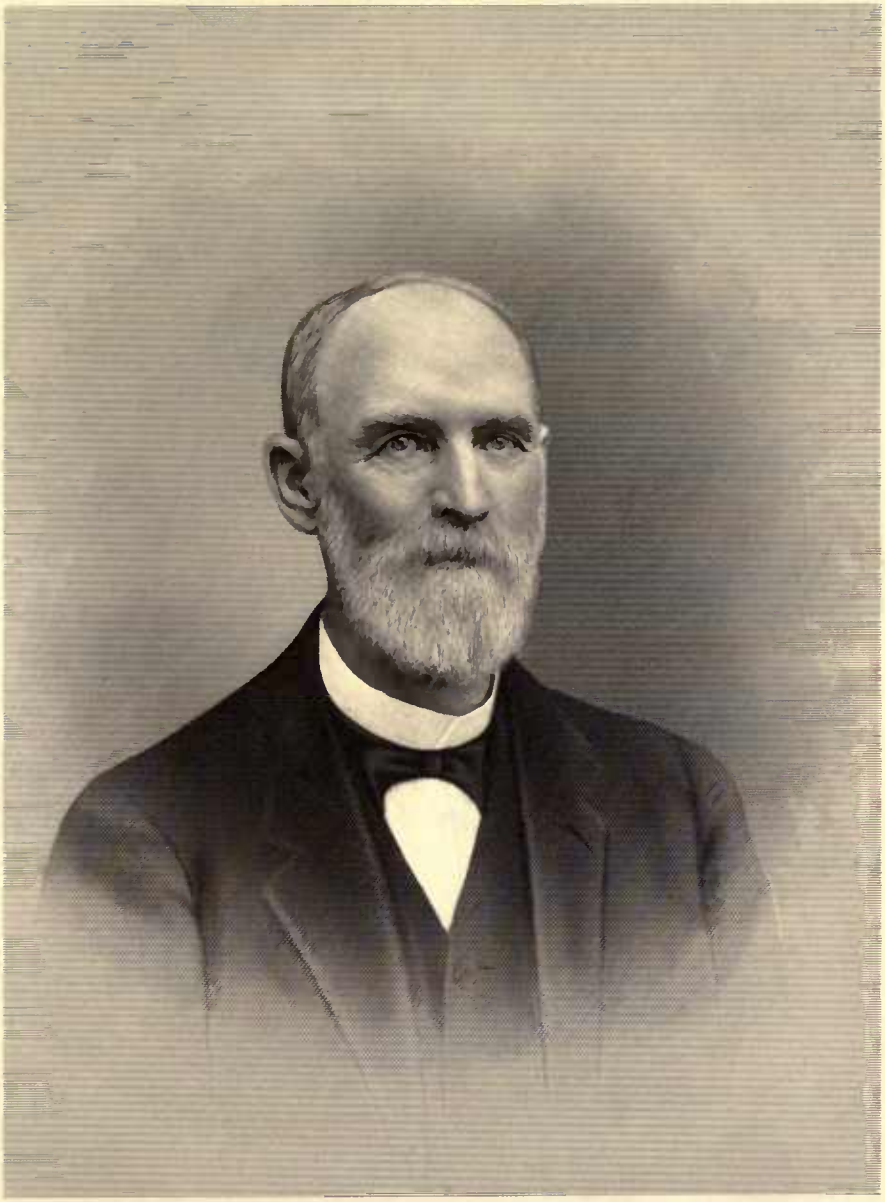
splendid home in Mansfield, Mr. Langley also owns land in Stevens county, Minnesota, which he rents. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and fraternally is connected with Mansfield Lodge, No. 773, F. & A. M., of which he is treasurer. He also belongs to Celestial Lodge, Knights of Pythias, of which he is past chancellor and was made a delegate to the grand lodge of the Knights of Pythias fraternity at Rockford, Illinois, in the fall of 1903. In politics he is a Republican and that he has the regard and confidence of his fellow citizens is indicated by the fact that he is now acceptably serving as mayor. Whatever tends to prove of public benefit and to advance local progress and improvement receives his attention, endorsement and co-operation, and his efforts along many lines have proven of material benefit to the city of his birth.

THOMAS E. BONDURANT.

From a humble financial position Thomas E. Bondurant has steadily and persistently worked his way upward until he is to-day accounted one of the most extensive landowners of Illinois. There is in his life history much that is worthy of emulation, his record being such as any man might be proud to possess. He has worked diligently and perseveringly, guiding his efforts by sound judgment, and the reward of honest toil is to-day his. He has never incurred an obligation that he has not fulfilled, nor taken advantage of the necessities of his fellow men in a business transaction, but has placed his dependence upon energy and unremitting industry. Thus it is that Thomas E. Bondurant stands to-day among the wealthy and honored residents of Piatt county, his home being in DeLand.

He is one of Illinois' native sons, his birth occurring in Sangamon county, on the 29th of December, 1831. The Bondurant family is of Huguenot extraction, and was founded in America by representatives of that sect, who fled to the New World to escape religious persecution. Joseph and Martha Bondurant, the parents of our subject, were both southern people, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Kentucky. In the year 1825 the father removed to Sangamon county, Illinois, accompanied by his wife and three children. Establishing his home there, he continued to carry on farming and stock-raising until his death. He was one of the honored pioneer settlers of the locality and aided in the early development and improvement of the county, while at the same time he carried on his farm work in its various departments and thus gained a comfortable living for his family. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bondurant were born eleven children, of whom our subject was the fifth in order of birth. Four of the number are yet living, and a sister, Mary E., now acts as housekeeper for her brother Thomas.

On the old family homestead amid the wild scenes of pioneer life Thomas E. Bondurant was reared. He can remember central Illinois when the homes were widely scattered and when the prairies were largely covered with the native grasses, the land having never been placed under the plow. He pursued his early education in an old log building, wherein school was conducted on the subscription plan, and yet to-day Illinois has a school system unsurpassed in the Union. His educational advantages in his youth were quite limited, but later he attended the Walnut Grove Academy, at Eureka, Illinois, spending three months there after he had attained his majority. In his youth he became familiar with all the ex-



Thos. E. Bondurant

periences of pioneer life, and the hardships incident to the arduous task of developing a new farm. He broke prairie with an ox-team, thus preparing hundreds of acres for cultivation. His father having the contract to put in ties on the Wabash Railroad, Thomas E. Bondurant began working for him for two dollars per day and board, acting as foreman. This was in 1855. After the contract had been executed Mr. Bondurant continued to break prairie through the summer months, turning the first furrows on many tracts which are now fertile fields. In the meantime he had entered from the government two hundred and ninety-three acres of land in Piatt county, at fifty cents per acre, this being the nucleus of his present extensive landed possessions. In the winter of 1858 he took a contract at Sangamon Station, east of Decatur, Illinois, to supply cord wood to the Wabash Railroad, and this work occupied his time and attention for a few months, after which he returned to his farm in Goose Creek township, Piatt county. As he has found opportunity he has added to his original landed interests until he is now the owner of fourteen hundred acres in Piatt county, twenty-six hundred and eighty-two acres in Kankakee county and eight hundred acres in Kansas. He is a man of keen business discernment, and his sound judgment has never been at fault in making investments. He has placed his money in the safest of all investments—real estate—and to-day his holdings make him one of the wealthy men of central Illinois. He well merits this success, for it has come entirely through his own efforts and his business methods have ever been such as will bear the closest investigation and scrutiny. All the institution during the earlier period of through the years Mr. Bondurant carried on general farming, annually harvesting large crops, and he has also made a specialty of raising and handling beef cattle, horses and hogs. He has always given his personal supervision to the operation of his various properties, keeping thoroughly in touch with the work done on each, and the condition of the farm and has a wonderful capacity for business, regarding no detail to unimportant to claim his attention if it has bearing upon the work and its ultimate outcome. In 1900 the First National Bank of DeLand was established with a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars, and Mr. Bondurant became its first president. The success of its existence was largely attributable to his efforts and his sound judgment, and he remained as president until 1902, when he resigned on account of failing health.

Mr. Bondurant is a member of the Christian church of DeLand and since its organization he has served as one of its elders. In the work of the church he has always taken an active and helpful interest, and has contributed generously to its support. For the past eight years Mr. Bondurant has been a member of the board of trustees of Eureka College, of Eureka, Illinois. At the time of the formation of the Republican party he became one of its supporters and has since followed its banner, and during the Civil war he was a stanch Union man. For seven years he has served as county supervisor, but has felt that his business makes too great demands upon his time and attention to allow him to seek public office. In 1882 he built his present home, which is one of the finest in Piatt county. He has his own sewerage system and electric light plant, a hot water system of heating, and hot and cold water throughout his

house. The residence is also tastefully, comfortably and richly furnished, and the interior decorations are in keeping with the exterior adornments, for the house is surrounded by a beautiful lawn, always kept in the finest condition, and the home of Mr. Bondurant is a credit to the county. He has seen many changes in this portion of the state, advancement and progress being manifest in all lines of life, and he has kept pace with the universal improvement. A self-made man, without any extraordinary family or pecuniary advantages at the outset of his career, he has battled earnestly and energetically, and by indomitable courage and integrity has achieved both character and fortune. By sheer force of will and untiring effort he has worked his way upward and is to-day numbered among the leading business men of Piatt county.

JOHN M. WHITE.

When after years of long and earnest labor in some honorable field of business, a man puts aside all cares to spend his remaining days in the quiet enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil, it is certainly a well deserved reward of industry.

"How blest is he, who crowns in shades like these,
A youth of labor with an age of ease,"

wrote the poet, and the world everywhere recognizes the justice of a season of rest following the active period of business life. Mr. White is now living retired at his pleasant home in Monticello, and his history shows the accomplishment of well directed labor. His residence in Piatt county covers a period of almost forty years, during which he was long connected with agricultural interests, but while promoting his individual success he has also labored for the general welfare and has advocated many measures which have led to the substantial improvement and material upbuilding of this section of the state.

A native of Ohio, John M. White was born in Franklin county, on the 27th of January, 1817, and comes of English ancestry, being a direct descendant of the house of Tudor, long the reigning house of England. In the paternal line he is probably of Irish lineage, as it is thought that his grandfather, Samuel S. White, was born on the Emerald Isle. For many years, however, he resided in Virginia, where he engaged in teaching school, but early in the Eighth century he removed to Ohio, establishing his home near the Scioto Big Run, four miles southwest of the present city of Columbus. Again he resumed his educational work, becoming one of the first instructors in the schools of Franklin county, Ohio. He was also interested in agricultural pursuits, and securing a large tract of wild land he transformed it into a fine farm on which he made his home until his death, which was the result of an accident caused by a runaway horse. He was then ninety-six years of age. He had served as justice of the peace in the county and was a man of considerable prominence, leaving the impress of his individuality upon the early development and permanent improvement of that part of the state. His wife bore the maiden name of Jane Stuart, and was of Scotch lineage. She died at the home of Mrs. John M. White, Sr., about 1836. His father was an own cousin of Mary, Queen of Scots, and thus comes our subject's

connection with the house of Tudor. One branch of the Stuart family was established in Virginia, where they conducted hotels, and when the Revolutionary war broke out the great-grandfather, who would not take up arms against the mother country, returned to England, there enlisted in the British service and fought against the United States. His property in Virginia was confiscated, and when the war ended he was given a tract of land in Halifax to recompense him for what he had lost in the United States. He wrote of this to his family, who were prepared to join him in Nova Scotia, but no news was ever received from him afterward, and it is supposed that he was lost on the water. Years afterward one of his granddaughters met a lawyer from Halifax, who told her that the property included in the grant to her grandfather had become very valuable and was held in the name of the Stuart heirs, whom it was thought would some day come and claim possession.

John M. White, Sr., the father of our subject, was a native of Hardy county, West Virginia, and when a young man accompanied his parents on their removal to Ohio. When the war of 1812 was in progress he drove a six horse team to Fort Franklin, a military post now included within the city of Columbus, and there his horses were pressed into service and he decided to go with them, thus serving in the war of 1812. He married Mrs. Rachel Moorehead, nee McDowell, and settled on the Moorehead farm, on the Scioto river, two miles from Columbus, where he spent his remaining days. He did not live to an advanced age, however, but passed away November 17, 1833. By her first marriage his wife had three children: Sarah, Jane and Lincoln, all deceased. Unto her marriage to Mr. White, there were also three children born: Samuel S., deceased; John M., of this review; and Marilla, who became the wife of John N. Cherry and died in Franklin county, Ohio.

Amid the wild scenes of pioneer life in Ohio John M. White, of this sketch, was reared. All around lay the uncultivated land, and the forests stood in their primeval strength. Frontier conditions existed and the family had to endure many hardships and trials incident to pioneer life. Mr. White was educated after the primitive manner of the times in a log schoolhouse, conning his lessons while sitting on a slab bench. Light was admitted into the room through greased paper, covering an aperture made by removing a log, and the building was heated by a fire-place, capable of containing an immense back log. The methods of instructions were almost as primitive as the little "temple of learning," and thus Mr. White had to depend upon reading, experience and observation in later life to broaden his knowledge and supplement the instruction which he gained in the school room. The Wyandotte Indians were frequent visitors at the White home, and deer and other wild game abounded in the forests and Mr. White has more than once brought home venison and other wild meat for the family larder. When his father died he continued to operate the home farm for his mother, and after her death the property was divided, he receiving one hundred and fourteen acres of the land, on which tract stood the home buildings. To the work of farming and stock-dealing. Mr. White devoted his energies with success, becoming the owner of a valuable property. He continued his residence in Ohio until 1864, when he came to Illinois, and in the fall of

that year settled in Piatt county. Here he purchased two hundred and eighty acres in Sangamon township, and subsequently added to this tract until he had five hundred and eighty-four acres of valuable land, including the Major Bowman farm of two hundred and forty acres, which he continued to cultivate until 1886. In the intervening years his carefully conducted business affairs had brought to him a handsome competence, and with this he retired to private life, establishing his home in Monticello, where he has since lived in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil.

In 1843 was performed the wedding ceremony which united the destinies of Mr. White and Miss Jane Huffman, who was born near Columbus, Ohio, a daughter of Jacob and Rebecca Huffman, but she passed away in 1845, leaving two children: Ophelia J., now the wife of Thomas Moffitt; and Frank, a well-known business man of this county. For his second wife Mr. White chose Rebecca H. Williams, their marriage taking place January 25, 1849. She was a great-granddaughter of Vincent Isaac Williams, who lived near what is now Williamsport, West Virginia. He met a very tragic death. On one occasion while his family were in the fort at Moorefield, West Virginia, he and a colored man went over to his farm to look after his stock. The Indians were then on the warpath and seven of them attacked Mr. Williams, who rushed to his log cabin and succeeded in killing five of the savages. This so enraged the remaining two that they picked out the mortar from the rear of the cabin and while Mr. Williams' attention was directed in front, one of them shot and killed him.

The parents of Mrs. White were Isaac V. and Mary D. (Hendricks) Williams, both of whom were natives of Virginia, and the latter was reared to the age of fourteen years at Harper's Ferry. She was a niece of General Darke, in whose honor Darke county, Ohio, was named. At an early day her parents removed to Ohio and located on the Scioto river, fifteen miles south of Columbus and four miles south of Chillicothe. The lives of the early settlers were constantly menaced by the treachery of the red men and Mrs. Williams, afraid to leave her baby in the cabin, would carry it to the spring when she went for a pail of water. Hardships and difficulties of all kinds incident to pioneer life were experienced by the family, and while the men of the household worked in the fields the wife and mother spun and wove the material which was used in fashioning the garments of the early settlers. The nearest market town was Chillicothe, thirty-five miles distant, and the way led through the forests, there being no road save the old Indian trail. At his death the father left an estate of eleven hundred acres, of which his widow took charge and settled. In the family were nine children: Joseph, who married a lady of New York city; Isaac, who married and removed to Illinois in 1883; John and Eliza, who are now deceased; James, who died in Indiana; Vincent, who cared for his mother until her death at the age of seventy-seven years; Sarah, who married Benjamin Rennock, but is now deceased; Edwin, who died in childhood; and Rebecca H., wife of our subject, and the only one now living.

The last named was the youngest member of the household. She was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, about four miles from Bloomfield, and by her marriage she has become the mother of five children: Benjamin R.; Vincent I.; Sarah W., the wife of

Horace Caleff; John M., and Mary Darke, the wife of E. I. Williams, living in Lafayette. Mrs. White is a valued and exemplary member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and to her family has ever been a devoted wife and mother. Like her husband, she is a representative of old and distinguished pioneer families, and her ancestral history is one of close and honorable connection with the development of Virginia as well as Ohio.

For almost forty years Mr. White has been a resident of Piatt county, and has therefore witnessed much of its development. Much of the land was wild and unimproved when he came to this section of the state, and he has borne his full share in the work of transforming it into what it is today—one of the rich agricultural districts of this great state, whose fine farms are unsurpassed throughout the length and breadth of this fair land. Throughout his entire career his life has been honorable and upright, characterized by fidelity to duty in all relations and manifesting energy and enterprise in his business career. His worth is widely acknowledged, and he has the confidence and good will of young and old, rich and poor. He justly deserves the rest which he is now enjoying, and no history of Piatt county would be complete without mention of John M. White.

DUNCAN BROTHERS.

This well known firm of Lintner is composed of S. H., J. M. and A. C. Duncan, dealers in grain, general merchandise and farm implements of all kinds. They are the sons of Israel and Susanna (Henry) Duncan, both natives of Pennsylvania, and now deceased, the mother having died in 1890 and the father in 1900. They were members of the Evangelical Lutheran church, and died in that faith, honored and respected by all who knew them.

In the family of this worthy couple were nine children, who in order of birth were as follows: Warren H., the eldest, died at the age of thirty years. During the Civil war he enlisted in the Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery and was later with the Second Provisional Heavy Artillery. Being wounded in the battle of the Wilderness in 1864, he was sent to the Haddington hospital in Philadelphia, and was subsequently appointed ward master. S. H. was born in York county, Pennsylvania, December 2, 1844, and was reared and educated there. He, too, entered the service of his country during the dark days of the Rebellion and held the position of wagon master in the quartermaster's department though he dressed in civilian's clothes. He is now a member of the firm of Duncan Brothers of Lintner, Illinois, and has charge of the implement business. He married Mrs. Kate Gates, and has three sons: Wellington G., B. G. and P. G. Henry, the next of the family, was also a teamster in the Civil war and now resides one mile east of Lintner on his farm. He married Mattie Connister and has six children. J. M. was born on the 20th of August, 1850, in York county, Pennsylvania, and there spent his boyhood and youth, his education being received in the local schools. He owns and operates a farm a mile and a quarter north of Lintner and also four hundred acres east of Lintner, making five hundred and seventy acres in all. For four years he served as postmaster of Lintner under General Harrison. He married Florence

Green, and has two daughters, Effie and Dora. Emma is the wife of John Miller, a resident of Oklahoma. Katherine is the wife of Andrew Spunseller, of Pennsylvania, and has six children. A. C., the youngest member of the firm, was born in York county, Pennsylvania, August 31, 1856, and after acquiring a good education in the schools of that state, he commenced teaching at the age of eighteen years and successfully followed that profession for twenty-one years, being principal of the schools at Milmine, Illinois, for four years and of La Place for eight years. He now has charge of the store. His wife, who bore the maiden name of May Gannon and was graduated at the Decatur high school, taught in the primary department at La Place. They have two children, Kenneth and Cedric. A. C. Duncan came to Piatt county in 1882 and since 1897 has served as postmaster of Lintner, being appointed to that position under President McKinley. Elizabeth is the wife of Henry Hoffiens, of Abbotstown, Pennsylvania. Charles H., the youngest of the Duncan family, was killed by lightning in this county, half a mile south of Lintner, at the age of thirty-seven years. He married Etta Wilson, and had two children. They now make their home with her father in Moultrie county, Illinois.

The business now carried on by Duncan Brothers was formerly owned by Wilson & Stone. The latter sold his interest to Mr. Glazbrook and J. M. Duncan afterward bought out Mr. Wilson. Later A. C. Duncan bought out Mr. Glazbrook, and in 1895 the firm name was changed to Duncan Brothers, though S. H. did not become connected with the enterprise until 1901, when he took charge of the implement department. In 1898 they erected their elevator at Lintner, which has a capacity of twenty thousand bushels, and they have made this place a good grain market as they ship a large amount of grain annually. In the line of general merchandise they carry a fine stock and have built up an excellent trade by fair and honorable dealing. J. M. Duncan handles considerable stock, making a speciality of horses, and is a very successful farmer. All of the brothers are stanch supporters of the Republican party and Lutherans in religious belief. They are wide-awake, energetic business men, of known reliability and their success is but the logical result of careful and correct business methods which they have always followed.

JOSHUA HILL.

Joshua Hill, one of the early settlers and highly respected citizens of Piatt county, Illinois, now leading a retired life in the village, of Bement, was born in Franklin county, Ohio, December 16, 1826, and during his early boyhood was taken to Piqua county, that state, by his parents, Joshua and Hannah (Cramer) Hill. The father was a native of Delaware and when a young man removed to Ohio, where he engaged in farming. He was by trade, however, a shoemaker, and for a few years he followed that pursuit. In his farming operations he prospered, and at the time of his death he was the owner of two hundred and forty acres of valuable land in Piqua county, Ohio, constituting one of the finest farms of the locality. Fraternally he was a Mason, and for many years he was a worthy exemplar of the craft, but he belonged to no order. Politically he was a Whig in early life, but he at-

tended the first Republican convention of Ohio, held in Columbus, and afterward gave his support to the principles of the new party. He died at the age of seventy-eight years and was survived for about two years by his wife. She was born in New Jersey near the town of Hope, and she also passed also passed away at the age of seventy-eight years. A member of the Methodist church, she was an earnest church worker, a devout Christian woman and a devoted wife and kind, loving mother. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hill were born ten children, of whom six reached years of maturity, while the others died in infancy. At this time Joshua Hill has two sisters and one brother living.

The "temple of learning" in which Joshua Hill obtained his education was built of logs, after the primitive manner of the times. He worked upon the home farm in his youth, and afterward spent some time as a clerk in different stores. About the year 1850 he came to Illinois, locating in Piatt county, and for four years he carried on farming here in the summer and taught schools for three terms in the winter. On the expiration of that period he returned to Ohio, and when he again came to Piatt county he established his home near Lodge station, where he has resided since 1861, covering a period of forty-two consecutive years. He removed to Bement on 27th of December, 1862, and established the first regular dray line and conducted the business during his active life, and it is still carried on by his sons. About 1893 he retired from further business cares and is now enjoying the fruits of his former toil.

On the 2d of September, 1857, Mr. Hill was united in marriage to Miss Lydia Peoples, who was born in Ohio, a daughter of Alexander and Rachel (McClish) Peoples. Mr. and Mrs. Hill have become the parents of eight children: William H., a resident of Decatur, Illinois, married Etta Curfman, and they have two children. Sarah E. is the wife of John W. Powell, of Piqua county, Ohio, a conductor with headquarters in Columbus, and they have four living children. Charles, who is engaged in the dray business in Bement, married Jennie Fisher and has four children. Edward, in Newcastle, Indiana, wedded Saddie Swigart. Lewis is engaged in the dray business in Bement. Franklin, who resides on the property adjoining his father's home, and is working for the Wabash Railroad Company, married Willie Dawson, and they have six children. The other two children of the family died in infancy.

To the great political questions which divide the country into parties Mr. Hill has given considerable thought, and his views on these have occasioned him to ally his force with the Republican party. He was assessor of his township for fourteen years, but otherwise he has never been an office-seeker, preferring to give his time and attention to his business affairs, rather than to political cares. For at least half a century he has been identified with the Masonic fraternity, and he has long been a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he served for a number of years as a trustee. His life interest has centered along those lines through which flow the greatest good to the greatest number, and he has ever favored reform, progress and improvement. When he came to this county, nearly all the land was wild prairie, and he has been a witness of nearly all the changes made as the county has emerged from pioneer conditions to take its place with the leading counties of the commonwealth. During his early

residence here he taught for a number of years in the district school and was a very successful educator. He and his wife now have a pleasant home in the village of Bement, where they are spending their days in the midst of children, grandchildren and friends, who entertain for them the warmest regard.

JOHN KIRBY.

To say of him whose name heads this sketch that he has risen unaided from comparative obscurity to rank among the most successful business men of central Illinois is a statement that seems trite to those familiar with his life, yet it is but just to say in a history that will descend to future generations that his business record has been one that any man would be proud to possess. Beginning at the very bottom round of the ladder he has advanced steadily step by step until he is now occupying a position of prominence and trust reached by very few men. Through his entire business career he has been looked upon as a model of integrity and honor, never making an engagement that he has not fufilled, and standing to-day an example of what determination and force, combined with the highest degree of business integrity can accomplish for a man of natural ability and strength of character. He is respected by the community at large and honored by his business associates. Through many years Mr. Kirby was actively and extensively identified with agricultural and stock-raising interests, and is now making his home in the city of Monticello, where he is engaged in the abstract business as the senior member of the firm of John Kirby & Company.

Mr. Kirby is among the sons of the Emerald Isle who have come to the New World to enjoy its broader business opportunities and greater advantages. He was born in County Limerick, Ireland, on the 8th of December, 1842. His father, Morris Kirby, whose birth occurred in the same locality and who spent his entire life there, followed the occupation of farming. In 1850, however, he resolved to seek a home and fortune in America and crossed the Atlantic, taking up his abode amid the green woods near Urbana, Ohio. At a later date he removed to Greenville, Darke county, Ohio, and his remaining days were passed in the Buckeye state, his death occurring in 1878. In early manhood he wedded Elizabeth Tuley, who died in Ireland. Both were consistent and faithful members of the Catholic church.

John Kirby, whose name initiates this review, is the eldest of the four children who were born unto his parents and was but eight years of age when he came with his father to the United States. His educational privileges were those of the public schools of Ohio, where he remained as a student until thirteen years of age, when he came to Illinois. Mr. Kirby has since been dependent entirely upon his own resources, and the splendid success he has achieved is the direct reward of his own labors. He first located in Decatur, Macon county, and as it was necessary for him to seek immediate employment he began work as a farm hand, being employed in that way until after the inauguration of the Civil war, receiving ten dollars per month in compensation for his services.

Although born across the waters, his love for the stars and stripes was deep and sincere, and in the early part of the long struggle for the preservation of the Union



JOHN KIRBY

he offered his services in its defense, although but a youth of seventeen years. It was in July, 1861, that he donned the blue uniform and became a member of the Second Illinois Cavalry. He was appointed one of the carriers on the Mississippi river between Cairo and Belmont, where a battle was fought. He was next dispatched to Bolivar, Tenn., and participated in the engagement at that place, where he had a horse killed and where the colonel of the regiment and six members of his company were killed. Later Mr. Kirby was under fire at the battle of Columbus, Kentucky, and he was also in many skirmishes with the rebels, while guarding supplies at Holly Springs, Mississippi, the most severe engagement in which he participated occurred at that place, the loss of life being very heavy. His regiment led the advance from Milliken's Bend which terminated in the surrender of Vicksburg and also followed Johnston to Jackson, Mississippi. A duty which then devolved upon the Second Illinois Cavalry was the destruction of a railroad as far as Brook Haven, and later the regiment was sent to west Louisiana. In the month of February, 1864, the regiment veteranized, and with others of the command Mr. Kirby was granted a thirty days' furlough, which he spent in the north. When the regiment again returned for duty the soldiers were sent to Florida, Alabama and Georgia, successively, thence returning to Vicksburg. They afterward went on the Red River expedition and marched from Shreveport to the Rio Grande in Texas. Thus almost from the time of the beginning of hostilities until after the cessation of all actual warfare, Mr. Kirby was with the army, being mustered out in December, 1865, and honorably discharged at Camp Butler, on the 3d of January, 1866. He had command of his company as second lieutenant for the last year of his service. His service covered four and a half long years, during which time he experienced all the hardships and rigors of war. Although but a boy when he entered the army, he was as true and loyal to the government as many a veteran of twice his years, and his meritorious conduct on the field of battle won him promotion to the rank of second lieutenant.

His military service ended, Mr. Kirby then returned to Illinois, and for many years was engaged in farming and stock-raising. In 1869 he made purchase of a tract of land and also invested in some young stock. His success in these enterprises was rapid and consecutive, and as his financial resources increased he extended the boundaries of his farm by additional purchases, and also bought stock until he became one of the most extensive stock-dealers and landowners in this portion of the state. He now operates two thousand acres of valuable farming land. He studies closely the best methods of producing crops and keeps fully abreast with the times in all improvements connected with agricultural work. Upon his place he also made many improvements, including the erection of a beautiful home in 1875. In 1870 he entered into partnership relations with Abraham Piatt for the shipment of cattle and the handling of stock which they purchased over a large section of the country and sent to the Chicago and eastern markets. Each month many carloads of cattle were sent by them to New York city. They sold dressed hogs in the board of trade and made large sums of money by the operation. The partnership with Mr. Piatt continued until 1875, after which Mr. Kir-

by engaged alone in stock business with splendid success. In 1897, however, he put aside agricultural and kindred industries and removed to Monticello, where he is now making his home, and where he is engaged in the abstract business as the member of the firm of John Kirby & Company. Their office contains all of the abstract books ever compiled of Piatt county lands, beginning more than forty years ago.

On the 21st of January, 1873, was celebrated the marriage of John Kirby and Miss Mary E. Marquiss, a representative of one of the old pioneer families of the county, her father being Ezra Marquiss, who settled here in 1833. Mrs. Kirby was born in this county, and by her marriage became the mother of two children, but one died in infancy, the surviving child being Nellie May. Few residents of Piatt county are more widely known than Mr. and Mrs. Kirby, and none are held in higher regard. Their home is celebrated for its gracious hospitality and its good cheer is enjoyed by their many friends.

Mr. Kirby votes with the Republican party, having long been one of its stalwart and active supporters in central Illinois. He has served as a delegate to its county, district, state and national conventions, and his opinions have carried weight with those who have been called upon to decide questions relating to political work and to the progress of the party. In 1868 Mr. Kirby was elected to the office of sheriff and was most prompt and faithful in the discharge of his duties. For seven terms he represented Goose Creek township on the board of county supervisors, and in that capacity did everything in his power to promote the improvement of this section of the country. His social relations connect him with the Grand Army of the Republic and with the Masonic fraternity, his identification with the latter dating from 1867. That Mr. Kirby possesses excellent business ability and executive force is indicated by the marked success which has crowned his efforts. In an analyzation of his character we find many elements worthy of commendation. He has always been energetic in business, enterprising in his work and above all honorable and straightforward in his dealings, never taking advantage of the necessities of his fellow men in any business transaction. His success has been marked and should serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others, for Mr. Kirby had to begin life empty-handed. He is to-day one of the honored and respected residents of Piatt county, and the most envious cannot grudge him his success so worthily has it been won and so honorably used.

SAMUEL R. REED.

The profession of the law when clothed with its true dignity, purity and strength, must rank first among the callings of man, for law rules the universe. The work of the legal profession is to formulate, to harmonize, to regulate, to adjust, to administer those rules and principles that underlie and permeate all government and society and control the varied relations of men. As thus viewed there is attached to the legal profession nobleness that cannot but be reflected in the life of the true lawyer, who, rising to the responsibilities of the profession, and honest in the pursuit of his purpose, embraces the richness of learning, the firmness of integrity and the purity of mor-

als, together with the graces and modesty and the general amenities of life. Of such a type is Samuel R. Reed a representative and by many he is accorded the leading place at the bar of Piatt county. He is the senior member of the law firm of Reed, Edie & Reed, of Monticello, where for more than thirty-six years he has practiced. Mr. Reed is a native of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Beallsville, Monroe county, on the 16th of June, 1842. His paternal grandfather was William Reed, who was of Scotch-Irish descent. Our subject's father, the Rev. Samuel Reed, was born at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, in 1795, and became a preacher of the Presbyterian church, devoting the best years of his life to the ministry. A man of scholarly attainments and broad learning, fluent in speech and logical in argument, his power in the pulpit was largely felt and his influence for good is yet manifest in the lives of those who knew him. He wedded Miss Margaret R. Thompson, a native of Washington county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of William Thompson. The father of our subject died in Monroe county, Ohio, in 1872, and his wife passed away, in 1878.

Samuel R. Reed spent his early boyhood days in the county of his nativity and there began his education as a student in the district school near his home. Later he attended a select school in which he prepared for teaching. The year 1860 witnessed his arrival in Piatt county, Illinois, and for several years he was connected with the intellectual interests of this locality as a successful teacher. He regarded this, however, merely as a preparation for other professional labor and began reading law under the direction of the firm of Coler & Smith, of Champaign, Illinois. In April, 1866, he was admitted to the bar before the supreme court, which at that time met at Ottawa, Illinois. Well equipped for his chosen profession by broad and comprehensive reading, Mr. Reed then opened a law office in Paxton, Illinois, where he practiced for a short time, but soon afterward he came to Monticello, where he has since resided. Here he entered into partnership with Judge McComas, and later entered into partnership with George Clouser, with whom he was associated for twelve months. His next partner was E. A. Baringer, now of New Orleans, and when that partnership was dissolved by mutual consent, Mr. Reed entered into business relations with Judge M. R. Davidson. In 1895 he became associated in business with A. C. Edie, under the firm style of Reed & Edie, and later the firm name was changed, its present form being adopted at the admission of his son, Carl S., to an interest in the business.

Samuel R. Reed is recognized as a leading member of the Piatt county bar, and has been connected with much important litigation, being retained as counsel or defendant in almost every case of importance that has been tried in the courts of Piatt county through a third of a century. He is very thorough and careful in the preparation of his cases, and martials his evidence with military precision. He is logical in his arguments, forceful in the presentation of a cause, and never fails to make a strong impression upon court and jury, and has been fairly successful in gaining the verdict desired.

In 1862 Mr. Reed was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Clouser, a native of Fayette county, Ohio, and a daughter of George and Hannah (Coyner) Clouser. This marriage has been blessed with five children:

George M., who is now living in Grangeville, Idaho; Erasmus E., of Omaha, Nebraska; Maggie L., who is the wife of R. C. Peters,, of Omaha; Carl S., who is associated with his father in the practice of law in Monticello; and Agnes B., the wife of R. D. Winship, of Chicago.

Mr. Reed has made judicious investments in farming land, having lands in Iowa and Nebraska, which he rents. Socially he is connected with Fraternal Lodge, No. 58, F. & A. M., with Markwell Chapter, No. 48, R. A. M. He is a worthy exemplar of the Masonic fraternity, taking a deep an active interest in its growth and the extention of its influence. In politics he is a pronounced Democrat, and for three years he was states attorney, while for four years he was master in chancery. He has, however, devoted his attention chiefly to his chosen profession. His nature is kindly, his temperament jovial and genial, and his manner courteous. He is a most companionable gentleman.

FREDERICK ADOLPH ODERNHEIMER.

The German element in our American citizenship has been of the utmost importance. The sons of the fatherland have come to the new world, bringing with them the knowledge of business methods in the old country. They have readily adapted themselves to the conditions found in America, and improving opportunities have worked their way upward to positions of prominence here, but not only have they attained individual success, but have also labored for the welfare of the various communities in which they have made their home. Frederick A. Odernheimer is a worthy representative of the fatherland, and has become a leading farmer of Piatt county, his home being on section 12, Monticello township. He was born in Wiesbaden, Germany, on the 31st of March, 1857, a son of Frederick and Marian (Rudder) Odernheimer. Far back can the ancestry of the family be traced. There is an account of the lineage on the paternal side back to 1200, while on the maternal line the subject of this review is descended from Sir Miles Patrick, who flourished in 1099. The father of our subject was born at Wiesbaden in 1808, and spent his entire life in that place, his death occurring on the 12th of December, 1885, when he was seventy-eight years of age. His wife, who was born at Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, passed away in 1863.

Mr. Odernheimer, whose name introduces this review, obtained his early education in the common schools of his native place, where he pursued his studies until nine years of age. He then entered what is known as a gymnasium, where he pursued a course equivalent to a high school course in America. At the age of sixteen years he put aside his text-books and entered the navy as a cadet, being thus engaged with the military service of the country for five years. Successfully passing an examination which made him a lieutenant, he served in that capacity for a short time or until he was obliged to leave the navy on account of failing eyesight. He then determined to try his fortune in the new world, and in February, 1881, he sailed for the United States, locating first near Austin, Texas, where he acted as deputy sheriff of the county and also as deputy United States marshal for five years. In 1886 he arrived in Illinois, going first to Mansfield, and in that locality he purchased

a farm which he continued to operate until 1890. On selling his property he purchased eighty acres of land five miles east of Monticello, to which he removed. He has since made excellent improvements upon the property, placing three hundred rods of tiling upon the land, building new fences, a commodious and substantial barn and other outbuildings. He has also planted an orchard which is now returning a good yield. He feeds annually quite a number of hogs for the market, and he also keeps on hand a number of milch cows. He makes a speciaity of the production of corn, oats and clover and he also has rich pasture lands. This farm was purchased in 1890 for forty-seven dollars, but because of the many improvements he has placed upon it and because of the rise in land values it is to-day worth at a low figure one hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre. Mr. Odernheimer is a progressive agriculturist and the methods which he follows in carrying on his work have brought to him excellent success in his undertakings.

In Austin, Texas, in 1884, Mr. Odernheimer was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Buchanan, of Mansfield, Illinois, who died at Champaign, this state, in the year 1886, leaving a daughter, Virginia Frances, who is now at home. She has completed the common-school course and expects in the year 1903 to become a student in the Illinois University. On the 10th of August, 1887, in Monticello, Illinois, Mr. Odernheimer was again married, his second union being with Charlotte Jane Baird, a daughter of William and Marie Baird, of Circleville, Ohio. Three children were born of this union, but all died in infancy.

In his political views Mr. Odernheimer is a stalwart Republican, and takes a very active and influential part in the work of the party. He has served as a committeeman of Monticello township for six years, being chairman for three years, and for three years he has also been a member of the county central committee, acting as its chairman for two years. He is likewise a member of the executive committee of the Illinois Republican State League Club, and is chairman of the Monticello League Club. He keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day, thus being able to give an intelligent support to the party and his labors in its behalf have been effective and far-reaching. He is now acting as government crop reporter for Monticello township and is secretary for the Piatt County Farmers' Institute. Fraternally, Mr. Odernheimer is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and is now venerable consul of Monticello Camp, No. 346. He also belongs to Fraternity Lodge, No. 58, F. & A. M., of Monticello and Markwell Chapter, No. 48, R. A. M., while his wife is connected with the Order of the Eastern Star. He and his wife and his daughter are all members of the First Methodist Episcopal church and are people of the highest respectability, having the warm regard of many friends. The hope that led Mr. Odernheimer to seek a home in America has been more than realzed, for here he has gained an excellent competence and has won the friendship and regard of a large majority of those with whom he has been brought in contact. His business affairs have been so capably managed that they have returned to him a splendid income, and his methods have ever been above question. Keen and clear-headed, always busy; always careful and conservative in financial matters, moving slowly and surely in every transaction, he has kept in

the steady progress which invariably reaches an objective point. The story of his advancement should inspire all young men who read the history of his life with a truer esteem of the value and sure rewards of character.

JOHN LARSON.

No foreign element has become a more important part of our American citizenship than that furnished by Sweden. The emigrants from that land have brought with them to the new world the stability, enterprise and perseverance characteristic of their people and have fused these qualities with the progressiveness and indomitable spirit of the west. Mr. Larson is a worthy representative of this class. He came to America a poor boy, hoping to benefit his financial condition, and his dreams of the future have been more than realized, for he is to-day one of the prosperous farmers of Piatt county.

Mr. Larson was born in Sweden on the 26th of February, 1868, a son of Bonde and Bessie Larson, who are still living in that country, where the father is engaged in farming. He visited his sons in America during the summer of 1902. In the family are nine children, four sons and five daughters, six of whom are now living in this country, namely: N. B. Larson, who lives on the Thompson farm in Unity township, Piatt county; S. B. Larson, who lives on his uncle Nels Larson's place on section 7, Unity township, just one mile east of our subject; John Larson, of this review; Hannah Hanson, a resident of Macon county, Illinois; Segrie Pierson, who makes her home in the same county; and Emma Pierson, of Argenta, Macon county. Those living in Sweden are Annie, Larson and Sophie.

John Larson was reared and educated in his native land and there learned the trade of carriage making, but has never followed that occupation since coming to America. It was in April, 1886, that he sailed for the new world and landed in Boston, Massachusetts, whence he made his way westward to Bement, Illinois. On his arrival here he was unable to speak a word of English, but mastered the language in one summer. He commenced work in tiling, which he followed for one year, and the next year continued to engage in the same occupation in connection with farm work. Having saved enough money to purchase a team in 1887, he rented a farm in Unity township in connection with his brothers. N. B. and S. B. Larson, and the following year took entire charge of a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, which he operated successfully for four years. A part of the time he also had charge of his brother's farm of two hundred and forty acres. At present he rents a half-section of land in Moultrie county, which he operates together with his own farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 7, Unity township, Piatt county, which was part of the McCabe estate. He paid twenty thousand three hundred and ninety dollars for this place, and has erected thereon a substantial residence and made other improvements to the amount of three thousand dollars. He has tenants upon his land, but gives his personal supervision to the work, which is carried on in the most systematic and practical manner. Mr. Larson is also interested in stock-raising, making a specialty of shorthorn cattle and thoroughbred Norman horses, and he owns two registered mares

sired by Dewey and an interest in some fine stallions in this county.

In Moultrie county, Illinois, October 3, 1894, Mr. Larson was united in marriage to Miss Selma Nelson, also a native of Sweden and a daughter of Nels and Bessie Nelson. She came to the United States in 1889, and by her marriage has become the mother of two children: Luella, born June 8, 1896, and Elmer, born April 1, 1899. Mr. and Mrs. Larson are members of the Swedish Lutheran church, and he is a Republican in politics. He has become thoroughly identified with the interests of his adopted country, and is well known as an enterprising and reliable business man, one who keeps abreast with the times. All who know him hold him in high esteem.

GILBERT A. BURGESS.

The name of Gilbert A. Burgess is closely associated with educational interests of tion has been carried on in this connectiontion has been carried on in the schoolroom and through the press. He is now the editor of the Piatt County Republican, published in Monticello.

Mr. Burgess was born in Sigourney, Keokuk county, Iowa, February 12, 1848, and is a son of D. G. Burgess, whose birth occurred in New York. When quite young the father accompanied his parents on their removal from the Empire state to Illinois, the family home being established near Ellisville, Fulton county. The grandfather was one of the pioneer settlers of the community, coming to Illinois when much of the state was still unsettled and unimproved. It was amid the wild scenes of frontier life in Fulton county that D. G. Burgess was reared and with the family he shared in the hardships and trials that fall to the lot of pioneers. In 1844 he became a resident of Iowa, which was still under territorial government. He learned the carpenter's trade in Iowa City, where he spent two years, and in 1846 he went to Sigourney, Iowa, being connected with the building interests at that place until his death, which occurred in 1855, at the age of thirty-three years. He had married Louisa Smith, who was born in Fulton county, Illinois, and she, too, died at a comparatively early age, passing away when her son Gilbert was only two years old. She was a daughter of Hezekiah and Lydia Smith, who were born in Indiana and became early settlers of Fulton county, whence they removed to Keokuk county, Iowa, in 1843. Mr. Smith was a millwright, carpenter and builder and these pursuits occupied his time and energies until his death.

At the early age of seven years Gilbert Burgess was left an orphan, and in the spring of 1856 went to live with his paternal grandmother in Henry, Marshall county, Illinois. He resided with her until 1861, when he removed to Warren county, Illinois, there making his home with his uncle, Henry B. Burgess, through the succeeding years, coming with him in the year 1866 to Piatt county. His early education was obtained in the public schools and two years in Lombard University at Galesburg, while in Eastman's Business College of Chicago he had mastered the branches of a commercial course in the winter of 1865-6. In the fall of 1866 he began teaching in Kankakee county, Illinois, and the following summer he spent in Iowa, but in the fall of 1867 he returned to Illinois and taught at Mackville. For ten years he followed his chosen profes-

sion during the winter seasons and in the summer months engaged in farming. He entered the state normal school at Normal, in the spring of 1876, therein pursuing a course of advanced study until 1878, when he graduated. For one year, 1878-9, he was assistant in the high schools of Monticello and then became superintendent of the schools of this city, serving in that capacity for two years. When a vacancy occurred in the position of county superintendent of schools in July, 1881, he was chosen to fill out the unexpired term and subsequently reappointed to the same office for a year. At the regular election, 1882, he was chosen for a term of four years, and thus served as county superintendent for more than five years altogether, during which time the schools made rapid advance.

Since leaving the position of county superintendent of schools in Piatt county Mr. Burgess has been connected with journalistic work. Removing to Decatur in the spring of 1887 he engaged in the publication of a school journal in which he owned an interest. He then purchased the entire interest in the business, and returning to Monticello, issued the first edition of the Piatt Independent in December, 1887. In 1889 he erected the substantial building in which he is now located, and in 1892 bought the Piatt County Herald. Since then the union of the two papers has been known as the Piatt County Republican. This was sold to a joint stock company in 1896, and Mr. Burgess has since been its editor and manager.

On the 18th of June, 1874, he was joined in wedlock to Miss Jane Conaway, a native of McLean county, Illinois, and a daughter of James and Melissa Cayton Conaway. Three sons have been born unto Mr. and Mrs. Burgess: Lou, Fred and Ralph, all of whom are of age. Mr. Burgess is a member of Fraternal Lodge, No. 58, A. F. & A. M.; Markwell Chapter, No. 48, R. A. M., Monticello Counsel, No. 27, R. & S. M., and Monticello Chapter No. 159, and in these various departments of Masonry he has held office. He is also a member of Urbana Commandery No. 16, Knights Templar.

HON. J. N. RODMAN.

An enumeration of the prominent and honored men of Piatt county would be incomplete without mention of Hon. J. N. Rodman, who at the time of this writing, in 1903, is serving as representative to the general assembly of Illinois from the twenty-fourth district, comprising Champaign, Moultrie and Piatt counties. He now resides in DeLand, but for many years has been actively associated with farming interests within the county. His activities have touched along other lines of business, and his keen discrimination, wise counsel and unfaltering diligence have been important factors in the successful control of many public and private concerns.

Mr. Rodman is a native of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Muskingum county in 1848. In his childhood days he was brought to Illinois by his parents, Scammon and Eliza (Woolf) Rodman, who located in McLean county. The father was a native of Pennsylvania and the mother of Virginia. On emigrating westward they took up their abode upon a farm in Oldtown township, McLean county, where they spent their remaining days, the father devoting his energies untiringly to agricultural interests. He died at the age of eighty-six years, while his



Julius A. Rodman

wife passed away at the age of sixty-four years. In their family were ten children, of whom the subject of this review was the eighth. He has one brother who resides in DeLand.

J. N. Rodman was reared in McLean county, Illinois, and began his education in one of the old-time log schoolhouses, which were common throughout this state in pioneer days. Later he spent two years as a student in the Wesleyan University, pursuing a general course and through the years of an active manhood his knowledge has been constantly broadened by reading, experience and observation. He first worked upon the old home place known as the Cusey farm. He continued to assist his father in the operation of his land until the time of his marriage, which occurred on the 13th of October, 1878, the lady of his choice being Miss Clara E. Colvin, of Zanesville, Ohio, a daughter of James Colvin who always made his home in the Buckeye state, and who was a prominent and influential citizen, there serving for years as county commissioner. He had a family of six children, including Mrs. Rodman.

Prior to his marriage Mr. Rodman purchased and shipped stock, making his headquarters at Holder, Illinois, for several years. After his marriage he began farming in 1879, settling in Goose Creek township, Piatt county, since which time he has been identified with its agricultural interests. In 1881 he removed to the I. W. Scott place of five hundred acres, and this he has continued to operate and improve. He has been buying and selling land throughout the years of his residence in McLean and Piatt counties, and in addition to his property in Illinois, he also owns land in the cotton belt of Mississippi. A man of marked business ability he is quick to note opportunity and to utilize it. He was one of the founders of the State Bank of DeLand, of which he is now the vice president, and his enterprise and counsel have been valued factors in the successful control of this institution. For some time Mr. Rodman was also proprietor of a grain elevator in DeLand, but has now disposed of the property. While still on the farm he engaged in the raising of cattle, hogs and horses, and he brought up Lady Rodman, training her to a record of 2:15¼.

When Mr. and Mrs. Rodman were living upon the home farm their place was noted for its open-handed hospitality, and their door was never closed to their many friends and they now occupy a very attractive and beautiful residence in DeLand, fitted up with every modern convenience, including both hot and cold water, bath rooms, a hot air plant for heating and a lighting plant. This home is the center of a cultured society circle and its good cheer is greatly enjoyed by those who visit them. Mrs. Rodman is a valued member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is a most estimable lady. In his social relations Mr. Rodman is a Mason, belonging to DeLand Lodge, No. 812, F. & A. M. He also belongs to the Twentieth Century Lodge, No. 603, K. P., and has twice been its representative to the grand lodge, and was its first chancellor commander. In politics he has always been a stalwart Republican and has kept well informed on the issues and questions of the day, but steadily refused to accept office until 1902, when he was prevailed upon to become a candidate for the general assembly. He made a successful race and was elected, so that he is now a member of the house of representatives. He served as chairman of the committee on roads and bridges, and has been a

member of the committees on agriculture, appraising, farm drainage, federal buildings, live stock and dairying and warehouses. He was likewise made a member of the committee whose purpose it was to visit, inspect and report upon penal and reformatory institutions. A man of keen perception and unbounded enterprise, his success in life is due entirely to his own well directed efforts, and he deserves prominent mention among the leading and representative business men of his town and county. Over his life record there falls no shadow of wrong; his public service has been most exemplary, and his private life has been marked by fidelity to duty.

ELI F. WOLFE.

Eli F. Wolfe, deceased, who for many years was one of the most honored and highly esteemed citizens of Cerro Gordo township, was born on the 8th of January, 1849, in Clinton county, Indiana, his parents being Eli and Barbara (Mussellman) Wolfe, both natives of Ohio. He was one of a family of seven children, two of his brothers being now residents of Kansas, while one sister lives in California and another makes her home in Dakota.

About 1865 Mr. Wolfe came to Piatt county, Illinois, and took up farming, which he followed successfully until failing health caused his retirement. For about a year prior to his death he was confined to his bed most of the time, and he passed away on the 11th of March, 1902, at the age of fifty-three years, one month and twenty-four days. Four of his children had previously died.

Mr. Wolfe was married March 7, 1869, to Miss Catharine Wolfe, who was born near Lafayette, Indiana, in 1849, and in 1861 came to Piatt county, Illinois, with her parents, Jacob and Hannah (Shively) Wolfe. They were natives of Ohio, born near Dayton. Her father purchased a half section of wild land one mile east of La Place, but did not live long to enjoy his new home, departing this life in January, 1870. His wife survived him some years and died in 1887. Their children were: Solomon, deceased; Catharine, widow of our subject; Lizzie, who died in infancy; Eli, who first married Fanny Friesner and second Mary Metzger, and is the owner of a farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 34, Cerro Gordo township, which came to him by inheritance; David, who died with consumption when about twenty-five years of age; John, who died at the age of eighteen years; George, who married Ella Friesner and lives south of Mrs. Catharine Wolfe.

Unto our subject and his wife were born seven children, but only three are now living, namely: Hannah is the wife of Cyrus Metzger, a resident of Cerro Gordo township, and has two children, Clarence and Goldie. Frank married Dolly Baney, of Cerro Gordo township and lives on the home farm, one mile east of La Place. Laura is with her mother.

Since her husband's death Mrs. Wolfe has made her home in LaPlace, where she has erected a very comfortable residence, surrounded by beautiful shade trees. She still owns the fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres willed her by her husband and now rented to her son Frank. The place is improved with good and substantial buildings, and the land is well tilled and under a high state of cultivation. Mrs. Wolfe has

witnessed the greater part of the growth and development of this section of the state. When the family settled in Cerro Gordo township much of the land was covered with sloughs and ponds and was thought unfit for cultivation, but it has since been tiled and drained and converted into the best farming property of the state.

Mr. Wolfe led a very quiet, peaceful and industrious life and was a model husband and loving father. He was an active and prominent member of the German Baptist or Brethren church, to which his wife and children also belong, and was a trustee of the same. His funeral was conducted by Elder M. J. McClure, of that church, and his death was widely and deeply mourned, for he had many friends among all classes of people who appreciated his sterling worth and many excellencies of character. For many years he held the office of school director and never withheld his support from any object which he believed would advance the interests of his fellow men or promote the general welfare.

ALBERT C. EDIE.

Endowed by nature with strong mentality and a keen, logical power of resolving intricate problems into their component parts and thus gaining knowledge of the points at law which bear upon them, Albert C. Edie has won success and prominence at the bar of Piatt county, where he has practiced for almost eight years as a member of the firm of Reed & Edie. At the present time the firm style is Reed, Edie & Reed, the son of the senior member having recently been admitted.

Mr. Edie is one of Piatt county's native sons, his birth having occurred upon the home farm in Cerro Gordo township, on the 28th of August, 1868, his parents being William H. and Amelia J. (Funk) Edie. The father was born in Hancock county, Ohio, in 1844, and the mother's birth occurred in Washington county, Indiana, in 1843, her father being Abraham Funk, one of the pioneer settlers of that locality. William H. Edie served his country as a Union soldier in the Civil war, rendering valiant service on the battlefields of the south, and after receiving an honorable discharge he returned to his old home in Ohio. Later he came to Piatt county, Illinois, and located on a farm in Cerro Gordo township, where he resided for a number of years, devoting his time and attention to the development and further improvement of his farm. After some years had passed, during which time he acquired a comfortable competence, he came to Monticello, where both he and his wife are now living. He has retired from business cares, and both Mr. and Mrs. Edie are numbered among the highly respected citizens of the community.

In the usual manner of farmer lads, Albert C. Edie was reared and in Cerro Gordo township he began his education, attending the district schools, while later he entered the Cerro Gordo school, in which he was graduated with the class of 1887. Desirous to make the practice of law his life work, he then began preparing for the bar in the office and under the direction of W. G. Cloyd, of Bement, who was his preceptor for a year. He then went to Decatur and spent one year in the office of Judge W. C. Johns, and in 1892 he was admitted to the bar before the supreme court at Springfield. After his admission he took charge of the

Building and Loan Association, at Cerro Gordo, remaining there for two years, and on the expiration of that period he came to Monticello, where he has since made his home. In 1894 he entered into partnership with S. R. Reed, a distinguished member of the Piatt county bar, with whom he has since been associated in practice, and the law firm ranks first among the lawyers of the county. Their clientage is extensive, embracing connection with the most important litigation which comes before the courts of the district. As a lawyer, Mr. Edie has the success which might naturally be looked for where close application and immense power for work are united to mental strength and quickness, an excellent memory and a large appetite for the activities of the profession.

In 1894 Mr. Edie was united in marriage to Miss Callie M. Fisher, of Monticello, a daughter of E. P. and Ellen M. (Ward) Fisher. Mrs. Edie is a lady of culture and innate refinement and was educated in the schools of Monticello. By her marriage she has become the mother of two sons, Burl A. and Willis R. The family have a good home in Monticello and both Mr. and Mrs. Edie have the warm regard of many friends here.

In his political views Mr. Edie is a stalwart Republican, and for six years he served as city attorney of Monticello, his term of office expiring in May, 1903. While the incumbent he was a most loyal official, giving most careful attention to the legal interests of the city. Socially he is connected with Phœnix Lodge, No. 204, K. P., and he is the secretary of the Monticello Business Men's Association, and president of the board of education. Everything pertaining to the social, intellectual, political and moral progress of his community receive his indorsement, nor has his co-operation been found lacking along lines for the general good.

ANDREW J. LANGLEY.

The subject of this sketch finds an appropriate place in the history of men of business and enterprise in the state of Illinois, whose force of character, whose sterling integrity, whose fortitude amid discouragements, whose good sense in the management of complicated affairs and of marked success in establishing and bringing to completion important business interests, have contributed in an eminent degree to the development of the best resources of this commonwealth. His career has not been helped by accident or luck, wealth, family or powerful friends, but he is in the broadest sense a self-made man, being both the architect and builder of his fortunes, but not only has he won proninence in business life, but has also gained high regard by his genuine worth. He is now the vice president of the First National Bank of Mansfield and was long associated with agricultural interests, his home at the present time being on his farm on section 17, Blue Ridge township.

Mr. Langley is a native of Pennsylvania, his birth having occurred in Erie county about four miles from the city of Erie on the 1st of October, 1837. He is a son of James and Jane (Weston) Langley, who were likewise natives of the Keystone state. The Langley family is of Scotch extraction and when sixteen years of age the grandfather of our subject came from the land of the heather to the new world, locating in Erie county. There he afterward followed farming until called to the home beyond.

It was in Erie county that he was married and reared his family. James Langley also became an agriculturist, and with his family he removed to the west in 1853, establishing his home in Macoupin county, Illinois. The subject of this review was then a youth of sixteen years. The journey was made overland and nineteen and a half days had passed ere they reached their destination. They did not, however, travel on Sundays. After arriving in Macoupin county the father purchased land and continued to engage in farming there until his demise. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, of whom four are yet living, but Andrew J. Langley is the only one now residing in Piatt county. One of the family is living in Seattle, Washington, another in Mississippi, and the sister is a resident of Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

In the schools of Erie county, Pennsylvania, Andrew J. Langley began his education which he afterward continued in the public schools of Macoupin county, Illinois. He also spent one term in a commercial school of Gerard, Pennsylvania. Under the parental roof he remained until twenty-one years of age, when he began business as a farmer and nurseryman in Macoupin county. As a companion and helpmate for the journey of life he chose Miss Celia A. Curtis and the wedding was celebrated on the 11th of March, 1859. The lady is also a native of Erie county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of John and Hulda Curtis, natives of New York, whence they removed to the Keystone state, where the father followed farming. The Curtis family is probably of English lineage and Mrs. Langley is one of a family of eight children, five of whom are yet living. Unto our subject and his wife were born six children, but a son and daughter died in infancy. Elmer E., the eldest, is now living in Morris, Stevens county, Minnesota. He married Emma Smith, who died leaving two children: Elbert E., who makes his home in Minnesota with his father; and Emery F., who is residing with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Langley. Frederick Lincoln, the second son of the family, resides at Bingham Lake, Minnesota. He wedded Mattie Holman and they have three children, Max, Wilbur and Celia. James C. Langley is the cashier of the First National Bank of Mansfield. Roy A. is engaged in farming in Morris, Minnesota.

Mr. Langley returned to the east for his wife and then brought his bride to Macoupin county, Illinois, where he carried on farming until 1865, and likewise devoted some attention to the nursery business. That year he came to Piatt county and purchased four hundred acres of land, which was then partially improved, having upon it a little house of two rooms. He erected a new residence, also built outbuildings and has improved the place in many ways. It was almost destitute of trees when he took up his abode there, but the place is now surrounded by many beautiful trees. Mr. Langley was planting a grove of five acres of walnut trees when a messenger riding across the country from Champaign county called to him the news that President Lincoln had been assassinated. Mr. Langley then gave to the place the name of Lincoln Grove. For a numberof years he successfully carried on agricultural pursuits, but not caring to be burdened with the supervision of an extensive farm here, he has since sold all of the home place with the exception of eighty acres. However, he has landed possessions in South Dakota, in Minnesota and Nebraska, having wisely invested his money in real estate.

In 1893 in company with his son J. C., and William Firke, Mr. Langley founded what became known as the Langley, Firke & Langley private bank. This was afterward sold to John M. Dighton & Company of Monticello, and they reorganized the State Bank of Mansfield, with which Mr. Langley was identified until 1902. In that year in connection with W. D. Fairbanks and his son, J. C. Langley, he founded the First National Bank of Mansfield, its present officers being W. D. Fairbanks, president; A. J. Langley, vice president, and J. C. Langley, cashier. Mr. Langley has always given his political support to the Republican party since casting his first presidential ballot, and he was a warm admirer as well as a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln. For about fourteen years he served as supervisor of Blue Ridge township, holding the office for twelve consecutive years and for one term he was chairman of the board. He has been chairman of nearly all of the committees of the board and has done effective and helpful service in behalf of the county through the exercise of his official prerogatives. Fraternally he is connected with Mansfield Lodge, No. 773, F. & A. M.

He and his wife are now the only people living on the "ridge," who were here when Mr. and Mrs. Langley arrived and their own home place has never been out of their possession and the property is a monument to the enterprise and efforts of the subject of this review. While always active in matters of citizenship for the general good Mr. Langley has never taken an active part in political work in the hope of gaining office, having always preferred to give his attention to the superintendence of his private business affairs and extensive investments. A man of unswerving integrity and honor, one who has a perfect appreciation of the higher ethics of life, he has gained and retained the confidence and respect of his fellow men and is distinctively one of the leading citizens of Piatt county, with whose interests he has been identified for more than a third of a century.

WILLIAM H. DILATUSH.

Among the enterprising and energetic young business men of Piatt county is numbered William H. Dilatush, the popular cashier of the State Bank of DeLand. He was born in this county, July 5, 1871, and is a son of George D. Dilatush, a resident of Decatur. The father in early manhood wedded Cynthia Jeffries, a native of Ohio. He was a native of New Jersey, but in his boyhood days emigrated westward with his parents to the Buckeye state and located in Warren county. They were married in Ohio and in 1868 they removed westward to Illinois, settling in Lincoln, Logan county. There they lived until 1870, when they took up their abode in Cerro Gordo township, Piatt county, where Mr. Dilatush purchased land and engaged in farming. He followed that pursuit until 1890, when, having acquired a handsome competence sufficient to enable him to put aside business cares and rest in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil, he removed to Decatur, where he has since lived retired. Mr. and Mrs. Dilatush were the parents of five children: Frank V., a resident of Monticello; Jarvis J., who is living in Utah; Elmer E., who makes his home in Decatur; Lida E., who is with her parents; and William H., of this review.

In the district schools William H. Dilatush began his education which was continued in Monticello high school, of which he is a graduate. On putting aside his textbooks he entered upon his business career in the capacity of a clerk in a grocery store of Race, Handlin & Company, with whom he continued for four years. He then went into the postoffice book store, where he remained for two years, and in 1898 he came to DeLand, accepting the position as cashier in the John Kirby & Company Bank. This institution was reorganized in 1899 as the State Bank of DeLand, with John Kirby as president and W. H. Dilatush as cashier. The bank was capitalized for twenty-five thousand dollars and is a most reliable financial institution. The bank building is splendidly equipped, being fitted up with a Mosler safe manufactured at Hamilton, Ohio. There is also a safety deposit vault with sixty boxes. The building was erected in 1902 at a cost of eleven thousand five hundred dollars, and is one of the most complete bank buildings in this part of the state. A general banking business is carried on along progressive lines and yet the policy of the firm is conservative enough to insure perfect safety to depositors.

In October, 1898, Mr. Dilatush was united in marriage to Miss Ida Stevenson, a daughter of Wilbur Stevenson, of Monticello, The young couple have many warm friends in DeLand and Piatt county, and their own home is celebrated for its gracious hospitality. Mr. Dilatush is a member of DeLand Lodge, No. 812, F. & A. M., also of Twentieth Century Lodge, No. 603, K. P., and in politics he is a stalwart Democrat. He has served as supervisor of Goose Creek township, filling the office from 1899 until 1901. He is a typical American citizen, wide-awake and enterprising, quick to notice business opportunities and to utilize them for the advancement of his individual success. At the same time he is ever in touch with public progress and improvement and co-operates in many measures for the general good.

JOHN W. HILLIGOSS.

In public affairs in Mansfield John W. Hilligoss has been prominent and his efforts in behalf of the general progress have been far-reaching and effective. He was born in Fleming county, Kentucky, on the 1st of October, 1841, a son of Thomas and Mary (Darnall) Hilligoss, who were also natives of the Bluegrass state. The former was a farmer, and in following that pursuit provided a comfortable living for his family. Both he and his wife died when about sixty-eight years of age, and they were laid to rest in the cemetery at Elizaville, Fleming county. In their family were the following children: John W.; James T., who is deceased; Jeanette, a resident of Fleming county, Kentucky; Mary, who is a widow and lives in Fleming county; Maggie, who makes her home in Lexington, Kentucky; Cynthia, who is also living in Fleming county; Clyde, who has passed away; and Robert E. Lee, who resides in LaSalle county, Illinois.

Under the parental roof John W. Hilligoss spent his boyhood days, and in the public schools he acquired his education, continuing his studies there until about eighteen years of age. He was a student through the winter months, and during the summer seasons he engaged in farming, assisting in the operations of the old home place. At

the age of nineteen he began teaching in his home locality, and he there continued to reside until his removal to Illinois. In September, 1862, true to his loved southland, he responded to the call of the Confederates for troops and enlisted as a member of the command of Colonel Thomas Johnson, joining the army at Mount Sterling, Kentucky. He was in the service for two years, and on the 9th of July, 1864, at Mount Sterling, he was wounded in the right leg, which was amputated just above the knee on the 12th of the same month. This, of course, incapacitated him for further service and he returned to his home.

He continued to reside in Fleming county, Kentucky, until 1868, when he decided to establish his home in Illinois, and took up his abode near Mattoon, this state. There he engaged in teaching school successfully until 1873, when he came to Mansfield, and, for thirty years he has been a resident of this place. The favorable opinion passed upon him at the outset of his career here has never been set aside, or in any degree modified, for he has always lived so as to command the respect and good will of his fellow men. For two years he was engaged in teaching school here, and in 1881 he established the Mansfield Express which had its origin in Mahomet in 1878. He has since published the paper which is independent in politics, and which has a good circulation and a constantly growing patronage. It is devoted to the advancement of the local and general news and to the furtherance of the best interests of this locality, and is a leading journal of Piatt county.

On the 9th of July, 1872, Mr. Hilligoss was united in marriage to Miss Hester House, of Champaign county, and they now have a daughter, Clyde, who is the wife of John R. Watkins, who is conducting a job printing business in Urbana, Illinois. Socially Mr. Hilligoss is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to Brothers Lodge, No. 589, in Mansfield. He has filled all of its offices and has twice represented the local lodge in the grand lodge; is thoroughly informed concerning the tenets and teachings of the order, and his life has been guided by its beneficent principles. In public affairs he has been prominent and has served as village clerk, and also as township clerk. During his long residence in this county he has become very widely known, and Mansfield numbers him among its respected and honored citizens.

WILLIAM H. PIATT.

It is most fitting that there be accorded due mention in this biographical history of this prominent representative of a family whose name is borne by the county and whose members have been so prominent in promoting the various interests which have contributed to the country's welfare and progress along all lines of substantial improvement. Since the time that the first members of the Piatt family located in this section of the state the name has figured conspicuously in connection with its material, social, intellectual and moral development. Fortunate is the man who has back of him an ancestry honorable and distinguished, and happy is he if his lines of life are cast in harmoney therewith. In appearance and in talents Mr. Piatt is a worthy scion of his race, and after more than fifty years of honorable and active connection with the agricultural



W. H. PIATT

interests he is now living a retired life, having long since passed the Psalmist's span of three score years and ten. Indeed, he has now reached the age of eighty-seven years—a venerable man whose upright life should serve as a source of inspiration and as an example for emulation.

The Piatt family is of French lineage and was established in America by John Piatt, the great-grandfather of our subject, who was a Huguenot in religious faith. He left his native country of France and crossed the Atlantic to America, establishing his home during colonial days in New Jersey, where he died in 1760. Abraham Piatt, his son and the grandfather of our subject, was born in New Jersey in 1741 and became a surveyor. He emigrated to Center county, Pennsylvania, casting in his lot with its pioneer settlers and taking an important part in the work of development and improvement there. When the colonists attempted to throw off the yoke of British oppression he joined the American army and fought for the independence of the nation. He held the rank of colonel and rendered valiant and effective service to the cause of liberty. He did not live very long, however, to enjoy the fruits of this long struggle, for when fifty years of age he passed away, dying on the 13th of November, 1791, from the effects of of a cold which he contracted while engaged in surveying a large tract which was given to him for his services in the Revolutionary war. Jacob Piatt, a brother, was also an officer under Washington and was also granted land.

Among the children of Abraham Piatt was James A. Piatt, in whose honor this county was named. His birthplace was Center county, Pennsylvania, and the year of his birth 1789. He was for many years identified with pioneer life not only in Illinois, but also in Indiana. In 1815 he left Pennsylvania and removed to Brookville, Franklin county, Indiana, at which time that state was still under territorial rule. The place of his destination was a small village and was situated upon what was then the very western frontier. There Mr. Piatt engaged first in merchandising, but frequently he followed freight-boating on the Mississippi river, taking many cargoes to New Orleans, which has then the market for all that section of the country, for the era of railroads had not dawned upon the nation and shipments were made by water. Mr. Piatt also made several trips to Cuba with live stock. In 1828 he established the first tin shop in Indianapolis, and through two years was engaged in business there as a hardware and tin merchant. There was something in his nature that was in accord with pioneer condition, and in 1829 he again resumed his westward journey. He came to what is now Piatt county, Illinois, reaching the present site of Monticello on the 7th of April, after a journey made with ox teams. All was wild and unimproved. The prairies were still as they came from the hand of nature, not a furrow having been turned or an improvement made. At that time there existed a preemption law whereby settlers were enabled to hold land for five years before entering it. Mr. Piatt made wise choice of his selection of land, although many at that time would have wondered at his choice, for his nearest neighbor, with one exception, was fifteen miles distant. As years passed, however, this land greatly increased in value, and he carried on the work of farming, his labors being attended with very creditable and gratifying success. The first family home was a pioneer cabin built of logs, and for many

years it has stood on the Monticello fair grounds, one of the old landmarks of pioneer days, and an interesting relic of the early times when such homes sheltered all the early settlers. Another indication of the wildness of the district was the large number of Indians who still lived in this part of the state, and Mr. Piatt became agent for a contractor who supplied the red men with rations at the close of the war of 1812. He found favor with the Indians who regarded Mr. Piatt as the donor of the supplies, and always held him in grateful remembrance, frequently giving expiration of their appreciation of his bounty by bestowing upon him venison and other wild game. No history of central Illinois would be complete without mention of this gentleman, so prominently was he associated with the early development of the locality. He aided in laying broad and deep the foundation for the present progress and prosperity of the county and his death, which occurred in 1838, caused an irreparable loss to central Illinois. His work in connection with the capture of horse thieves in an early day was likewise notable. At that time such law breakers infested the country, for owing to its unsettled condition, they had good opportunity to get away. However, Mr. Piatt was relentless in his search for such thieves, and more than one instance is related of his skill in capturing those who had stolen horses. In the spring of 1832 two of his best horses were stolen, and, accompanied by a neighbor, he traced the thieves, capturing them in Indiana near the Ohio line. He then returned with them to Decatur, where they were tried, convicted and sentenced to be whipped by the sheriff, one thief to receive thirty-nine lashes and the other forty-nine. The following year Mr. Piatt, accompanied by his son, William H., of this review, went to Ohio county, Kentucky, in search of a horse thief, whom they arrested and took to Ottawa, Illinois, for trial. During the Black Hawk war James A. Piatt served as a ranger in Illinois under the command of Major Warnick, who had been an officer under General Jackson in the war of 1812. In civil life Mr. Piatt was also prominent. In the early days he served as one of the county commissioners of Macon county for seven years before the division of the district into Macon and Piatt counties. His influence was ever given on the side of progress and improvement, and he well deserved the honor of having the new county called by his name.

In the early schools of Indianapolis and of Lawrenceburg, Indiana, William H. Piatt pursued his studies, although his educational privileges were extremely limited. He left school when only eleven years of age, and although he has become a broad-minded man and one of good general information, this is due to his experience and observation. He has possessed an observing eye and retentive memory, and these qualifications, added to keen discernment, have gained for him practical experience of much value in the business world. His surroundings and environments in boyhood were those of the frontier, and he assisted in the arduous task of developing new land and of reclaiming the region for the purpose of civilization. After arriving at years of maturity he chose a companion and helpmate for life's journey, being united in marriage on the 10th of April, 1838, to Miss Clarinda Marquiss, who was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, in 1819, and is a daughter of Abraham and Elizabeth (Barnes) Marquiss, who were natives of Pennsylvania, but became pioneers of Piatt county. As the years passed the home of Mr. and Mrs.

Piatt was blessed with seven children: James A., who is now deceased; Abraham, deceased; Charles, who is extensively engaged in farming and stock-raising; Frances, the wife of W. E. Lodge, of Monticello; Jemima, the wife of W. E. Smith, a merchant of Monticello; and Emma L., the wife of Joseph Llewellyn, of Chicago. She is a graduate of the Illinois University and is the author of the Piatt county history.

Mr. and Mrs. Piatt began their domestic life upon a farm, and throughout his business career he carried on agricultural pursuits. His first home was the site of the present fair grounds near Monticello, where he lived for a short time. In the fall of 1839 he built a cabin on the banks of Goose Creek in the township of that name, and while his wife cared for the little home he engaged in the labors of the fields. In his farm work he prospered. The land was rich and proved very productive, returning excellent crops in reward for the labors bestowed upon the fields. As his financial resources increased Mr. Piatt made judicial investments in real estate, and from time to time has made purchases and sales that have proven of profit and added largely to his income. He entered land in various parts of the country, much of which he improved and sold to his children. He has fenced and broken over two thousand acres and he now has in his possession about one hundred and seventy acres of this land, upon which he has made many fine improvements. In the years 1864 and 1865 he erected a large brick house upon a beautiful site in the midst of a fine grove of walnut trees that have stood for ages upon the place.

Mr. Piatt has not confined his attention solely to the cultivation of his fields and to the purchase and sale of property, but has also engaged in large measure in cattle dealing. He began this business in 1841 and for some time was associated with his brothers in the enterprise. In 1851 he drove his first herd of cattle to Philadelphia and thence to the New York city market, making the journey on horseback. Later he made various other trips to the east with stock at a time when there were no railroads and when it required about one hundred and twenty days to make the trip. For several years he dealt very extensively in stock which he purchased in various states and drove to the eastern market. Thus he added annually to his income and to-day Mr. Piatt is one of the wealthy men of the county.

While extensive business interests have claimed his attention he has ever found time and opportunity to assist in many measures of progress and improvement and to co-operate actively along lines leading to the permanent development of central Illinois. In measures for the public good his assistance is not sought in vain and while he has given generously of his means, his wise counsel and practical judgment have also been valued factors in the control of affairs of public moment. He has never sought or desired office, in fact, the demands of his business have been too great to allow him to take an active part in political work even had he desired to do so. His fellow townsmen have frequently solicited him to become a candidate and at one time he served as commissioner of Piatt county. With this exception he has always refused to serve in political offices. His support, however, is given to the Democracy and although now well advanced in years, he still keeps in touch with the political questions of the day, being deeply interested in the welfare of his nation.

The life history of Mr. Piatt, if written in detail, would give a comprehensive and accurate picture of pioneer conditions and experience in the county which bears his name. From early manhood days he has seen the development of this section of the state and has witnessed its wonderful transformation. When he came here with his parents he found the broad prairies uncultivated and covered with the native grasses. There was in the vicinity no city or town of any importance and the work of progress largely lay in the future. The district was cut off from the comforts and conveniences of the older east by long stretches of prairie and by forests, and the rivers were unbridged and the roads were oftentimes almost impassable, especially during the season of the spring rains. A mighty work lay before the pioneer in his efforts to make this section of the country inhabitable and to cause it to be productive enough to yield a good living to its settlers, but the frontiersmen were people of courageous spirit, strong purpose and firm determination and in the course of years have accomplished a work for which present and future generations shall owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. However, we can cherish in our hearts their memory and recount their deeds to representatives of the younger generations, always honoring their name and giving them credit for the splendid task they accomplished. The life record of Mr. Piatt is one deserving of the highest commendation. In his early youth he had very limited opportunities and he had no capital to assist him as he started out upon his business career, but he was energetic, self-reliant and honorable, and these qualities stood him instead of fortune. He worked earnestly year after year and in due course of time his labors were rewarded. To-day he is one of the wealthy men of Piatt county, but he has never allowed the accumulation of wealth to in any way effect his feelings or actions toward those less fortunate.

NELSON G. COFFIN, M. D.

Few men are more prominent or more widely known in the enterprising city of Monticello than Dr. Nelson G. Coffin, who has been the leading representative of the medical fraternity here for many years. Now, having reached the eighty-second year of his age, he is living retired from further professional labors, but still gives his personal supervision to the management of his farm. Through many years, however, he was the loved family physician in numerous households in the city and county, carrying with him hope and comfort by his cheery presence, and at the same time rendering effective aid in the elimination of disease and the restoration of strength and health.

The Doctor is of English lineage and represents an old southern family that was founded in America in colonial days. His grandfather was Samuel Coffin, who in his earlier years resided in North Carolina, whence he removed to Indiana at a very early period in the development of the latter state. Our subject's father, Dr. William Coffin, was born in North Carolina in 1794, and was a graduate of the Medical College of Ohio at Cincinnati. He afterward located in Newport, Indiana, where he engaged in the practice of his profession for a number of years. Late in life he removed to California, where he

spent his last days, dying in January, 1850. His wife, who bore the maiden name Eunice Worth, was born in North Carolina and died in Indiana in 1869. She was a daughter of William and Abigail (Gardner) Worth. Of the children born unto Dr. William Coffin and his wife two sons and two daughters are yet living.

Dr. Nelson G. Coffin, whose name introduces this record, was born in North Carolina on the 3d of October, 1820. When he was only two years old his parents removed to Vermilion county, Indiana, there residing until 1848, when they came to Piatt county, Illinois, so that the subject of this review is one of the earliest settlers of the county in which he yet makes his home. In the spring of the same year he was united in marriage to Miss Phoebe D. Johnson, of Monticello, who was born in Rhode Island and came to Piatt county about the year 1847. After their marriage they took up their abode in Monticello, where the Doctor has since resided. In 1857, however, he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, and of the three children born of this union only one is now living, Eugene, who is a physician in Monticello. He was graduated in Dunham Homeopathic Medical College of Chicago, after obtaining his literary education in Jacksonville College at Jacksonville, Illinois, and now he is successfully practicing in Monticello.

Dr. Nelson G. Coffin prepared for his profession as a student in the Medical College of Ohio at Cincinnati, and entered upon the practice of his profession in Vermilion county, Indiana, in 1843. For five years he continued his work there and then came to Piatt county at the time of his parents' removal here. His early practice extended throughout the county, and oftentimes beyond its borders. He is familiar with all the experiences which come to the early physician who located upon the frontier. Calls came to him from long distances and he found it necessary to travel over almost impassable roads, while oftentimes he had to cross swollen streams and face dangers in so doing. The weather was never so inclement, however, or the hardships so great that Dr. Coffin would not respond to the call of the sick and suffering. As the years passed he kept in touch with the progress that has ever characterized the profession and by continual reading and observation added to his knowledge, and thus rendered his labors more effective in coping with disease.

For many years the Doctor continued in active and successful practice. He left his home in Monticello, however, in August, 1862, feeling that his duty was to his country, and that he should render whatever aid he could to the sick and wounded soldiers in the south. He became assistant surgeon of the One Hundred and Seventh Illinois Regiment, and spent most of his time in the hospitals, rendering aid to the wounded and alleviating all who need professional skill. He was at the battle of Franklin, Tennessee, and at Nashville, and he knows all of the horrors of war that are the lot of the soldier who faces danger and death in defense of country and principles. He continued at his post of duty until July, 1865, when the war having ended, he was honorably discharged and returned to his home.

Again coming to Monticello, Dr. Coffin resumed the practice of his profession, and in 1881 found it necessary and expedient to remove from his first location to a more commodious brick office which was pleasantly located within a half of a block from

the public square of Monticello. He continued in the active practice of his profession until 1874, when he retired and since that time has been devoting his time and energies to his farming interests. He is the owner of a valuable tract of land of two hundred and forty acres, which is highly cultivated and improved with good buildings.

Man's worth in the world is determined by his usefulness—by what he has accomplished for his fellow men—and he is certainly deserving of the greatest honor and regard whose efforts have been of the greatest benefit to his fellow men. Judged by this standard, Dr. Nelson G. Coffin may well be accounted one of the distinguished citizens of Monticello, for almost throughout his professional career, covering many decades, his labors have been of a most helpful nature. His deep research and investigation have rendered his work effective and certainly his labors have been of the greatest practical benefit, and the world is better for his having lived. Although he is now in his eighty-third year, he yet takes a deep interest in the affairs of moment to the city of Monticello, and no man in Piatt county is held in higher regard or deeper respect.

REV. WILLIAM E. MEANS

Rev. William E. Means, the well known editor and proprietor of the Atwood Herald, and a prominent citizen of Atwood, is a native of Illinois, born in Paris, Edgar county, June 28, 1850, and is a son of Thomas N. and Jane (Quiett) Means, natives of Ohio and Tennessee, respectively. His paternal grandfather, William Means, was of Scotch-Irish descent.

Our subject passed his boyhood and youth upon a farm and pursued his studies in the district schools of the neighborhood during the winter months until he entered the high school of Paris. In 1874 he became a student at the Northwestern University of Evanston, and was graduated from the theological department of that well known institution in the class of 1879.

After his graduation Mr. Means joined the Minnesota Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church and was appointed pastor of the Rushmore charge, where he was instrumental in erecting a handsome four thousand dollar church, all paid for. In the middle of the second year he was transferred to Luverne, where the church was greatly strengthened by a very successful revival, the house of worship completed and the way prepared for paying off a crushing debt Finding the Minnesota winters colder than he liked, Mr. Means availed himself of an opportunity to be transferred to the South Kansas Conference in the spring of 1884, and was there instrumental in building two churches, one a temporary building at Fort Scott, which has since become Grace church, and the other a beautiful village church at Hiattville, Kansas, both erected in 1884. The two following years were spent in Moran, Kansas, and were very fruitful, more than a hundred being gathered into the church and the church thoroughly organized. A pastorate of three and a half years on the Caney charge was likewise fruitful in revivals, and in the paying of a crushing debt on the church building.

In October, 1891, Mr. Means accepted the pastorate of the Methodist Episcopal church at Sidney, Illinois, and the following year was in charge of the Atwood church. Failing health compelled him to

retire from the pastorate in the fall of 1893, and he has since held a supernumerary relation to the Illinois conference, often rendering efficient service, without assuming the responsibilities of a pastoral charge. In 1895 Mr. Means leased the Atwood Herald and purchased it the following year. This paper was established in 1888, is independent in politics, is an excellent advertising medium and has a large circulation.

In 1884 Mr. Means was united in marriage to Miss Ella M. Chesnut, of Delavan, Minnesota, and to them has been born one child, a son, Cyril, now eighteen years of age. Mr. Means exerts a healthful influence in the community, both personally and through the columns of his paper, and is a man whose upright character wins him the respect and confidence of all with whom he is brought in contact.

HENLEY C. WELLS.

Upon a farm on section 13, Blue Ridge township, resides Henley C. Wells, who is one of the progressive agriculturists of the community. He was born August 16, 1857, in Knoxville, Tennessee, a son of John B. and Mary Elizabeth Wells. The father was born in the year 1837 in Knox county, Tennessee, and became a farmer by occupation, owning about one hundred and fifty acres of land in his native state. At the time of the Civil war he became a member of the Ninth Tennessee Cavalry. Being taken ill with typhoid fever, as soon as he was able to be moved he was sent to his home. Our subject, who was then but a boy, got a horse and together the father and son rode the horses to a nearby camp of soldiers. When the soldiers saw the boy they caught him in their arms and passed him from one to the other, so glad were they again to see a boy, having long been separated from their own homes and family ties by the war. The country had been devastated by the ravages of war and John B. Wells, who was in very comfortable circumstances prior to the outbreak of hostilities, was left almost penniless at the close of the long conflict. His wife had received thirty thousand dollars in Confederate money from General Lee for damage done their property by the Southern army, but the father was only able to realize about twenty-five dollars on the entire amount.

Henley C. Wells started out for himself at the age of twenty years by working at the carpenter's trade. For this he received eight dollars per month. Later he was paid a salary of twenty-five dollars per month for working a part of the time in a store and a part of the time on a farm. He resolved to seek his fortune north of the Ohio river in 1880, and removed to Greencastle, Indiana, whence he afterward went to Mahomet, Champaign county, where he worked for two years for a man by the name of Smith.

In the year 1883 Mr. Wells was united in marriage to Miss Lida Pittman, and their marriage was blessed with four children: Lillie May, who died at the age of four years; Nora Etta, who is the wife of R. A. Robinson, a resident of Mansfield; Ethel Marie, who is at home; Harrison, who is at home and is assisting in the operation of the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Wells now own one hundred acres of land on section 13, Blue Ridge township, constituting one of the valuable farms of the community. He improved the

house and barn in the spring of 1903, and has planted an orchard of eighty trees, in fact, he has added all modern equipments and accessories to his place, which is now a desirable property and one on which he is realizing a good return from his investments. He gives the greater part of his attention to the raising of grain, but to some extent also raises cattle and hogs.

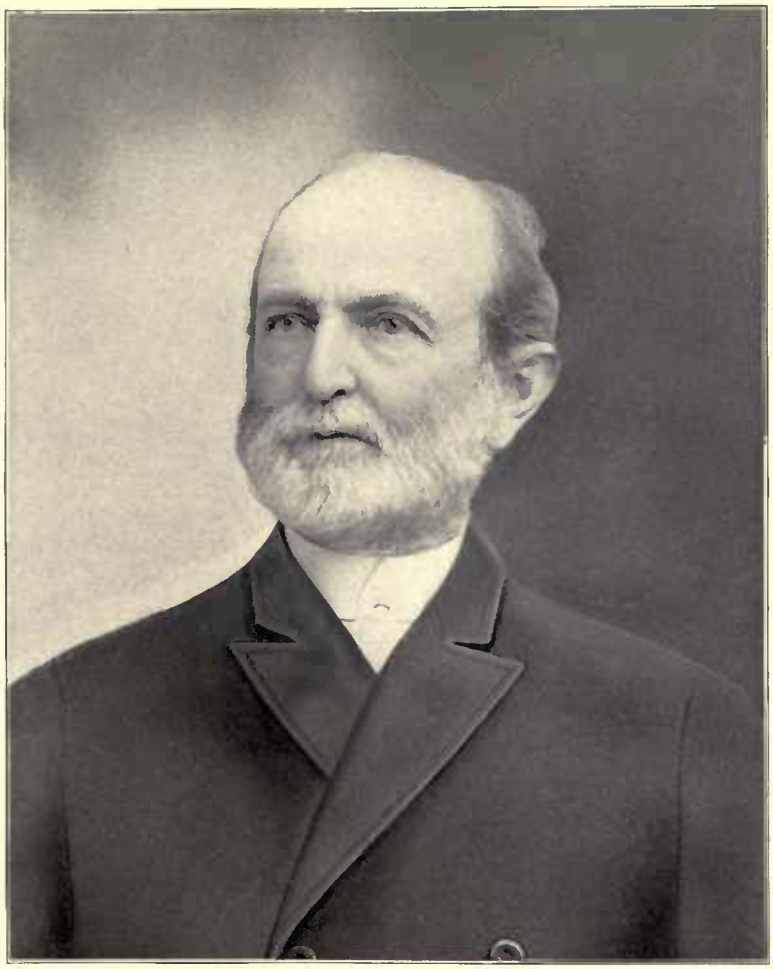
In his fraternal relations Mr. Wells is a Mason, holding membership with the lodge in Mansfield, and in politics he is a Republican, giving an earnest support to the principles of the party. His wife belongs to the Methodist church, and both are well-known and highly respected people of this community, enjoying the warm regard of many friends. They have lived here for twenty years, and throughout this period the circle of their friends has steadily increased as the circle of their acquaintance has widened.

BYRON B. JONES, M. D.

In the death of Dr. Byron B. Jones, on the 20th of December, 1896, Monticello and Piatt county lost one of their most prominent and highly respected citizens. As the day with its morning of hope and promise, its noontide of activity, its evening of completed and successful effort, ending in the grateful rest and quiet of the night, so was the life of this honored man. His career was a long, busy and useful one, of great benefit to his fellow men, and he leaves behind him a memory which is enshrined in many hearts. He was ever a considerate and genial friend, and one whom it was a pleasure to know and meet under any circumstances.

Doctor Jones was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, on the 26th of November, 1828, and was a son of Dr. George G. Jones, a native of Ross county, Ohio, born on the 26th of March, 1796. The father was a prominent figure in central Ohio, and for many years enjoyed a wide practice. He married Miss Ann Hanley, whose birth occurred in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the 3d of August, 1810, and on the 10th of June, 1832, he passed away. His wife, long surviving him, died in 1863.

Dr. Byron B. Jones was reared and educated in Bloomfield, Pickaway county, Ohio, and after acquiring his literary education he resolved to make the practice of medicine his life work and began studying with that end in view. He was a graduate of the Starling Medical College, of Columbus, Ohio, although his studies were not prosecuted continuously. Coming to Piatt county, Illinois, he was for a time a student in the office of Dr. P. K. Hull, one of the early physicians of Circleville, Ohio, who acted as his preceptor. He was graduated in 1853, and in 1856 he came to Monticello and entered into partnership with Doctor Hull, his former preceptor, who came the year before, this relationship being continued until Doctor Hull's death, about 1859. Later Doctor Jones was associated with Doctor Noecker for two years. He continued in the active practice of his profession here up to the time of his death, covering a period of forty years, and not to know Doctor Jones was to argue oneself unknown in Piatt county. His patronage was large and of an important character. In the early days he underwent the usual experience of the physician in a frontier district, took long drives across the country, in all kinds of weather, and often over



DR. B. B. JONES

almost impassable roads, but he was always prompt in responding to the call of the sick and suffering, and his broad sympathy and charitable spirit led him to give his services often when he knew there was little hope of financial remuneration. In later years his practice was confined more closely to the city, and his professional services were so effective in checking disease that his work made constant and heavy demands upon his time and attention. In April, 1862, during the Civil war, the Doctor entered the volunteer service as assistant surgeon, being commissioned by Governor Yates and assigned to the Twenty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was made up of Piatt and DeWitt county men. He was present at the battle of Pittsburg Landing, and for seven months aided in caring for the sick and wounded.

On the 28th of April, 1857, Dr. Jones was united in marriage to Miss Sarah E. Short, of Mechanicsburg, Illinois, a daughter of Rezin and Mary (Rawlins) Short. The father was a native of Virginia, and after some years' residence in Ohio, he removed from Washington Court House, that state, to Sangamon county, Illinois. His wife was a native of Bloomingburg, Fayette county, Ohio, and a daughter of Judge Samuel Rawlins, of that county, who was born near Lexington, Kentucky, July 25, 1811, and became a distinguished citizen of Ohio. Unto the Doctor and Mrs. Jones were born two children who are yet living: Martha A. and Byron P., at home.

Mrs. Jones was educated at Washington Court House, Ohio, and in the Cooper Seminary, of Dayton, Ohio, and is a most estimable and cultured lady. She now owns a valuable farm of one hundred and twenty acres, besides her home in Monticello, and a farm of eighty acres near Taylorville, Illinois. This property was left to her by her husband, who passed away in 1896. He was for many years a prominent and honored citizen of Piatt county, a successful physician and a gentleman of kindly spirit. He attained success in his profession by close application, ready adaptability and broad reading, and he was an ideal follower of his calling, having the highest regard for the ethics of the medical fraternity. The Doctor was a writer of ability, especially poetry, and was a man of rare talent in that direction. He was very fond of children and they loved him dearly.

BENJAMIN R. WHITE.

A detailed account of the life work and environments of Benjamin R. White would present a true and clear picture of pioneer life in Piatt county and of the development of this section of the state. He has for many years been classed with the leading and substantial agriculturists of the community, and his home is now on section 24, Sangamon township. He was born in Columbus, Franklin county, Ohio, June 21, 1851, and is the son of John M. and Rebecca (Williams) White, of Monticello.

Having spent the first thirteen years of his life in the county of his nativity, he then accompanied his parents on their removal to Piatt county, Illinois. He had begun his education in Ohio, pursuing his studies in a log schoolhouse, such as was common at an early day, and after his arrival in the west he further pursued his educational training in order that he might be fitted for the transaction of business in later life. Through his youth he remained upon what

was known as the White homestead, continuing with his father until twenty-three years of age, when he started out in life on his own account, renting a tract of land upon which he now resides, and which he has owned for many years. Shortly after beginning his farm work he sought a companion and helpmate for life's journey and was joined in wedlock to Sarah J. Seymour, a daughter of F. G. and Catherine (Parker) Seymour.

In 1880 he purchased eighty acres of his farm of Caleb Tatman, and as the years have passed he has from time to time added to his possessions, having, in 1890, purchased one hundred and twenty acres of his father's farm which adjoined the Tatman property, while in 1901 he bought one hundred and fifty acres of Patrick Mullen. These three tracts of land join and our subject now has more than three hundred and fifty acres, all in one body, constituting one of the finest farms of Piatt county. When he began farming here most of the land was raw prairie, and he tilled the soil with the old style plow, driving oxen as he turned the furrows. He experienced with the family all of the inconveniences of pioneer life. There are many hardships to be encountered, many difficulties to be met, but by persistency of purpose and adaptation of the means at hand he has mastered every obstacle in his path, and has steadily advanced toward prosperity. Upon his farm he has erected a residence which is a matter of pride to the entire community, and is built in a modern style of architecture, is commodious and attractive and is supplied with all modern conveniences. Throughout this broad land there are no finer farms to be found anywhere than are seen in Illinois, and Mr. White is the owner of one of the best country homes of Piatt county. He has three windmills of improved workmanship upon his place and four self-opening farm gates. There is a splendid orchard which yields its fruits in season and furnishes a large supply for the winter consumption. Around the home extends a well kept lawn adorned with beautiful shade trees and the fields are now under a very high state of cultivation. Mr. White has built every fence, planted every tree and shrub, made every improvement and brought his farm up to the high state of cultivation in which it is found today. He raises corn, oats and other grain and feeds cattle for the market. He has been exceptionally successful in raising hogs and his sales annually reach a large figure. He has also engaged in breeding full blooded horses, and in 1889 he went to Ohio, where he purchased what is considered the best lot of road horses ever brought into Illinois. He also became the owner of a high bred stallion, a sire of the brother of the noted race horse, J. I. C., which is known as Dictator. Mr. White certainly deserves great credit for what he has done in the county in this respect, for by introducing the fine grades of horses he has been instrumental in improving the horses raised here, and thus in advancing market prices. Mr. White holds many ribbons won at the county fairs of the Piatt County Agricultural Society. At the fair held between the 17th and 21st of August, 1891, he won three first premiums and the sweep stakes ribbon, the first on the stallion Dictator and three colts; also a premium on the mare Rone Bell and her colt Maymorning; a next on the sucking colt Maymorning; and the last the sweep stakes prize on Rone Bell. At the fair held from the 21st to the 25th of August, 1893, he took the first prize on a suck-

ing colt, also the first prize on a horse and three colts, a first prize on a roadster horse colt, and the second prize on the same in the same ring.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. White were born six children: Edwin, who is at home with his father; Benjamin R., who died May 25, 1900, in his twenty-second year; Bessie, Seymour J., Richard P. and Maggie, who are at home. The mother of these children passed away April 9, 1889, and on the 6th of November, 1895, Mr. White was married to Lola M. DeLand, a daughter of George and Ellen (Converse) DeLand, who are now residents of White Heath. Mr. White's children have fifty-eight acres of land on section 36, Sangamon township; twenty acres on section 1, Sangamon township; and one hundred and twenty acres in Scott township, Champaign county, which came to them from their grandfather, F. G. Seymour's estate, and the tract is now under the supervision of the subject of this review.

Mr. White has long lived in Piatt county and has witnessed many changes here. He says that at one time he drove to Monticello to get his mail before the village of White Heath was known. At the postoffice there he was asked to take on some mail for the town of Lickskillet, now known as Centerville, Illinois. He consented and the postmaster threw several grain sacks full of mail into the back end of the sleigh. He drove home, let the mail stand in the sleigh over night and the next morning took it to Lickskillet, where it was thrown on the platform in front of William Smith's store, and the people then came and took the mail that belonged to them. This seems very odd when we think of the perfectly organized mail system of the country at the present time. The first year after Mr. White purchased his property he made enough off of his wheat to pay for his land at the rate of twenty dollars per acre, and have seven and a half dollars yet remaining to each acre. His substantially developed farm is an indication of his life of industry and thrift. He has worked earnestly and persistently in order to gain a competence for himself and family, and to-day he is classed among the substantial agriculturists and stockdealers of this portion of the state. His worth as a man and citizen as well as a farmer is widely acknowledged, and all who know Mr. White entertain for him high regard.

MATTHEW T. SCOTT.

Matthew T. Scott, who is now living a retired life and resides upon his farm adjoining the village of Bement on the northeast, is a native of the state of Kentucky, his birth having occurred in Lexington, on the 20th of January, 1840. The Scott family is of Scotch-Irish descent and was established in Pennsylvania at an early epoch in the history of America. Matthew Thompson Scott, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Pennsylvania, whence he removed to Kentucky, locating in Lexington, where he became a prominent and influential citizen. He was one of the best known of the prominent bankers of the south, and it was largely due to his advice and influence that the Kentucky banks did not suspend payment during the great financial panic of 1837.

Isaac W. Scott, the father of Matthew T. Scott, of Bement, was born near the city of Lexington, Kentucky, and after arriving at years of maturity he was engaged in gen-

eral merchandising, and also in the manufacture of woolen goods for the southern trade, yarn being the principal commodity which he made. He was one of the leading citizens of Lexington and was held in the highest regard by his fellow men. His labors were of marked benefit in prompting the general prosperity, because of the extent and importance of his commercial and industrial enterprise. In connection with his manufacturing and mercantile interests he he was for many years the president of the Red River Iron Works Company. In 1833, when a young man, he journeyed through Piatt county, investing in lands for his father. From Sadorus Grove he made a trip of fifty miles and the only house which he passed in that distance was the Piatt house at Monticello, where he passed the night. He and his brothers were the first to introduce the system of tiling in this part of the country, and a great amount of wet land was reclaimed by them through this method. When they first began their tiling operations they were laughed at, and it was predicted by nearly all that their efforts would prove a failure, but soon the beneficial effects of tiling were observed by their neighbors and others followed their example. Isaac W. Scott continued to make his home in his native state, however, until the spring of 1874, when he came to Illinois and located in the village of Bement, there residing for a number of years. After some years spent in Illinois he returned to his old home in Lexington, Kentucky, where he is now living at the advanced age of eighty-nine years. He has always been a progressive and enterprising man and has accumulated a large landed estate. His wife died in the city of Lexington, in 1853, in the faith of the Presbyterian church, of which she was a faithful member. Mr. Scott has for long years been a devoted member of the same church, and in his political views he was a Whig until the organization of the Republican party, of which he is still an ardent supporter. This worthy couple were the parents of seven children, but only three are now living.

In Lexington, Kentucky, Matthew T. Scott spent the days of his boyhood and youth, and in its schools acquired his education. Soon after putting aside his textbooks he engaged in the ice business in Lexington, which he followed for a number of years. In 1876 he removed to Piatt county, Illinois, settling upon the farm adjoining Bement, which is still his home. Here he has resided continuously for more than a quarter of a century, and for twenty years he was engaged in general farming, but now he is living a retired life, having leased the farm to a tenant. He still occupies the residence that stands upon his land, while enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves.

In 1861 Mr. Scott was united in marriage to Miss Kate W. Williams, a native of Georgia, whence in an early day she removed to Pennsylvania and then Kentucky, being a resident of Lexington at the time of her marriage. She is a daughter of Professor S. R. and Mary L. (Chappelle) Williams. Her father was principal of the Sayre Seminary for young ladies, at Lexington—quite a noted educational institution of that day—and he had formerly been a professor in one of the colleges of Pennsylvania. He became well known throughout the south as an able instructor and left the impress of his individuality and labors upon the educational development of that section of the country. Both he and his wife are now deceased.

Eleven children have been born unto Mr.

and Mrs. Scott, six of whom are now living: Isaac W., who resides on the home place with his parents, was born in Lexington, Kentucky, November 22, 1862, and obtained his education there and in the high school of Bement. He is a farmer by occupation and assisted in the cultivation of the old homestead until a few years ago. He has taken a very prominent part as a political worker in the ranks of the Republican party, but has never sought or desired political preferment. Socially he is connected with the Knights of Pythias fraternity, in which he has passed through all the chairs, and he is now the oldest representative of the order in Piatt county. Those of the family now deceased are Joseph,, Louise Chappelle, Samuel W., Mary M., Matthew T., Margaret S., John W., and Henry S. Ethelbert Dudley and Lucian W. are still under the parental roof.

Mr. Scott holds membership with the Presbyterian church and with the Masonic fraternity, and in his political views he is a Prohibitionist, which indicates his views on the temperance question. He believes that intemperance is one of the greatest evils which to-day threaten the American people, and he has labored by precept and example to promote the cause of its suppression. All matters pertaining to the welfare of his fellow men, all that tends to ameliorate the burdens of the poor, all that tends to promote the progress and improvement of the race, receives his earnest endorsement.

CARLTON J. BEAR.

One of the most extensive landowners and successful representatives of the agricultural interests of Piatt county is Carlton J. Bear, of Monticello. He is recognized as a man of exceptional business ability, executive force and keen discernment, who forms his plans readily and brooks no obstacles to their successful completion that can be overcome by persistent and honorable effort. He is very widely known as one of the most prominent farmers and stock-breeders of Piatt county and as a leading citizen of central Illinois he is well entitled to mention in the history of his adopted county.

Mr. Bear is a native son of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Mercer county, on the 1st of October, 1856. His father, Jacob Bear, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, November 29, 1816, and the grandfather, Peter Bear, was a native of Pennsylvania. After arriving at years of maturity the last named was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Casner, and they became the parents of several children, among whom was Jacob Bear, the father of our subject. He wedded Miss Jemima Casner, whose birth occurred October 15, 1828, in Pickaway county, Ohio, both being representatives of early pioneer families of that county. In 1834 Jacob Bear cast in his lot with the pioneer settlers of Mercer county, Illinois, removing to this state in company with Martin Bear, his brother. He was then a young man of eighteen years, possessed of energy and industry and desirous of gaining a good home and competence in the west. Ten years later, in 1844, he was united in marriage to Miss Casner and took up his abode upon a farm in Mercer county, where he continued to engage in agricultural pursuits for forty years. He prospered in his undertaking, winning success through careful management and unremitting diligence. In 1884, however, he put aside the cares and responsibilities of business life and removed to New Boston, Illinois, where he lived retired un-

til his death, which occurred March 19, 1893. His widow then came to Monticello to make her home with her son, Carlton J. Bear, and here died October 12, 1895. In the family were three children: Roland, who died January 14, 1871; C. J., of this review; and Clinton, who was born in Mercer county, Illinois, July 4, 1859.

On the home farm in his native county Carlton J. Bear was reared and in his youth attended the district school near his home. He also spent a short time in a select school and then returned to the farm, where he continued until his twenty-sixth year, giving his father the benefit of his services. He became familiar with farm work in its various departments and his broad experience proved of much value to him when he started out upon an independent career.

In 1882 Mr. Bear was united in marriage to Miss Bertha R. Mannon, who was born in Mercer county, Illinois, on the 18th of March, 1860, the only daughter of James M. and Sarah J. (Moore) Mannon. Her father was a prominent and influential citizen of Mercer county, where in 1856 he was elected county sheriff. He served most acceptably in that office and later was elected and served as circuit clerk. At the time of the Civil war he manifested his loyalty to the Union cause by enlisting in its defense, becoming a member of Company K, One Hundred and Second Illinois Infantry. On the organization of the company he was elected its captain, and his meritorious conduct on the field of battle won him various promotions. In 1862 he was commissioned major of his regiment, and in October of the same year was promoted and commissioned lieutenant colonel, thus serving until the close of the war, after which he returned to his home in New Boston, where he died on the 24th of May, 1901.

Mrs. Bear was reared and educated in New Boston, and at the time of her marriage went with her husband to a farm in Mercer county, adjoining the old Bear homestead. There Mr. Bear engaged in general farming and stock-raising, and upon industry and enterprise he placed his dependence, using these as the foundation upon which to rear the superstructure of success. He made a specialty of the raising of hogs and cattle, and from his sales realized good profit. As his financial resources increased he added to his landed possessions from time to time until he had between seven and eight hundred acres, constituting a very valuable property. In 1888, however, he disposed of his landed interests in Mercer county and came to Piatt county, where he purchased two or three fine farms. He has since placed his capital in the safest of all investments—real estate—until he to-day owns over one thousand acres of Piatt county land, and no richer land can be found throughout the entire country than is to be seen in central Illinois. He rents a part of his land and the remainder is devoted to the breeding and raising of fine stock. He makes a specialty of high grade Aberdeen-Angus cattle, breeding from thoroughbred bulls, and he has some of the finest specimens of that stock that can be found in the state. He also is engaged in the breeding of Berkshire hogs. His bull at the head of his herd is Vice Consul. His farm is splendidly adapted to the purpose for which it is used; there are commodious barns, outbuildings, and feed yards; and, in fact, the farm is excellently well equipped for stock-raising. In all of his agricultural and kindred interests Mr. Bear has followed progressive methods and his efforts have been followed by most creditable and gratifying success.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bear have been born

six children: Paul C., who is a graduate of the Monticello high school; Lee M., who is yet in school; Grace M., Ralph W. and Lloyd, at home; and one that died in infancy. In 1893 Mr. Bear built a residence in the eastern part of Monticello, constructed in attractive style of architecture and modern throughout, with all up-to-date equipments, and in its furnishings and interior decorations it indicates comfort, wealth and cultured taste.

In his political views Mr. Bear is a Democrat and served for one term as supervisor of Monticello township. He takes an active interest in the growth and success of his party, although he has never been a politician in the sense of office-seeking. He and his family are members of the First Presbyterian church, of which he is a trustee and elder. An intelligent and affable gentleman, he is a public-spirited citizen who takes a deep and helpful interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community along intellectual, social, material and moral lines, and he has gained many friends through his sterling worth of character.

W. A. FLECK.

W. A. Fleck is now serving as postmaster of LaPlace and is also dealing in general merchandising here. He is a young man, and the success which he has achieved is creditable and argues well for a prosperous future. He was born in the village which is still his home, his natal day being August 5, 1875. His parents are James A. and Catherine (Horner) Fleck, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Crawford county, Illinois. The father came to Piatt county in 1870, settling in the village of LaPlace, where he engaged in teaching school for several years. He also filled the office of justice of the peace and was engaged in the insurance business for some time. He then embarked in general merchandising here, and successfully conducted his store until 1902, when he sold his interest to his son, W. A. Fleck, of this review. He then removed with his wife to Decatur, and they are now living at No. 328 East Bradford street in that city. The father is there engaged in the grocery business in connection with another son, under the firm name of B. E. Fleck & Company, the store being located at the corner of Morgan and Marietta streets. Mr. Fleck is a typical business man of the west, always alert and energetic, and has attained creditable prosperity in the conduct of his business affairs. In matters of citizenship he is loyal and progressive, and at the time of the Civil war he served as a soldier in defense of the Union. Unto him and his wife have been born three children: Benjamin E., who resides in Decatur and is engaged in the grocery business with his father; W. A., of this review; and Estella B., who is at home.

In the common schools of his native town W. A. Fleck obtained his education and afterward began teaching in Cerro Gordo township, following that profession for three years with creditable success. In 1895 he became a representative of mercantile interests of LaPlace, by becoming a partner of his father in the store which was conducted here under the firm style of Fleck & Son until October, 1902, when our subject purchased his father's interest, since which time he has been alone in business. He carries a large and carefully selected stock of general merchandise and the business methods

which he has there followed have commended him to the confidence and patronage of the public. In October, 1902, he was made postmaster of LaPlace, and is now occupying that position. He likewise has other business duties, being agent for the Hartford & German Insurance Company. His is the leading store in the village, and Mr. Fleck is an enterprising young merchant, his life being typical of the progressive spirit of the times.

Mr. Fleck was united in marriage, December 7, 1898, to Miss Minnie Garver, also a native of Cerro Gordo township and a daughter of Samuel Garver, who is one of the pioneer settlers of Piatt county and now resides in the village of Cerro Gordo. Mr. and Mrs. Fleck have two interesting children: Ethel and Bernice. They hold membership in the Christian church and are people of sterling worth, held in the highest esteem because of their many excellent traits of heart and mind. Mr. Fleck gives his political support to the Republican party, having endorsed its principles since he attained his majority. He is now serving as treasurer of Cerro Gordo township.

Socially, he is connected with the Woodmen Camp at LaPlace. A young man, he has already attained an enviable position in public regard and in business circles, and he is held in the highest esteem in the community in which his entire life has been passed.

GENERAL JOHN L. MANSFIELD.

General John Lutz Mansfield spent the closing years of his life in the Illinois town which bears his name and of which he was the founder. His nature was too broad to bear the impress of the prejudices or peculiarities of any one locality. He was one of those great characters that seem to comprehend world-wide conditions, to recognize the trend of events which make history, and to understand the needs of humanity and our possibilities for development. He labored long and earnestly for the improvement of the race along those lines which prove of permanent good. He was a man of scholarly attainments, a lover of liberty in its broadest and best sense, an educator who regarded his mission to be one preparing the youth to meet life's duties, and a statesman who looked beyond the exigencies of the moment to the possibilities of the future and labored for the good of coming generations as well as for those of the present age. Piatt county, during the years of his residence here, held him in the highest honor, and the town of Mansfield stands as a lasting monument to his memory.

General Mansfield was born in Brunswick, Hanover, Germany, on the 6th of June, 1803, and was descended from ancestry honorable and distinguished. His father, Ferdinand Lutz, was at one time minister of finance in Germany, and a man prominent in the affairs of the government, wielding a wide influence, but his brilliant career was terminated by death on the fiftieth year of his age. He was a man of broad education and desired that his son, John, should receive excellent advantages in that direction, so that capable private tutors were employed, who instructed him in various languages as well as in rudimentary and more advanced branches of learning. Later he attended some of the most advanced excellent educational institutions of Germany, being a student in the University of Leipsic and the University



GEN. JOHN L. MANSFIELD



MRS. JOHN L. MANSFIELD

of Gottingen. He was, however, instructed at home until twelve years of age. He then entered a school, where he showed marked aptitude in algebra and other branches of mathematics, and later he was recognized as having few superiors in mathematics and astronomy in Germany. He was a favorite pupil of the great mathematician Gaus, and when eighteen years of age Mr. Mansfield was offered the observatory at Gena, but declined the honor in order to further continue his private studies. General Mansfield's physical training was not neglected in the midst of his arduous mental discipline, and he developed a physique and vigor which made possible the great performance of work which he did in later years. In youth he was very delicate and many believed that he would never attain his majority, but he sought out physical training which would develop bone and sinew, taking as his pattern his elder brother, who was a general under Napoleon, and was regarded as one of the most powerful men in the service of the Corsican. The result of his careful and systematic physical training was that he became an expert athlete, and was a leader among his fellow students physically as well as mentally, having frequent contests of strength, and with the sword.

While thus developing physically and mastering the principles of different sciences and gaining familiarity with various languages, Mr. Mansfield was also formulating his character and giving shape to his own destiny. During these years of his student life he was giving much thought to the study of government, its purposes, its uses and abuses. He became a champion of free government and his argument and efforts in his favor largely molded the opinions of those with whom he came in contact. He became a leader in a free government movement among his fellow students, who demanded the recognition of the principles for which they stood. One night General Mansfield spent the night with some fellow students in a hotel. He was sought out by the government authorities, who desired his arrest because of his activity in the rebellion, and the next morning he was captured in the hotel, which was filled with soldiers, but their vigilance being relaxed for a brief period, he managed to escape by jumping from a second-story window. He lay in hiding all day and then fled to England.

Although General Mansfield could converse fluently in the French, Spanish, Italian and German languages and was very proficient in Latin, he coud not speak the English language, but after spending six weeks in England, he had largely mastered that tongue. Desiring rather a residence in "the land of the free" than on the "merrie isle," General Mansfield sailed for the United States in 1824, the vessel in which he took passage dropping anchor in the harbor of New York. From that time forward, in different parts of the country, he exerted strong influence over public thought and action, viewing life from a humanitarian standpoint, at the same time studying political, social and economic questions with a student's and statesman's grasp of affairs. In 1831 he became professor of mathematics in the Transylvania University, at Lexington, Kentucky, occupying that position for twelve years, during which time some of the most distinguished men of the country were among his students. Promotion came to him in the institution until he was made its president, and under his administration the university gained in reputation and in the extent of its patronage.

On severing his connection with Transylvania, General Mansfield devoted himself to civil engineering and surveyed and constructed the first turnpike through Kentucky. It was while he was living in that state that he changed his name, through an act of the legislature to John Lutz Mansfield. The influences of slavery caused him to remove north of the Ohio river, so that his children might be separated from the institution. A lover of liberty and of equal right, he became bitterly opposed to the system of human bondage then existing in the south, and in 1853 he took his family to Madison, Indiana, where he retired from active business life. A man of such breadth of thought, strong principle and firm convictions, however, could not but leave his impress upon the public mind, and the deep interests which he took in political questions and his marked patriotism led to his selection for political honors. Chosen to represent his district in the state legislature, he was a member of the Indiana senate for a number of years, filling a position in the upper house at the time of the inauguration of the Civil war. He labored earnestly for the adoption of the war measures which found their way to the statute books of Indiana, and he was a close personal friend and adviser of Governor Morton, the chief executive of the state during the period of the war. In 1860 he was made one of the electors-at-large in Indiana on the Republican ticket, and he took an active part in campaign work, delivering many addresses, notably the one on the merits of the Dred Scott Decision, which greatly aroused patriotism throughout the state. When the war came on he did everything in his power toward devising means necessary to the prosecution of the war, and he was also largely instrumental in raising troops for the front.

When the war was over and the preservation of the Union an assured fact, General Mansfield removed with his family to Indianapolis, where he remained for several years, coming thence to Piatt county in 1870. He took up his abode in Blue Ridge township, where he had previously entered an extensive tract of land, and here he founded the town which bears his name.

In 1841 General Mansfield had been united in marriage to Miss Josephine A. Turner, who was born in New Orleans in 1821. They became the parents of nine children, one of whom, Colonel Fielding Mansfield, was the youngest colonel, with one exception, in the Union Army in the Civil war, and was for some years a manufacturer of St. Louis. Oscar is a prominent stockman and resides in Mansfield. Margaret became the wife of M. C. Straight and lives in Champaign. Maria, who has given much attention to musical and literary pursuits, is now living in California. The others have passed away. General Mansfield spent the last years of his life in the beautiful home which he established in Piatt county, and died September 20, 1876, at the age of seventy-four years. His widow, who was a most beautiful Christian character, and whose life was filled with kind deeds and gracious thought, has also passed away.

It would be difficult to analyze the life record of General Mansfield and so determine what was his greatest work. Viewed from many standpoints his career could be said to be a successful one. In the acquirement of a fortune he showed marked business and executive ability, and at his death he left to his widow an estate of over twelve hundred acres, most of which was improved, and therefore of great value. If his ambition was in the line of scholarship he certainly had reason to feel satisfied with the recognition

which came to his broad learning. If he desired more than all else to influence his fellow men for the betterment of the race again he may be said to have gained that which he sought. Along all those lines he won distinction. His friends entertained for him the highest personal regard as well as admiration, and many in thought at least have breathed the spirit of the words:

> He was a man, take him for all in all
> I shall not look upon his like again.

JOSEPH W. MERRITT, SR.

Joseph W. Merritt, who is now serving as police magistrate of Atwood, has filled the position of justice of the peace for almost a third of a century with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. He is thoroughly impartial in meting out justice, his opinions being unbiased by either fear or favor, and his fidelity to the trust reposed in him is above question. He is regarded as one of the leading and most highly respected citizens of his community, and it is, therefore, consistent that he be represented in a work whose province is the portrayal of the lives of the prominent men of this section of the state.

Mr. Merritt was born in Augusta county, Virginia, October 28, 1838, and is a son of William and Rachel A. (Fitzpatrick) Merritt, who were also born in the Old Dominion, of American parentage, and came to Illinois in 1854. The family located in Coles county, this state, where the father, who was a mechanic, followed the blacksmith's trade for some years, but later engaged in farming. He died in Coles county in 1895, and his wife about twenty years previously. This worthy couple were the parents of nine children, five of whom, two sons and three daughters, are still living, but our subject is the only one of the number residing in Piatt county. The others are all married and still make their home in Coles county.

Joseph W. Merritt began his education in the state of his nativity, and after coming to Illinois attended school in Coles county for a time. Under the guidance of his father he learned the blacksmith's trade in early life, and continued to follow that pursuit until after his marriage. On the 16th of January, 1857, he wedded Miss Irene Conly, a daughter of John and Jane Conly, who were natives of Indiana. Eight children blessed this union, namely: Joseph W., Jr., a resident of Atwood, who married Lula Samson; Anna, wife of Robert C. Sipe, a member of the firm of Sipe & Sipe, manufacturers of tile at Atwood; Dazella, wife of Vinton Garrett, of Atwood; Elmer O., who married Alice McDonald and also lives in Atwood; May, wife of David Mumper, of Quincy, Illinois; Bert, who married Retta Gosnald and makes his home in Decatur; Claud, at home with his father; and Zeph, who married Bertha Marshall and is a mail-carrier in the rural free delivery service, residing in Atwood. The mother of these children died on the 1st of April, 1901, and Mr. Merritt was again married October 6, 1902, his second union being with Mrs. S. A. Monden, of Decatur, whose first husband was also a soldier of the Civil war.

When the south made the attempt to secede Mr. Merritt resolved to strike a blow for the Union cause, and at Charleston, Coles county, he enlisted June 4, 1861, in Company E, Twenty-fifth Illinois Volunteer

Infantry, under Captain Westford Taggart. He participated in the battles of Pea Ridge, Stone River, Chickamauga, Perryville and Corinth, and in the battle of Chickamauga was taken prisoner, September 20, 1863. He was incarcerated in four different prisons—Libby, Danville (Virginia), Andersonville and Florence, and from the last named he finally made his escape, as the stockade was uncompleted at the time. While in hiding he was joined by a comrade, William Dozier, of the Second Ohio Cavalry, who made his escape shortly afterward and they traveled northward together, being seventeen days and nights upon the trip from Florence to Newbern. They were compelled to swim the streams, including the Pedee river in North Carolina, and had to travel mainly at night to avoid capture. They encountered many hardships, and it would have been impossible for them to proceed had it not been for the friendly negroes who gave them assistance. Finding the yellow fever raging at Newbern and that they would not be allowed to remain there, they boarded a ship that was sailing and went to New York city, where Mr. Merritt was in the Soldiers' Home for a time. General John M. Dix then gave him transportation to St. Louis, whence he proceeded to Springfield, Illinois, where he was honorably discharged from the service on the 2d of November, 1864. In the meantime his family had given him up for dead, having heard nothing from him while in the southern prisons.

On the 3d of September, 1868, Mr. Merritt came to Piatt county and settled in Mackville with his wife and three children, the other children being born here. Purchasing a blacksmith shop, he continued to work at his trade until 1890, and later engaged in the agricultural implement business at Atwood, until the fall of 1902. Since 1894 he has also been engaged in the manufacture of tile and brick, having purchased a tile factory at that time, and in connection with these varied business interests he has carried on farming to some extent. He bought seventy acres of timber land, which he has cleared, tiled and placed under cultivation, and built thereon three houses. He also owns about thirty-three town lots, and has aided materially in the upbuilding and development of Atwood.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Merritt are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is prominently identified with a number of civic societies, including the Grand Army of the Republic, the Masonic fraternity, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being the present treasurer of the Odd Fellows' lodge at Atwood. Since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, he has never wavered in his allegiance to the Republican party and has taken an active part in political affairs, serving as a delegate to numerous county conventions; to the state convention when Governor Yates was nominated and to the national convention at St. Louis when President McKinley was made the candidate of his party for chief executive of the nation. Since 1871 Mr. Merritt has served as justice of the peace and was elected police magistrate on the incorporation of Atwood. He is also serving as notary public and for many years filled the office of trustee of Unity township. He has always been identified with the best interests of his town and township, and is regarded as one of the most public-spirited and useful citizens of his community. Mr. Merritt is a well-read man, always keeping abreast with the times, and over his life record there falls no shadow

of wrong. His public service has been most exemplary and his private life has been marked by the utmost fidelity to duty.

GEORGE O. HIGGINS.

One of the best improved farms in Piatt county is the property of George O. Higgins. It is situated on section 12, Monticello township, and is supplied with all modern equipments and accessories found upon a model farm of the twentieth century. In his business affairs he is careful and conservative and he has placed his money in the safest of all investments—real estate. His life history proves conclusively that success is not a matter of genius, but is the outcome of clear judgment, experience and indefatigable industry.

Mr. Higgins was born on the 8th of September, 1846, on a farm near South Bloomfield, in Pickaway county, Ohio, his parents being John L. and Mary (Dean) Higgins. His father was born on a farm near Lexington, Kentucky, December 11, 1817, and died December 27, 1885. He began his education in the common schools of Newport, Kentucky, after which he continued his studies in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was graduated, his father, John Higgins, Sr., having in the meantime removed to that city and established the third hotel there. When he was sixteen he and his parents went to Lawrence county, Illinois, where they spent one year. During that time he rode to mill on an ox and that animal was then used in grinding the grist. Mr. Higgins afterward returned to Ohio and at the age of seventeen years took a drove of one hundred and five cattle over the mountains to New York city, being in the employ of Vin and Ned Williams, who in later years were well known throughout Piatt county as stock-buyers. Mr. Higgins continued in that line of business for many years, following it at a time when the nearest railroad point to his home was at Springfield, Ohio. In 1850, however, he discontinued his work as a drover and began farming in Pickaway county, Ohio, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until 1869. Attracted by the opportunities of the growing west and the rich land, he came to Piatt county in that year, locating on a farm six miles from Monticello, on the Sangamon river. This farm is situated on section 22, Monticello township, and to its development and improvement John Higgins devoted his energies until his death. When he came to this part of the country wolves howled around his cabin door. All was wild and unimproved and the work of progress seemed scarcely begun, but during the years of his residence here civilization has wrought many great changes in Piatt county, and Mr. Higgins bore an active and helpful part in its work. He was a prominent and influential citizen, one who enjoyed the high regard of his fellow men because his life was upright and honorable.

He was married on the 3d of August, 1838, to Miss Mary Dean, who was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, February 7, 1822. They became the parents of ten children, namely: Nancy Jane and Sarah Ann, who are now deceased; George O.; Harriet, who died when two weeks old; Hannah, who is now the wife of Thomas Bendon, of Monticello, Illinois; Katie, the wife of Joseph Lucas, who is living on a farm southwest of Cisco, in Macon county; Lucy A., the wife of John Duvall, a farmer residing near

Rochester, Indiana; William S., who died at the age of three years; Addie, who died when five years of age; and Joseph Dean, who married Sarah Coon and makes his home upon a farm west of Argenta, Macon county. All of the children were born in Pickaway county, Ohio. Mrs. Higgins, Sr., died February 20, 1880.

George O. Higgins pursued his early education in the Oak Grove school of Pickaway county, attending during the winter months, while in the summer seasons he assisted his father in the work on the home farm. He remained under the parental roof until the time of his marriage, when he came to Piatt county, Illinois. On the 7th of November, 1869, in Hocking county, Ohio, he wedded Miss Henrietta Brown, and with his bride he removed westward, settling on a farm in Springtown Lane where he rented a tract of land. There he lived for two years, at which time he removed to the McComas farm, south of the river, and for two years he rented and operated that property. He next lived on what was known as the Jerry Baker farm for three years, and subsequently rented the John Kirby farm in Goose Creek township for two years. On the expiration of that period Mr. Higgins took up his abode in Effingham county, Illinois, purchasing a farm of one hundred acres on which he lived for three years. He afterward returned to his father's farm in Piatt county, and continued its cultivation for six years, during which time he rented his own land in Effingham county. On leaving his father's farm he removed to the Henry Coonse farm, which he rented for two years. He next lived upon the Shephard farm, near Milmine, renting that property for two years, and on the 11th of May, 1889, he purchased the north half of section 12, Monticello township, and is to-day the owner of this tract of three hundred and twenty acres of rich and arable land. He purchased the place of Preston Houston for forty-five dollars per acre and he traded his Effingham county property for a nice home in the city of Monticello. About three years ago he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Macon county, Illinois. This is a splendidly improved property on which he pays an insurance of thirty-five hundred dollars on the buildings for three years. His home farm in Piatt county is a monument to his enterprise and labor. Since the place came into his possession he has erected all of the buildings which now adorn it, and there is no better improved property in all Piatt county. He paid for the tract ninety-five dollars per acre, and it is to-day worth one hundred and fifty dollars per acre. When it came into his possession it was in poor condition, having been rented for a number of years to tenants, who did not take good care of the property, but since coming under the management of Mr. Higgins it has been transformed by the erection of good buildings and by the care and labor bestowed upon the place, until now it is one of the best farm properties in all Piatt county. In 1892 Mr. Higgins erected a residence which was destroyed by fire two years later, the conflagration occurring on the last day of August, 1894. In 1896 he erected a nice house of eight rooms, supplied with all modern conveniences, and this home he now occupies. It is tastefully furnished and stands in the midst of a well-kept lawn. Mr. Higgins has also built two new barns and has put up two windmills attached to tanks, and the water is piped into the barns. There are two elevated driveway corn-cribs, and, in fact, no equipment of a model farm of the

twentieth century is here lacking. He has fenced nearly the entire place with wire fencing, which divides the farm into fields of eighty acres. Altogether he has put up more than seven miles of wire fencing in the last two years, and he has laid over seventeen miles of tiling. He has planted several new orchards at a cost of two hundred and thirty-eight dollars, securing the stock from the Troy nursery. Great changes have been wrought in methods of farming since he first came to Piatt county, and with the progress made along agricultural lines Mr. Higgins has kept fully abreast. He feeds large quantities of all kinds of stock for the market, making a specialty of hogs, and he keeps fourteen head of horses and several mules for use upon his farm. He raises annually from eleven to twelve thousand bushels of corn and oats, and his farm products find a ready sale upon the market because of their excellence.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Higgins has been blessed with two children: Mary Etta, who is the wife of Charles Parks, who resides upon a farm in Piatt county; William S., who is married and lives upon a farm in Monticello township; Catherine, who is the wife of a Mr. White and resides upon her father's farm in Macon county; Atchafalaya, who died when three years of age; Cora, is the wife of Marshall Crites, and they make their home upon her father's farm north of Monticello; Isaac, who married Jane McKinzie and lives upon his father's farm; Lila May, the wife of Charles Tabor, whose home is upon a farm south of Milmine; Sadie, who is attending school; Lewis, who died in infancy; and Annie, who is also in school.

Mr. Higgins gives his political support to the Democracy and has firm faith in its principles. He has held the office of ditch commissioner for three terms, covering nine years, and is still the incumbent in that position. He has been school commissioner for nine terms, or for twenty-seven years. He and his wife are regular attendants at church services, although they do not belong to any religious denomination, and they contribute liberally to the support of church work. Mr. Higgins is a genial, courteous gentleman, a pleasant, entertaining companion and has many stanch and admiring friends among all classes of men. His business career is notable on account of the splendid success he has achieved and because of the honorable, straightforward methods he has ever followed. His sagacity and foresight have enabled him to make judicious investments, while his diligence, indomitable energy and undaunted perseverance have won him a prosperity that numbers him among Piatt county's most substantial citizens, yet he has not only advanced his individual interest, but has done much toward promoting the general welfare and the county numbers him among its most valued representatives.

ALLEN F. MOORE.

Although Allen F. Moore is not a native son of Monticello, he has spent almost his entire life here, having been less than two years old at the time of his parents' removal to this city. As taken in contradistinction to the old adage, that a prophet is never without honor save in his own country, there is particular interest attached to the subject of this review, since in this place he has passed his active life and so directed his

ability and efforts as to gain recognition as one of the representative citizens of Piatt county. He is well known, enterprising and successful in business circles, and has been honored with the office of mayor of Monticello, filling the position with credit, his administration being progressive, practical and beneficial. Many lines of advancement and improvement have profited by his co-operation.

Allen F. Moore is the eldest son of Henry V. and Alzina W. (Freeman) Moore, the former a capitalist of Monticello, who is engaged in the banking business and also has extensive realty holdings in Piatt county, where he has made his home for a third of a century. On another page of this volume extended mention is made of him. Allen F. Moore was born in St. Charles, Kane county, Illinois, September 30, 1869, entered the public schools of Monticello at the usual age, and was graduated in the high school with the class of 1886. He then further continued his studies by matriculating in Lombard University, at Galesburg, Illinois, where he was graduated on the completion of a three-years' course, in 1889. Going then to Chicago, he secured a position as a bookkeeper in a wholesale dry-goods store, where he remained for three years. On the expiration of that period he became confidential secretary to W. D. Hitchcock, a dealer in lumber, for whom he acted as bookkeeper, also having charge of the office. He occupied that position for two years, and then returned to Monticello in 1894. Joining the ranks of business men in this city, he took charge of a harness store in which his father was interested, conducting the business for four and a half years, when he closed it out. Soon afterward he purchased a controlling interest in the Pepsin Syrup Company. He has since developed an excellent business, having a well-equipped plant, from which is sent out a large product to meet the growing demands of the trade.

On the 20th of March, 1893, Mr. Moore was united in marriage to Miss Madora Bradford, of Quincy, Illinois, a daughter of E. F. and Emily (Prince) Bradford, of Quincy, the former being general agent for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. Mrs. Moore was educated in Lombard College, and it was while students in that institution that she and her husband met. Unto them have been born a son and daughter, Bradford V. and Mary H., but the latter died in 1899.

Politically Mr. Moore is an ardent Republican, unfaltering in his advocacy of the principles of the party, and for two years he served as alderman of Monticello. In 1901 he was elected mayor of the city. During his administration he instituted many needed reforms and improvements, and though he at first met opposition to his progressive measures, the people of the city now point with pride to many of the improvements he instituted. He is extremely public-spirited and anything pertaining to the welfare of the city is sure to elicit his attention and to find in him a co-operant factor.

CHARLES F. MANSFIELD.

The family name of our subject is one of close and honorable connection with the history of Piatt county, and the subject of this review is now prominent in the affairs of the county, being one of its distinguished lawyers, who at the present time is serving as state's attorney, making his home in Monti-



C. F. MANSFIELD

cello. He is a native, however, of Jefferson county, Indiana, his birth having occurred in the city of Madison on the 7th of January, 1863. He is a son of General John L. Mansfield, one of the most distinguished and prominent residents of Piatt county for a number of years and the founder of the town of Mansfield. Reared in the home of culture and refinement its atmosphere left its impress upon his character. Charles F. Mansfield was also given good educational privileges. During his early youth he attended a German-English school in Indianapolis, Indiana, and after accompanying his parents on their removal to Illinois he continued his studies in the public schools and under the direction and preceptorage of his father.

In the fall of 1878 he matriculated in Racine College, at Racine, Wisconsin, but not being pleased with that institution he spent only one year there. In 1880 he entered the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee, where he continued his studies for about three years, when he was obliged to leave college on account of ill health. His close application to his books had undermined his strength, and he sought rest and recuperation in healthful out-of-doors exercise. Turning his attention to farming he found it the tonic he needed and was soon restored to his accustomed vigor. Not wishing, however, to devote his entire life to agricultural pursuits, he resolved to become a member of the bar, and took up the study of law in the winter of 1884-5. In September of the latter year he entered the Bloomington law school, and on the completion of the course was graduated in 1887. In September of the latter year he entered the Bloomington law school, and on the completion of the course was graduated in 1887. In June, however, before the close of his college term, he was admitted to practice, having successfully passed the examination before the appellate court. At Springfield, where he acquitted himself with high honor, while attending law school he had the advantage of reading in the office of the firm of Fifer & Phillips, the senior partner being later governor of Illinois.

Admitted to the bar Mr. Mansfield opened an office and entered upon practice in the town of Mansfield, in July, 1887. In no calling to which man gives his attention does success depend more largely upon individual effort than the law, and that Mr. Mansfield has achieved distinction in the fields of jurisprudence at once attests his superior ability and close application. He has been retained as counsel in many important cases tried in the courts of Piatt and adjoining counties. A man of sound judgment, he manages his cases with masterly skill and also is a logical reasoner and has a ready command of English. His powers as an advocate have been demonstrated by his success on many occasions, and he is now an able lawyer of large and varied experience in all the courts. Thoroughness characterizes all his efforts, and he conducts all his business with a strict regard to a high standard of professional ethics.

On the 13th of April, 1839, Mr. Mansfield was united in marriage to Miss Minnie B. Van Meter, and they took up their abode with his mother at the old family homestead in the town of Mansfield, where our subject lived for thirty-two years. Their union was blessed with the presence of a daughter, Minnie T. Mrs. Mansfield comes of a distinguished Virginia family and was born in the south, while her parents, Joseph and Teresa (Hugh) Van Meter, were also na-

tives of Hardy county, Virginia. In 1888 they removed to Salt Lake City, where they have since resided. Mr. Mansfield, his wife and daughter are members of the Episcopal church.

Fraternally, Mr. Mansfield is connected with the Masonic order, is also an Odd Fellow and holds membership relations with the Knights of Pythias and the Sons of Veterans. In the latter order he was elected major of the state division, and is prominent in its circles. He is also a distinguished Odd Fellow, has served as a member of the judiciary committee of the grand lodge of Illinois for three years, and during part of that time was its chairman. In 1896 he was elected grand master of the grand lodge of Illinois, and there is no representative of the order more widely and favorably known in the state than Charles F. Mansfield. He was active in establishing the Odd Fellows' home for old people at Mattoon, Illinois, and for several years he was editor and proprietor of the Odd Fellows' Herald, published at Mansfield, succeeding in this position Owen Scott, a former member of congress.

Mr. Mansfield is equally well known in political circles, having been an active worker in the ranks of the party for the benefit of local, state and national successes. In 1896 he was nominated on the Republican ticket for the office of state's attorney of Piatt county for a term of four years, and filled the position so capably that in 1900 he was reelected for a second term, which will expire in December, 1904. In January, 1903, in order to better discharge the duties of his position he removed from the old home at Mansfield, which he had occupied for nearly a third of a century, to Monticello, where he is now living. He has presented some of the most important criminal cases in this part of the state, acting as prosecutor in the Hickman murder case—the people versus Fred Fales, Otis Woolington, Lloyd Kincaid and Charles Beckhart. This case was tried in the circuit court in Monticello in September, 1897, eleven days being consumed in the hearing. This resulted in the conviction of three of the parties, the fourth, Charles Beckhart, succeeding in making his escape, since which time he has never been found. He is quick to master all the intricacies in a case and grasp all details, at the same time losing sight of none of the essential points upon which the decision of every case finally turns. He has a ready flow of language, and as a speaker is fluent, forcible, earnest, logical and convincing. His knowledge of the law, it must be conceded, is hardly second to that of any member of the bar in Piatt county.

T. G. BAKER.

In America where all are equal before the law and where success is the logical reward of earnest, persistent effort, there are many men who achieve prosperity. Mr. Baker is among the number who owes his financial advancement to his own labors. For many years he was actively connected with agricultural interests in Piatt county, and now he is living a retired life in Monticello, enjoying a well-earned rest.

He was born in Ross county, Ohio, on the 11th of August, 1854, and is a son of William and Jane (Grove) Baker, both of whom were natives of Pickaway county, Ohio. The Bakers, however, were Massachusetts people, and the Groves were from Pennsylvania. William Baker, the father of our subject, followed farming in Picka-

way county, Ohio, for some years, and in 1858 came to Piatt county, settling in Willow Branch township, where he purchased a tract of land, devoting his attention there to agricultural pursuits. He is now living a retired life in Bement, Illinois, at the age of seventy-three years, and his wife has reached the age of sixty-nine years. They were the parents of four children: T. G., whose name introduces this record; F. M., a resident of Jefferson county, Illinois, where he follows farming; Mary, the wife of Thomas Lamb, Jr., who is engaged in farming, his home being in Bement township, Piatt county; Florence, the wife of Edward Hoover, who is engaged in the grocery business in St. Paul, Nebraska. The father prospered in his undertakings and now owns three hundred and sixty acres of valuable land.

T. G. Baker of this review was only about four years of age when brought by his parents to Piatt county. He acquired his early education in Willow Branch township, and later pursued a course of study at Normal, Illinois. He began teaching at the age of nineteen years, having charge of what is known as Wild Cat school in Willow Branch township. He devoted five years to educational work, spending the entire time in Piatt county and during the summer months he assisted in the operation of the home farm. In early life he became connected with agricultural pursuits, and when twenty-four years of age he began farming on his own account. That year he was married, the wedding being celebrated on the 24th of April, 1878. The lady of his choice was Miss Emma Tallman, of Willow Branch township, a daughter of Douglas and Susan Tallman. Her father died when Mrs. Baker was three years old, and Mrs. Tallman afterward became the wife of R. H. Farra. She is now living in Monticello, and is the second time a widow. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Baker has been blessed with two children: Susan and George, both of whom are attending school.

At the time of his marriage Mr. Baker began farming upon one hundred acres of land which he had purchased in partnership with his father. He continued to cultivate and improve that place for two years, and then sold his interest on the farm and bought seventy acres in Willow Branch township. Removing to his new farm he began its further development and with characteristic energy has since carried on the work. He added to the property all modern equipments, facilitating the labors of the family by use of the latest improved machinery. Annually he harvests good crops and thus receives for his labor a substantial financial return. He has invested in other land and now is the owner of three hundred and fifty acres in Willow Branch township, and he has a tract of eighty acres, adjoining the corporation limits of Monticello. He continued to farm on his original homestead until 1890, when he removed to the county seat, where he has since lived. He yet gives his supervision, however, to two hundred and twenty-five acres, and his other farm of two hundred and five acres is now rented. While carrying on general agricultural pursuits, Mr. Baker has also given considerable attention to the raising of stock, making a specialty of beef cattle, and his sales have added materially to his income.

In his political allegiance Mr. Baker is a Democrat, and for one term served as town clerk. He has also been assessor and school director and has taken a very active interest in school work and in maintaining a high

standard of education here. He has likewise been a delegate to various conventions of his party and he is a valued and exemplary member of Fraternal Lodge, No. 58, F. & A. M., in which he has served as secretary. His wife, a most estimable lady, belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church of Monticello. Mr. Baker is a broad-minded and intelligent man, and through reading has kept in touch with current events and the progress of the world. His business career is honorable and through keen discrimination and unremitting diligence he has gained a place among the prominent and prosperous landowners of Piatt county.

J. FRANK STANLEY.

J. Frank Stanley, the editor and proprietor of the Hammond Courier, has resided in Hammond since March, 1902, and is now thoroughly in touch with its interests, laboring effectively and earnestly for its welfare. He was born in Clay county, Illinois, on the 22d of December, 1876, and is a son of Stephen and Sarah E. (Brackett) Stanley, both of whom were natives of Kentucky, whence they came to Illinois at an early day, settling first in Christian county, where the father was engaged in general merchandising for several years. He afterward turned his attention to farming there, which he followed for a few years, and later he removed to Ingraham, Clay county, where he resumed commercial pursuits, establishing a general store, which he carried on for some time. He then sold out and is now conducting a restaurant in Newton, having a good patronage. In the family are three editors: Int, who is editor of the Lovington Reporter, published at Lovington, Illinois; Otis, who is editor of the Sainte Marie Tribune, of Sainte Marie, Illinois; and J. Frank, of this review. The other members of the family are still at home with their parents in Newton, Illinois.

In the public schools of that place J. Frank Stanley acquired his education. At the age of sixteen he started upon his business career, going to Lovington, Moultrie county, where he learned the printer's trade in his brother's office, where he worked for six years. He mastered the business in every department, becoming familiar with every principle in detail, and was thus well-equipped when he decided to engage in business on his own account. Returning to Newton he there established a paper called the Newton Star, and also published the first daily paper ever issued in Newton. He continued his journalistic interests in that place until March, 1902, when he came to Hammond and established the Hammond Courier, which he has since conducted. He is the editor as well as the proprietor, and each week issues a journal that is a credit to the locality. The paper is published every Thursday and has a large circulation. Mr. Stanley has a well-equipped office and in addition to his large printing press he has a nice job press and does all of the job printing for Hammond and other villages nearby. He keeps well in touch with the progress made in the "art preservative of arts" and in his business career, his thorough understanding of printing and his executive ability and capable management have brought to him a comfortable competence.

In 1898 Mr. Stanley was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Myers, a native of Indiana. They are well known in Hammond, where they have gained many friends

during the period of their residence here. Mr. Stanley is independent in his political affiliations, advocating the men and measures that he thinks will promote the best interests of the county, state and nation. Socially he is connected with the Court of Honor and the Tribe of Ben Hur in Hammond.

EMOR H. MITCHELL.

There is no more highly respected citizen in Piatt county than Emor H. Mitchell, one of its early settlers. He makes his home in Bement after many years' connection with agricultural interests. He has watched the greater part of the progress and improvement which have transformed Piatt county from a wild prairie district into one of the leading counties of this great commonwealth with its rich agricultural interests and its thriving towns, enterprising business affairs and educational, social and moral advantages.

Mr. Mitchell is a native of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Knox county, on the 5th of December, 1839. His paternal grandfather, Sylvanus Mitchell, removed from his native state of Massachusetts to Ohio in the year 1805, settling in Granville township, Licking county, where he engaged in general farming until 1823. At that date he took up his abode in Knox county, where his remaining days were passed and where he died at an advanced age. He was of English lineage.

Almond Mitchell, the father of our subject, was born in Licking county, Ohio, on the 30th of March, 1816, and was a lad of but seven years when he accompanied his parents to Knox county in 1823. He was reared on the home farm in Milford township, where he remained until he had attained his majority, after which he purchased a farm in the same township, continuing to engage in general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising there until his death. He was a diligent, industrious man, progressive in his business methods and in his undertakings he prospered, becoming the owner of between five and six hundred acres of rich farm land. He was also prominent in public affairs and was well-fitted for leadership, because of his keen insight into public matters, his devotion to the general good and his marked capability. He held a number of township offices and he cast his first presidential vote for Andrew Jackson, but after the inauguration of the Republican party he became one of its followers. He was also a supporter of the Methodist church, and everything pertaining to the general good received his endorsement, and many times his active co-operation. In early manhood he wedded Miss Margaret Hawkins, who was born in Knox county, Ohio, on the 2d of May, 1818. She was a member of the Disciple church and was a devoted and loving wife and mother and a faithful friend. Mr. Mitchell died April 6, 1896, and his wife passed away in 1901. Unto this worthy couple were born fifteen children, of whom three died in infancy, while the others reached years of maturity. Eight of the family are now living, two sisters and five brothers of our subject. One brother resides in Chicago, another in Texas, and, with the exception of our subject, the others are living in Ohio. Harris, the eldest of the family born in Ohio in 1838, died in infancy. Emor H. is the second. Lewis is a farmer of Morrow county, Ohio, and was a soldier of the Civil war. Alice is the de-

ceased wife of Monroe Crego, who is a farmer of Galena, Ohio. Elizabeth is the deceased wife of Dempsy Conway, of Decatur, Illinois. Albert is a resident farmer of Knox county, Ohio. Wealthy is the deceased wife of Thomas Wade, of Knox county. Torrence is an agriculturist of the same county. Maria is the wife of Abram Jackson, of Wichita Falls, Texas. William is a merchant of Knox county, Ohio. Laura is the deceased wife of Emer Harris, a farmer of Red Oak, Iowa. Dana is engaged in the practice of law in Chicago. Mary is the wife of Judson Poland, an agriculturist of Knox county, Ohio. The other two died in infancy unnamed.

In taking up the personal history of Emor H. Mitchell we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely and favorably known in Piatt county. He obtained his education in the common schools of Knox county, Ohio, and in his youth was trained to habits of industry, economy and honesty, which have been important factors in shaping his career in later life. He gained practical knowledge of farming upon the old homestead and he remained in Ohio until 1864, when he came to Illinois, establishing his home three and a half miles east of Bement in Piatt county. Purchasing a farm of one hundred and sixty acres which was then but a tract of wild prairie, he began its development with characteristic energy, placed all of the improvements upon the land and made a good home for himself and family. There he lived until 1889, when he removed to the village of Bement, leaving his farm. For many years he had carried on general farming and stock-raising and in the careful control of his business he won capital sufficient to enable him at the present time to live retired.

On the 13th of December, 1860, Mr. Mitchell was united in marriage to Miss Emily S. Reynolds, who was born in Knox county, Ohio, a daughter of Amos and Sophia (Houch) Reynolds. Her paternal grandfather was William Reynolds, a native of England, and his wife was born in Scotland. In the year 1793 he crossed the Atlantic to the United States, then in the early years of its republic existence, and located in Knox county, Ohio, purchasing a large tract of land at twelve and a half cents per acre. This property is still owned by his descendants. He planted an orchard with apple seeds brought from England, and many of the old trees are still standing upon this land. Amos Reynolds, the father of Mrs. Mitchell, was born in Knox county, Ohio, on the old family homestead, and in the place of his nativity he spent his entire life, living upon the farm which is still in possession of the family. It is situated at Richhill, and he owned one hundred and thirty-seven acres as a nucleus to his estate which grew as the years advanced until it became a valuable and extensive property. Throughout his business career he carried on general farming and stock-raising, and his justice and honor in all business transactions won him the unqualified regard of his fellow men. He died March 26, 1850, at the age of forty-nine years, his birth having occurred on the 16th of January, 1801. He was a devoted member of the Methodist church and to his family he left an untarnished name. His wife, who was born April 25, 1808, in Knox county, Ohio, was a constant Christian woman, holding membership in the Methodist church, and her death occurred in her native county, January 8, 1849. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds were born ten children, and the family record is

as follows: James, the eldest, born in Knox county, died at the age of nineteen years. Sylvester is one of the oldest and most successful practicing physicians of Knox county. Burr, who went to California in 1849, and there remained for eight years, afterward resided in Huntington, Indiana, where his death occurred. Daniel was an adjutant-general in the southern Confederacy and lost one of his lower limbs while serving his country. Prior to the Civil war he engaged in the practice of law in Memphis, Tennessee, and subsequently he became a well-known lawyer of Lake Village, Arkansas. He was fitted for his profession by graduation in the Wesleyan College of Delaware, Ohio. William, born in Knox county, Ohio, was a resident of Iowa for a number of years, and is now an extensive farmer and stock-raiser of South Dakota. Sarah is the deceased wife of Lucius Webster, of Knox county, Ohio. Barbara died at the age of seven years. Mrs. Michell is the next of the family. Caroline is the wife of Nelson Jones, of Foosland, Illinois. Mary died in infancy. All of the members of the family were born in Knox county, Ohio.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell has been blessed with six children. Walter R., the eldest, born in Knox county, Ohio, is a graduate of the Illinois State University of the class of 1887, and now resides in Chicago, where he is professor of biology in the Hyde Park high school. He also won a degree from the Chicago University. He married Miss Florence Stuart, of Champaign, Illinois, and they have two children, Beulah and Maurice. Olive, the second member of the Mitchell family, was born in Bement, was educated in the common schools, in the State University and in the Art Institute of Chicago, doing excellent work as a water-color artist. Pauline, who resides in St. Louis, and was educated in the Normal School of Chicago, is now the wife of James Grant Abbott, who is a graduate of the Wesleyan University of Bloomington, Illinois, and is now a contractor and carpenter of St. Louis Worlds' Fair. Annie, who resides at home, is a teacher and assistant principal in the high school of Greenfield, Illinois, her specialty being languages. Elizabeth died at the age of seventeen years and Charles died at the age of eight months.

Mr. Mitchell has served in a number of township offices, and in all the public positions he has filled has been found true and faithful to the trusts reposed in him. While acting as school director for a number of years he was instrumental in securing the erection of three new school buildings. In politics he has always been a stalwart Republican, and has ever kept well informed on the great national questions which have divided political opinions into two parties. His religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church, and his life has ever been guided by high moral principles and characterized by sterling integrity and fidelity to duty. He has seen nearly all the improvements made in this part of the county, and has done his full share in the work of public progress and advancement.

S. A. BLAGG.

S. A. Blagg, who is now residing in Mansfield, belongs to that class of representative American citizens who are known as self-made, because their possessions have been acquired entirely through their own efforts unassisted by inheritance, or by influ-

ential friends. Mr. Blagg was born in West Virginia, November 29, 1844, his parents being James and Elizabeth (Armstrong) Blagg. The father was a farmer by occupation and died when the subject of this review was only five years of age.

In Lewis county, West Virginia, Mr. Blagg, of this review, obtained his early education. His school privileges, however, were somewhat meager, and it has been in the school of experience that he has learned the valuable lessons fitting him for a practical and successful business man. At the time of the Civil war, although but a young boy, he joined the Confederate army. He went to face the enemy at Laurel Hill and could not get away, so enlisted with the Confederate troops just after the battle of Philippi. He then served for four years, becoming a member of Company I, Thirty-first Regiment of Virginia Volunteers under the command of Captain A. H. Jackson and Colonel W. L. Jackson. He was a brave and loyal soldier and continued with his regiment until the cessation of hostilities. He was, however, only twenty-one years of age at the time of the close of the war.

Almost immediately afterward he came to Illinois, settling first in Moultrie county near the Piatt county line. He found this section of the country in a wild state, the land was raw and unimproved, and it was possible to travel in almost any direction without coming to a fence to impede his progress. There were no roads and the work of improvement and development seemed scarcely begun. Mr. Blagg was in very limited financial circumstances at the time of his arrival, and in order to gain a living he worked by the day as a farm hand. Later he rented a tract of land and thus began life on his own account. As he prospered in his undertakings and was enabled to save something from his earnings he carefully hoarded the money thus won until he was able to purchase a tract of land. He now owns two lots in the home which he occupies in Mansfield. He has been a resident of Piatt county since 1892, and for a number of years carried on agricultural pursuits here.

Mr. Blagg was united in marriage in Moultrie county, Illinois, to Miss Martha Hardin, and their union has been blessed with nine children, eight of whom are now living: Ida, who was born June 3, 1869; James, born April 6, 1871; Jesse, born October 20, 1873; Benjamin, April 13, 1875; August, on the 24th of August, 1878; Marie, May 8, 1880; Charlie, February 21, 1882; Grace, February 6, 1885; and Maude, April 7, 1892. The oldest daughter, Ida, is now the wife of Wesley Williams and has five children.

In his political views Mr. Blagg is a Democrat, but has never sought or desired office, preferring to give his time and energies to his business affairs, whereby he has attained the success that he now enjoys. During his long residence in the county he has become widely and favorably known, and it is with pleasure that we present his history to our readers.

WILLIAM E. LODGE.

There are few men whose lives are crowned with the honor and respect which was so universally accorded to William E. Lodge, but through more than forty years connection with the history of Piatt county his was an unblemished character. With



WILLIAM E. LODGE

him success in life was reached by sterling qualities of mind and a heart true to every manly principle. He never deviated from what his judgment would indicate to be right between himself and his fellow men, and he never swerved from the path of duty. He gained distinction at the bar, where he practiced for four decades, and he also won marked financial success in the control of agricultural interests. Into whatever channel he directed his energies he so guided his labors that he was always true to his duties to his fellow men, and secured his own advancement upon a high mental and moral plane.

Mr. Lodge was a native of Ohio, his birth having occurred in the town of Mount Hope, which is now included within the city of Cincinnati, in December, 1834. Back to England can the ancestry of the family be traced, and representatives of the name established homes in America prior to the Revolutionary war. The old family homestead which came into possession of the emigrants in 1750 is still owned by descendants of those who were the first occupants. This property is situated in Gloucester county, New Jersey, and it was there that Samuel Lodge, the grandfather of our subject, carried on farming throughout his entire business career. He wedded Miss Abigail Horner, who was of German lineage, and like her husband was a native of Gloucester county, New Jersey. It was their son, Benjamin F. Lodge, who became the father of our subject, and who after arriving at years of maturity, removed from New Jersey to Brooklyn, New York, maintaining his residence in that place while he conducted his business operations in New York city for some years. He was engaged in merchandising there when attracted by the opportunities of the growing west, and went to Hamilton county, Ohio. In that section of the country he became well known as a builder of turnpikes, and he took contracts for similar work in Kentucky, carrying on the business with success until 1836. In that year he took passage on a steamer which eventually landed him at Clinton, Indiana, but that was not his destination and he continued his westward journey by team until he arrived in Paris, Edgar county, Illinois. All around him stretched the wild prairie, the work of improvement and development being scarcely begun, and Mr. Lodge undertook the mammoth task of improving and operating eleven hundred acres of prairie land for William Neff, of Cincinnati. He used forty yoke of oxen in breaking the prairie. The farm work at that day was very arduous, because of the primitive condition of the farm machinery and agricultural implements. Grain was cut with a sickle and cradle and a scythe was used in mowing the meadow. Prices, too, were very low, corn at one time bringing six and a quarter cents per bushel, while other cereals were proportionately cheap. However, Mr. Lodge, with determined purpose and marked business capability, continued the work which he undertook and central Illinois owes much to him for its advancement of agricultural interests here. He planted the first osage orange hedge ever seen in Illinois, and in his farming he always kept abreast with the progress and improvement of the times. His first home was about three and a half miles north of Paris, but later he removed four miles west of the town, where he resided until 1857. In that year he took up his abode in Paris and was identified with its commercial pursuits as a merchant until his life's labors were ended in death in the year 1863.

The mother of our subject bore the maid-

en name of Julia A. Brooks, and was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In her early womanhood she gave her hand in marriage to Benjamin F. Lodge, and by this union she became the mother of eight children: Alexander A.; Samuel A.; George R.; Julia, who became the wife of W. H. Rudy; Benjamin F.; William E.; Charles V. and a daughter who died in infancy. Mrs. Lodge survived her husband for a number of years and passed away at the home of her daughter in Edgar county, Illinois, in 1881.

William E. Lodge was a little lad of only two summers when his parents left Ohio and came to Illinois. He was reared in Edgar county amid the wild scenes of frontier life, and as there were no schools yet established in that locality his early education was acquired under the direction of his father, who was a man of broad learning. His training at farm labor, however, was not meager and almost as soon as old enough to reach the plow handles he began work in the fields, assisting from that time on in the task of planting, plowing and harvesting throughout the summer and fall months. Every leisure moment which he had was devoted to study. While hauling rails he mastered grammar, and while herding cattle he also learned arithmetic. It was in such disadvantages that he pursued his education, but he was ambitious to advance in that direction, and throughout his entire life he continually added to the rich treasures which were in the storehouse of his mind. He read broadly, thought deeply and had the power to assimilate and utilize what he learned. His youth, however, was largely devoted to farm labor, and he remained with his parents until he was twenty-two years of age.

Nature, however, evidently designed Mr. Lodge for the practice of law as he seemed to have a natural predilection in that direction, and won marked success in the calling. He began his preparation for the bar as a law student in the office and under the direction of Green & Eades, of Paris, and when he felt that his knowledge justified his admission to the bar he came to Monticello, Piatt county, where a few days later he received his license to practice, having successfully passed an examination in Paris.

Mr. Lodge at once opened his office and gradually advanced as he demonstrated his power to successfully cope with the intricate problems of jurisprudence. He was remarkable among lawyers for the wide research and provident care with which he prepared his cases. His logical grasp of facts and principles and of the law applicable to them was another element in his success and a remarkable clearness of expression and adequate language which enabled him to make others understand not only the salient points of his arguments, but his every fine gradation of meaning, were account among his conspicuous gifts and accomplishments.

Mr. Lodge, however, did not confine his attention solely to his professional duties for he became extensively connected with farming. He always maintained a deep interest in the occupation to which he had been reared and regarded it as the basis of all national prosperity. From time to time he made judicious investments in real estate, and ultimately became the owner of six hundred acres of land in Monticello and Sangamon townships of Piatt county. Upon his land he made many improvements, developing farms modern in all their equipments and supplied with all accessories necessary to carry on agricultural work. He was the first in the county to use tile in draining his land, and was the first to advocate surface cultivation.

He was deeply interested in the Piatt County Agricultural Society, and in the accomplishment of the object for which it was established. He acted as its attorney and he did everything in his power to promote its growth and usefulness. He was a member of the board of directors of the Chicago & Paducah Railroad, now a part of the Wabash system, and was its solicitor at the time of his death. He was also one of the promoters of the Monticello & Decatur Railroad, now a part of the Illinois Central and was its solicitor.

On the 30th of January, 1868, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Lodge and Miss Francis A. Piatt, a daughter of William and Clarinda (Marquiss) Piatt. Mrs. Lodge was born in Goose Creek township, this county, and was a most estimable lady of broad culture and innate refinement, and shared with her husband in the high regard and friendship in which he was uniformly held. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Lodge was blessed with five sons: William F., who is now a practitioner at the bar of Monticello; James P. and Charles V., twins, the former of whom is practicing law and looking after farming interests of the family, and the latter also has charge of farming interests in Kansas and is engaged in the raising of thoroughbred Holstein cattle and draft horses; Paul E. and Fred S. Realizing the value of education the parents gave their children excellent opportunities in that direction, at the same time rearing them amid the influence of a refined and cultured home, and instilling into their minds lessons tending toward moral as well as mental development. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lodge held membership in the Methodist church, of which they were most consistent representatives, and to the support of the organization they contributed liberally.

In his early manhood Mr. Lodge gave his political support to the Whig party and after the war became a Democrat. The honors and emolument of office, however, had no attraction for him as he preferred to devote his time and energies to his professional duties and the supervision of his invested interests. In 1864 he established his home in Monticello upon a beautiful tract of land of thirty-five acres all within the corporate limits of the city. He passed away September 24, 1901, and his wife died on the 16th of September, 1895. Nature bestowed upon him many of her rarest gifts. He possessed a mind of extraordinary compass and an industry that brought forth every spark of talent with which nature had blessed him. He was in every way a most superior man. Faultless in honor, fearless in conduct, stainless in reputation—such was his life record. His scholarly attainments, his statesmanship, his reliable judgment and his charming powers of conversation would have enabled him to ably fill and grace any position, however exalted, and he was no less honored in public than loved in private life.

JAMES C. LOCHER.

James C. Locher, who is the editor of the New Era, published at Cerro Gordo, and is also a dealer in stationery there, was born in Oroville, Butte county, California, on the 13th of March, 1860, his parents being James and Mary A. Locher. The father is a mechanical engineer and in 1873 he left California with his family, locating in Decatur, Illinois. Both he and his wife are still living.

At the usual age James C. Locher began his education and attended the schools of

California and Illinois, putting aside his text books at the age of sixteen years in order to enter upon his business career. He worked in his father's sawmill and at other labor in connection with the operation of the mill, such as cutting and hauling logs, hauling lumber and chopping. He remained with his father until twenty-one years of age, at which time he left home to seek employment as a farm hand, devoting the evening hours to further study of the branches of learning, which he began in the schoolroom. He was variously employed until able to pass an examination, whereby he obtained a teacher's certificate in Macon county, Illinois, in 1885. He afterward engaged in teaching for one year in Macon county, and for six years in Piatt county, being a successful educator. He then accepted a position in the drug store, where he was employed for several years, during which time he mastered the business, learning the use of the various drugs and remedial agencies which are found in such establishments. He then established a drug store of his own in Cerro Gordo in 1899, continuing its conduct until 1901, when he disposed of his store and purchased the New Era, since which time he has conducted the paper in a manner creditable to the town, and with financial results satisfactory to himself. In 1902 he purchased the drug store in which he was first employed in Cerro Gordo, and is still carrying on this business, and also deals in stationery, carrying a large and well selected line in both departments. It was in the year 1883 that Mr. Locher removed from Decatur to Cerro Gordo, and here he has continuously made his home for twenty years.

On the 15th of November, 1885, in Cerro Gordo, Mr. Locher was united in marriage to Miss Capitola Hyett, and unto them have been born four children: Fred, Mabel Florence and Ralph. Mr. Locher has held no official offices save those of village trustee, village treasurer and a member of the school board, but has ever been deeply interested in the welfare and progress of his community, and has given generous and hearty aid to many movements for the general good. For two years he was secretary of the Cerro Gordo Building and Loan Association. His political support is given to the Republican party, and he is quite prominent in the Masonic fraternity, having been a member of Cerro Gordo Lodge, No. 600, F. & A. M. since 1882. He has held all of the offices in the lodge save that of secretary and treasurer, and is the present senior deacon. In 1902 he became a member of Bement Chapter, No. 65, R. A. M., and the following year joined Beaumanior Commandery, K. T., while in 1901 he became a member of the Independant Order of Odd Fellows and since 1884 he has been a member of the Christian church, and thus his interests are of a varied nature, which show him to be a broad-minded man, having due regard for the material, intellectual, social and moral development of his community.

HENRY V. MOORE.

Henry V. Moore is one of the oldest representatives of the banking business in Monticello, having thus been connected with its financial interests since 1870. His success in all his undertakings has been so marked that his methods are of interest to the commercial world. He has based his business principles and actions upon strict adherence

to the rules which govern industry, economy and strict, unswerving integrity, and what he is to-day he has made himself, for he started out upon his business career with nothing but his energy and willing hands to aid him. By constant exertion, associated with good judgment, he has raised himself to the prominent position he now holds, having the friendship of many and the respect of all who know him.

A native of Illinois, Henry V. Moore was born in Farmington, Fulton county, on the 1st of December, 1837. His father was Dr. Henry Moore, who devoted his life to the practice of medicine and died in 1849. For some time he was a resident of New York, living upon a farm near Auburn. The year of his birth was 1809. Removing to the west he engaged in farming near Ellisville, Fulton county, Illinois, and was one of the pioneer settlers of that locality. He aided in its early development and improvement, and he carried on agricultural pursuits for many years, meeting with prosperity in his undertakings. He wedded Miss Mary Hand, a native of New Jersey, who, in her girlhood days, was taken by her parents to Ohio, the family home being there established amid pioneer surroundings and environments. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Moore were born six children, four of whom reached adult age. The father passed away in Fulton county, Illinois, at the age of forty years, and the mother reached the advanced age of eighty-one years.

Henry V. Moore was reared as a farm boy and was sent to the district school in his early youth, thus acquiring his preliminary education, which was supplemented by a course in Lombard University, of Galesburg, Illinois, where he pursued his studies for three years. Thus he was well prepared by liberal educational privileges for the practical and responsible duties of a business career. Upon the completion of his collegiate course he accepted a clerkship in a grocery store in Champaign, Illinois, and in 1864 he purchased the store and stock of his employer, continuing in the business on his own account for six years or until 1870, when he sold out. He had met with very gratifying success in that enterprise and his capable management, reasonable prices and fair dealing had secured to him a liberal patronage whereby he annually obtained a good income on his investment. It was in 1870 that Mr. Moore came to Monticello, where he has since made his home. Here he formed a parnership with A. J. Dighton in a private banking business and the relationship was continued until the death of Mr. Dighton, on the 25th of December, 1878. Mr. Moore then admitted William H. Plunk to an interest in the business under the firm style of H. V. Moore & Company, private bankers, and this name has since been retained. The institution is one of the strong financial enterprises of the county, and receives a liberal patronage from the best people of this locality. A general banking business is carried on and the extensive reality holdings of Mr. Moore are a safe guarantee to the depositors. As his financial resources have increased he has, from time to time invested in property, and he is now the owner of sixteen hundred acres of choice land in Piatt county, which can command the highest market price, and no district of this great country has more valuable or productive land than is to be found in this county.

In 1866 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Moore and Miss Alzina W. Freeman, a native of Ohio. Five children have been

born unto them: Mary H., who died in 1889; Allen F.; Arthur L., who is living in Chicago; and Dwight L. and George M., who are yet under the parental roof.

For thirty-three years Henry V. Moore has been a resident of Monticello and his business record throughout this period has been such as any man might be proud to possess. He is energetic, prompt and notably reliable, and while he has gained wealth, this has not been alone the goal for which he has striven, for he belongs to that class of representative American citizens who promote the general prosperity while advancing individual interests.

JAMES STEPHENSON.

James Stephenson, who is now practically living a retired life in the village of DeLand, was born in the neighboring state of Indiana, his birth having occurred at Boonville, Warrick county, on the 18th of January, 1826. His father, Thomas Stephenson, was a native of Logan county, Kentucky, in which state he passed his boyhood and youth, much of his time being devoted to farm work, and when a young man he went to Indiana, becoming one of the early settlers of Warrick county. It was there that he met and married Miss Sarah Phillips, who was born in South Carolina in 1801, and was a daughter of John and Agnes Phillips, who were of English descent and residents of Boonville, Indiana. Throughout life Thomas Stephenson continued to engage in farming. He died in 1859, and his wife passed away in 1872. They were the parents of nine children, four of whom are still living, namely: Mary, wife of George P. Hull, a retired citizen of Washington; Nancy, wife of Elias Crumb, a farmer of Marion county, Illinois; James, of this review; and Maria, widow of William Langford and a farmer of Warrick county, Indiana.

To the common schools of his native county James Stephenson is indebted for his early educational privileges, though he was only able to attend school for about three months during the winter season, and his lessons were conned in a log schoolhouse with puncheon floor and slab benches. During the summer months he worked on the home farm, remaining with his father until his marriage until 1844, when he led to the altar Miss Martha J. Meeks, a daughter of Benjamin and Jennie (Young) Meeks. Eight children blessed this union, namely: Paulina Jane, widow of Samuel Howell and a resident of Missouri; Sarah, deceased; Thomas, a farmer of Iowa; Linzy, a resident of South Dakota; Ida, wife of William Miller; James T., a resident of Jackson, Minnesota; Minnie, wife of E. O. Delivou, a blacksmith of DeLand; and William T., a farmer of Minnesota.

After his marriage Mr. Stephenson purchased a forty-acre farm, which he operated for one year, and on selling that place he removed to French Island, Indiana, where he spent three years. His next removal made him a resident of Macon county, Illinois, where he purchased a farm of forty acres and resided there for ten years. He then sold out and came to Piatt county, locating near Bement, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres and farmed there for nine years. He next rented the Scott farm in Goose Creek township, and while residing there he purchased two hundred and forty acres in the same locality, settling on his

new place in 1872, and residing there until his removal to DeLand in January, 1903. Here he bought two lots and built a nice seven-room residence, also a barn and other buildings, making it a very neat and attractive place. Here he is practically living a retired life, though he still superintends his farm work, which is done by hired help, and he feeds a large amount of stock, making a specialty of shorthorn cattle. He has been quite an extensive stock-raiser, and has found this business a profitable source of income.

Mr. Stephenson's first wife died June 18, 1882, and on the 26th of December, 1883, he was again married, his second union being with Miss Sarah Wilkinson, a daughter of William F. and Jane Wilkinson. She is a member of the Christian church and a most estimable lady. In his political views Mr. Stephenson is a Democrat, and he held the office of justice of the peace in Goose Creek township for four years, but has never cared for political preferment, his time and attention being wholly occupied by his business affairs. After a useful and honorable career he can well afford to lay aside all business cares and live in ease and retirement, enjoying the fruits of former toil. He always made the most of his opportunities and he has the respect and confidence of all who know him.

GEORGE W. BUNYAN.

George W. Bunyan is widely and favorably known in Piatt county after long connection with its agricultural interests and is now living a retired life in the village of Hammond. He established his home in this county in 1867 when deer still roamed over the prairie, and prairie wolves were seen in quite large numbers. He is a native of Herefordshire, England, his birth having there occurred on the 15th of April, 1831. His parents were Elijah and Sarah (Swaby) Bunyan, both of whom were natives of England, and in the year 1833 they came to America, landing in New York in the month of February. They then made their way to Pennsylvania, settling near the Delaware river, where Mrs. Bunyan was taken ill and died only three weeks after landing in this country. Because of the great amount of sickness in that locality the husband and father determined to seek a home further west, and made his way to Ohio. He was a miller by trade and followed that pursuit for a number of years. He afterward removed to Allen county, Indiana, where he became connected with agricultural interests, following farming until his death, which occurred in 1837.

In 1866 a brother of our subject came to the west, settling on section 32, Bement township, Piatt county, and it was because of this that George W. Bunyan came to Piatt county in 1867. He was less than two years of age when brought to America by his parents, and was reared in Ohio and Indiana. On coming to Illinois he purchased a tract of land in Bement township, and with characteristic energy began its development and improvement. As the years passed this became a very valuable property, constituting one of the best farms in this locality. Mr. Bunyan was very progressive in his farming methods and was quick to adopt improvements that would facilitate his work and render his labors more valuable in the acquirement of a handsome competence.

In Richland county, Ohio, was cele-

brated the marriage of George W. Bunyan and Miss Eleanor Dratt, a lady of French descent, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, on the 10th of July, 1829, and is a daughter of Andrew and Eleanor (VanPelt) Dratt. Her father was a cooper and followed his trade in Ohio during the greater part of his life. Both he and his wife died in Ashland county, that state. Mr. and Mrs. Bunyan became the parents of five children: Sarah J., who is now the wife of John McCabe and resides upon a farm near Bement; John W., who first married Janette Wallace, who died in 1885, after which he wedded Jane Dobson, with whom he is now living on the old Bunyan homestead in Unity township, Piatt county; Charles Andrew, who married Lilly Bernard and resides in Hammond, where he is engaged in the lumber business; Wilbert Willis, who married Ruth Shaw and resides upon the home farm in Unity township; and Margaret Elverta, the wife of Dayton M. Lincoln. They reside with Mr. and Mrs. Bunyan and have two children, George M. and ChesterA.

Mr. Bunyan continued to engage in farming upon the old homestead in Unity township until the 21st of February, 1895, when he removed to the village of Hammond, where he has since lived retired. He is now enjoying a rest which he has truly earned, for through many years he was an active factor in agricultural circles in Piatt county. He now owns eighty acres of land in one farm and another tract of one hundred and sixty acres, both being in Unity township. In addition to this he has a comfortable home property in Hammond. His political support is given to the Republican party and he is entitled to membership in the Grand Army of the Republic, for while living in Ohio he enlisted in May, 1864, in the National Guard of that state, becoming a member of Company D, One Hundred and Sixty-third Regiment under Colonel Hiram Miller. This regiment was called to active service, but Mr. Bunyan remained with the army for only a few months for he became ill and was sent to the hospital at Fort Pocahontas, Virginia. Later he was transferred to the hospital at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, where he received an honorable discharge in September, 1864. His name has always been an honored one in business circles and a synonym for integrity and straightforward dealing. In matters of citizenship he has ever been loyal, and has withheld his co-operation from no movement calculated to benefit the community. He has witnessed many changes during his residence in the county for he has seen pioneer conditions give way before advancing civilization and Piatt county has kept abreast with the general improvement along all lines which have advanced material, social, intellectual and moral interests.

GEORGE R. TRENCHARD.

Success is determined by one's ability to recognize opportunity and to pursue this with a resolute and unflagging energy. It results from continued effort, and the man who thus accomplishes his purpose usually becomes an important factor in business circles of the community with which he is connected. Although comparatively a young man, Mr. Trenchard has already attained a leading place among the representative business men of his section of the county, being the well-known and popular cashier of the First National Bank of DeLand.



G. R. TRENCHARD

He was born on a farm just outside the corporation limits, February 14, 1867, and is a son of William O. and Nancy (Lyons) Trenchard. His father is a native of England, born in New Devonshire, on the 8th of August, 1828, and is a son of Joseph and Edna (Upjohn) Trenchard. The latter died in March, 1881. The father of our subject removed to Morgan county, this state, and for about thirteen years was engaged in agricultural pursuits near Jacksonville. At the end of that period he came to Piatt county and purchased one hundred and seventy acres of land in Goose Creek township south of De Land, where he followed farming for over thirty years. Since then he has made his home in Champaign, Illinois.

While living in Morgan county, William O. Trenchard was married July 25, 1852, to Miss Nancy Lyons, who was born in County Clare, Ireland, August 25, 1830. Her parents spent their entire lives in that country. Her father was a full-fledged Irishman, but her mother was of Scotch-Irish descent. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Trenchard were born seven children, as follows: Mary, wife of John Tatman, a farmer of Iowa; Ellen, wife of Robert Bragg, who follows farming near DeLand; Joseph, a physician of Chicago, who married Emma Marquiss, but she died in January, 1892; William H., a farmer and stock-raiser living near Carlton, Missouri; Frances, wife of William Sullivan, a real estate dealer of Champaign; Sadie Edna, wife of G. M. Morton, a grocer of Champaign; and George R., of this review.

The subject of this sketch, who is the youngest of the family, was educated in the common schools near DeLand, and remained with his father, assisting in the operation of the home farm until his marriage, which was celebrated December 28, 1898, at the home of Thomas Bondurant in DeLand, where his wife had resided for several years. In her maidenhood she was Miss Lucy Thornton, a daughter of William and Fanny (Bondurant) Thorton, of Des Moines, Iowa. She has become the mother of one child, Wendell Bondurant Trenchard, who was born on the 3d of April, 1900.

After his marriage Mr. Trenchard commenced farming on a tract of one hundred and sixty acres south of DeLand, but after residing there for a year he sold that place and bought a farm of three hundred and twenty acres just north and adjoining the corporation limits of DeLand. After operating that place for three years he was appointed cashier of the First National Bank of DeLand and has since given his attention principally to the discharge of the duties of that position.

Mr. Trenchard has taken the first degree in the Masonic Lodge there and is also a member of DeLand Lodge, No. 603, K. P., and DeLand Camp, No. 2178, M. W. A. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Christian church. In all of his undertakings he has prospered thus far, his excellent success being but the logical result of his careful and correct business methods.

JOHN FRIZZELL.

This well-known and highly esteemed citizen of DeLand, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, April 25, 1841, a son of Jason and Rebecca (Turner) Frizzell, both representatives of old Virginia families. The father was born in Ohio in 1808, and was educated in the common schools of that

state. In early life he followed farming in Fairfield county, and for the long period of forty-five years most acceptably served as justice of the peace. At one time he was also the Democratic candidate for sheriff, but was defeated. He was a stanch supporter of that party and took a very active and prominent part in local politics. In 1830 he married Rebecca Turner, who died when our subject was a year old, and he was again married in 1851, his second union being with Jane Jones, of Pennsylvania, by whom he had three children: Jason, who served in the Civil war as a member of the Seventeenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry and is now a railroad man living in Ohio; William; and Barbara, wife of Dudley Layman. The children of the first marriage were Joel, a resident of Ohio; Frederick, who died in the army; Jackson, also deceased; John, of this review; Emily and Rebecca, both deceased. The father died in Ohio, February 5, 1862.

John Frizzell is indebted to the public schools of Ohio for the educational privileges he enjoyed during his boyhood, but he was able to attend school but little as he began work as soon as old enough. At the age of fifteen years he commenced learning the tanner's trade, which he followed continuously until the Civil war broke out, when prompted by a spirit of patriotism he offered his services to the government. At Columbus, Ohio, in 1863, he enlisted in the Ninety-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until hostilities ceased. He was in a number of engagements, including the battle of Guntown, where he was taken prisoner June 10, 1864. For about seven months he was incarcerated in Andersonville prison, was in Millen prison six or seven weeks, and was also confined in the jail at Columbus, Georgia, for a few days, but was finally paroled and sent home, receiving an honorable discharge at Columbus, Ohio, in 1865.

After resting for a time Mr. Frizzell began work as a farm hand and also did odd jobs. In 1866 he left his native state and removed to Charleston, Illinois, where he was married on the 7th of June, that year, to Miss Mary L. Frizzell, a daughter of David B. and Harriet (Smith) Frizzell, who were from Ohio. Her mother is still living in Cumberland county, Illinois, at the age of eighty-five years, but her father died in 1868 at the age of fifty-four. He had two brothers: Lloyd drove an ox team across the plains to California in 1849 and died in San Francisco of heart failure. He was county treasurer for one or two terms. John, a physician, served for three years as a surgeon in the Civil war and died in Butler, Bates county, Missouri, six years ago. The wife of our subject is one of a family of seven children, the others being Sarah, deceased; John, who died in the army; Crawford, a resident of Terre Haute, Indiana; Rebecca, wife of John Jenuine; Alice, wife of George Stults, a farmer; and Lloyd, who is operating the old home farm. Unto our subject and his wife were born two children, namely: Florence, deceased; and Gertrude, wife of O'Neal Barnes, who is engaged in farming on our subject's place near DeLand.

In 1879 Mr. Frizzell came to Piatt county and began farming near the present site of DeLand, which was then a cornfield. He bought a forty-acre farm in 1882, but sold the same later and purchased sixty acres, on which he made his home for fourteen years. On disposing of that farm he bought another of one hundred acres, which he operated quite successfully until 1902, when he removed to DeLand and purchased town

property, though he still owns his farm near the village. His home in DeLand is a valuable property, consisting of a fine house, good barn and other outbuildings situated on four lots. He has a large amount of fruit upon his place, including cherries and berries of all kinds, and everything is in first-class condition. Here, surrounded by all the comforts which go to make life worth the living, Mr. and Mrs. Frizzell expect to spend their remaining days. They are prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, taking an active part in its work, and they enjoy the esteem and friendship of all who know them. Mr. Frizzell is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and is a strong Republican in politics. His life has been one of industry and usefulness and he merits the success that has come to him as well as the confidence that is so freely accorded him.

JAMES CLIFTON TIPPETT.

Piatt county figures as one of the most attractive, progressive and prosperous divisions of the state of Illinois, justly claiming a high order of citizenship and a spirit of enterprise which is certain to conserve consecutive development and marked advancement in the material upbuilding of men who have controlled its affairs in official capacity, and in this connection the subject of this review demands representation as one who has served the county faithfully and well in positions of distinctive trust and responsibility. He is now acting as circuit clerk and recorder of Piatt county and makes his home in Monticello.

Mr. Tippett was born at White Heath, Piatt county, on the 3d of July, 1873, and is a son of Cumberland Tippett, whose birth occurred in Licking county, Ohio, about the year 1834. The father was a merchant and also devoted some time to farming and to preaching the gospel as a local minister. He became an early settler of White Heath and his influence for good was widely felt. In his ministerial capacity he was called upon to perform the marriage ceremony for many couples in Piatt and adjoining counties. He was ever the friend of progress, reform and improvement, and his influence was ever given on the side of right and justice. His death was occasioned by accident on the 2d of October, 1875, at which time he fell from an apple tree. His wife survived him and is still living at White Heath. She was born in Ohio in 1848. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Tippett were born two children: Florence M. is the wife of Dr. B. E. Duvall, a resident of Atlanta, Georgia. She is also a physician, having pursued a course in the Southern Eclectic Medical College at Atlanta, Georgia, in which institution her husband pursued his medical course. Both are now actively engaged in practice and each are in the enjoyment of a lucrative business. In connection with their work in this direction they are editing the Southern Eclectic Medical Journal of Atlanta, Georgia, which is recognized as authority on many subjects of which it treats.

James C. Tippett, whose name introduces this record, was reared and educated at White Heath. On leaving the public schools he entered the State University at Champaign, where he pursued his studies for several terms, and then returning to his home he engaged in farming and stock-raising, making a specialty of feeding hogs and cattle. His father was the owner of a small

tract of land and it was upon this that Mr. Tippett carried on his agricultural pursuits. He continued farming until May 1900, when he was nominated on the Republican ticket to the office of circuit clerk, and was elected the following fall, assuming the duties of his office in December of the same year, his term to extend four years. He is now the incumbent in the office and is discharging its duties with marked promptness and fidelity. By virtue of his position as circuit clerk he is also recorder of the county and his administration of the affairs of the office is most commendable.

On the 5th of October, 1898, occurred the marriage of Mr. Tippett and Miss Mattie Jamison, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Mrs. Inez Bender, of Decatur, Illinois. Socially, Mr. Tippett is connected with the Knights of Pythias fraternity, with Selah Lodge, No. 243, I. O. O. F., and with the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a most genial and affable gentleman and is well known in his native county, where he has spent his entire life. His interests are thoroughly identified with those of Piatt county, and at all times he is ready to lend his aid and co-operation to any movement calculated to benefit this section of the country or advance its wonderful development.

B. T. McCLAIN, M. D.

Dr. B. T. McClain, of Atwood, Illinois, was born on the 28th of September, 1854, in Harrison county, Kentucky, of which his parents, George and Sarah McClain, were also natives. Throughout life the father followed farming and made his home in either Harrison, Scott or Grant counties, Kentucky. Both he and his wife died in that state. Our subject and his brother William, were the only ones of the family to come to Illinois, and the latter is now an extensive farmer of Sangamon county.

The preliminary education of our subject was obtained in the common schools of Grant county, Kentucky, and he also attended high school there. Later he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, and began the study of medicine, pursuing a two-years' course in the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, from which he was graduated in the class of 1886. He was granted the degree of M. D. and licensed to practice. Opening an office in Scott county, Kentucky, he was engaged in practice there for four years, and at the end of that time removed to Franklin, Morgan county, Illinois, where the following seven years were passed. In 1897 he came to Atwood, and here he has built up a large practice which is constantly increasing. As the village is in the southeast corner of the county he receives many calls from Douglas and Moultrie as well as Piatt county for his country practice is very extensive.

Dr. McClain married Miss Sarah Hughes, of Owen county, Kentucky, and to them have been born two children: Myrtle and Nellie. Mrs. McClain is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Atwood, while the Doctor is a Baptist in religious belief. They have a nice home in the south part of town, where his office is also located, and in the latter he keeps a stock of medicines. He is a member of the Esculapian Society of the Wabash Valley, the Douglas County Medical Society and the Illinois State Medical Society, and by the interchange of thought which forms a feature of those organizations he keeps in touch with

the progress which is continually carrying the science of medicine toward perfection. His life is a busy one, so numerous are the demands made upon his professional skill, and it is therefore well that he takes a deep and abiding interest in his work, in which he has attained a high degree of proficiency. Socially, he is a member of Atwood Lodge, No. 761, I. O. O. F., and the encampment of the same order at Atwood; Atwood Lodge, No. 651, F. & A. M., of Atwood; the chapter and commandery of Masonry at Tuscola, Illinois; and the Knights of Pythias Lodge at Tuscola. In politics he is a Republican.

E. L. REEVES, M. D.

Among those who devote their time and energies to the practice of medicine and surgery and are meeting with success in their chosen profession is Dr. E. L. Reeves, who had built up a good practice in and around Milmine, although he has made his home here only a short time. A native of Illinois, he was born near Carlisle in Clinton county, November 17, 1865, and is a son of J. M. and Rachel (Jones) Reeves, who are now living near Vandalia, Fayette county, this state, both having passed the Psalmist's allotted span of life—three score years and ten. The father has made farming his life occupation. In the family were three children: J. T., a physician of Pittsburg, Illinois; H. C., a farmer of Fayette county; and E. L., of this review.

During his boyhood Dr. E. L. Reeves attended the public schools and was graduated at the Vandalia high school in the class of 1884. He then engaged in teaching for a time, and having determined to enter the medical profession he matriculated at the Eclectic Institute in Cincinnati, where he graduated in 1890, with the degree of M. D. He opened an office in Lake City, Illinois, where he remained until 1892, and was then a practitioner of St. Elmo until the fall of 1902, which witnessed his removal to the village of Milmine, where he has already secured a good patronage, his skill and ability being soon recognized.

On the 12th of July, 1893, near Vandalia, Illinois, was celebrated the marriage of Dr. Reeves and Miss Ella J. Godsey, who was born near that city, March 30, 1869. The Doctor is a Republican in politics, and is a prominent member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he is serving as official instructor. He also belongs to the Rebekah Lodge and to the Modern Woodmen of America, being medical examiner for the camp at Milmine. Occasionally he contributes articles of worth to the Eclectic Journal and has gained recognition as one of the able and successful physicians of his part of the county, as well as one of its best citizens.

WILLIAM DIGHTON.

Controlling important financial and agricultural interests, William Dighton occupies a prominent position in business circles of Piatt county, where his efforts have been so discerningly directed along well defined lines of labor that he seems to have realized at any one point of his career the full measure of possibility at that point. He is yet a young man, but he possesses the energy and enterprise so characteristic of this section of the coun-

try and in the management of his business affairs displays marked capability. While winning success he has also gained the confidence and good will of his fellow men and William Dighton is to-day numbered among the popular, prominent and representative citizens of Piatt county.

Mr. Dighton has spent his entire life here, with the exception of a brief period passed in college. He was born upon the home farm in Piatt county, June 4, 1873, and is the fourth son of Andrew J. and Sarah C. (Netherton) Dighton. His boyhood days were passed in the usual manner of farmer lads of the period and the work of field and meadow became familiar to him in his youth. He was provided with good educational privileges, for after attending the grammar and high schools of Monticello, he entered the State University, at Champaign, Illinois, where he spent two years as a student. On leaving college he again took up his abode upon the home farm but soon afterward became connected with the active management of the First National Bank in Monticello, in which he accepted the position of assistant cashier. The successful conduct of the institution since that time has been largely due to his efforts. He has made a close and thorough study of the banking business and his obliging manner, unfailing courtesy to the patrons, his keen foresight and energy have been salient features in the prosperity of the bank. He acted as assistant cashier until 1897, when he was elected vice president and now holds that connection with the bank.

Mr. Dighton has not confined his attention, however, to one line for he is a man of much natural business ability, resourceful and alert, and in agricultural interests he is especially prominent. His real estate possessions are extensive, amounting to about fifteen hundred acres of choice land, and there is no finer land in all America than is contained in the farms of Piatt county. His property is divided into a number of farms, some of which are situated in Champaign county and all are under a high state of cultivation. Mr. Dighton is also extensively interested in live stock. He buys, feeds, raises and ships both hogs and cattle, and annually sends several carloads to the city markets. Besides those he raises himself or buys in this locality he has also dealt in western cattle, and being an excellent judge of stock, he makes judicious purchases and profitable sales.

In 1888 occurred the marriage of William Dighton and Miss Jessie L. Thompson, a daughter of Mrs. C. N. Thompson, of a prominent old family of Monticello. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dighton hold membership in the First Presbyterian church, of which he is a trustee. They contribute liberally to the support of the church and take an active part in its work, and Mr. Dighton is also a prominent Mason, belonging to Fraternal Lodge, F. & A. M.; Markwell Chapter, R. A. M.; and Champaign Commandery, K. T. Having always made his home in Piatt county he is widely known in this part of the state. He is also widely recognized as one of the most prominent, alert and enterprising business men of the county. Intricate business situations he readily masters and shapes conditions to the furtherance of his own ends and yet in his business life he has never been known to take advantage of the necessities of his fellow men or to swerve in the least from

the strictest commercial ethics. His genial nature renders him popular, and as a citizen he belongs to that class of public-spirited men who are found as supporters of all that contributes to the material, social, intellectual and moral development of the communities with which they are connected.

SAMUEL SMOCK.

A representative of the agricultural interests of Piatt county, Samuel Smock, who resides on section 16, Monticello township, well deserves mention in this volume. He is to-day the possessor of a fine property which stands as a monument to his enterprise and unfaltering perseverance throughout the years of his business career. He was born in Ohio near the dividing line between Pickaway and Ross counties, his natal day being the 14th of November, 1834. His father, William Smock, was a native of Virginia and in early childhood removed to Ohio where he was educated in the common schools. He was reared upon a farm, early assisting in the labors of field and meadow and in the Buckeye state he remained until 1839, when he sought a home in Illinois, coming to Piatt county. He cast in his lot with the early settlers and lived amid the wild scenes of frontier life. He purchased his farm from the government, becoming the owner of a tract of land in Monticello township, for which he paid one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made upon the place, but with characteristic energy he began its development. Subsequently he sold it and purchased another farm of eighty acres on which he made his home until his death which occurred about 1878. His wife bore the maiden name of Jane Heath and she, too, was born in Ohio. They became the parents of three children: Samuel; Rufus, who died about fifteen years ago; and Hiram, who died about twelve years ago.

Samuel Smock obtained his education in one of the old-time log schools with a puncheon floor, slab benches and other primitive furnishings. This school was located where the fairgrounds are now seen. At an early day, however, he left school, for his services were needed upon the home farm and he continued to assist his father until 1861, when he began farming on his own account. This occupation he has made his life work and his labors have been crowned with a fair degree of prosperity. At the time of his marriage he took up his abode upon the farm which has now been his home for forty-two years. Many great changes have occurred during this period, many rods of tiling have been laid, an orchard has been planted and two houses have been erected by Mr. Smock, the second one being his present residence, which is very attractive and commodious, containing ten rooms. It stands in the midst of a fine lawn in which are a large number of shade trees that have been planted by Mr. Smock. He has also erected a new barn and other buildings and has generally improved the place until it is one of the best improved in this section of the county. In connection with general farming he feeds a large number of hogs for the market, all mostly Poland China and Red Rock stock.

On the 7th of March, 1861, Mr. Smock was united in marriage to Miss Marietta Hart and unto them have been born four

children: John H., who is engaged in farming; Charles A., who is with his father on the homestead; Ada A., who is also under the parental roof; and Edwin O., who died in 1894. Mrs. Smock and her daughter are faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Smock has held the office of school director for twenty-seven years. In politics he is a Democrat, but the honors and emoluments of office have had no attraction for him. He has concentrated his energies along one line and his undivided attention combined with capable management and energy have resulted in bringing to him a creditable success.

SAMUEL WATERS ALLERTON.

One of the largest land owners in Piatt county, but who makes his home in Chicago, is Samuel W. Allerton, who traces his ancestry to Isaac Allerton, who came over in the Mayflower in 1620. Isaac Allerton was a native of England and was born between the years 1583 and 1585, the exact date being unknown. He resided in London for some time prior to his removal to Holland in 1609. It is generally admitted that he was the wealthiest of all the Pilgrims and was one of the few among them to whose names Bradford and other contemporaneous writers always gave the prefix "Mr." which in those days was used as an index of superior family or respectability. He was also one of the three upon whom the privilege of citizenship was conferred by the city of Leyden, his associates in this honor being William Bradford, afterward governor of the Plymouth colony, and Degory Priest, his brother-in-law. He was first married in the city of Leyden, November 4, 1611, to Mary Norris, of Newbury, England, and at the time of the sailing of the Mayflower he had four children. His wife died February 25, 1621. In 1626 he married Fear Brewster, daughter of Elder William Brewster. She was a woman of pleasing appearance and of a pious disposition and was the mother of Isaac Allerton, the second of that name, from whom the Allerton family is descended. She died in 1634, while his death occurred in 1659.

Samuel W. Allerton is of the ninth generation from Isaac Allerton, of whom mention has just been made. He was born at Amenia, Dutchess county, New York, and is a son of Samuel W. and Hannah (Hurd) Allerton, the former also being a native of Amenia, born December 5, 1785. He was united in marriage to Hannah Hurd on March 26, 1808. She was born in South Dover, Dutchess county, New York, and was the eldest daughter of Ebenezer and Rebecca (Phillips) Hurd, her father being an extensive farmer and stock-dealer in Amenia. By this union there were nine children, eight of whom were living in January, 1899, at a combined age of over six hundred and thirty years. In his early life the father of our subject studied for the medical profession, but changing his mind he learned the tailor's trade and became a merchant tailor, while at the same time he carried on a country store. In 1828 he was one of the promoters in building a woolen mill and establishing a factory. In consequence of the reduction of the tariff in 1833 nearly all the manufactories in New England were ruined, and Mr. Allerton lost nearly all his fortune. In 1837 he went west to Iowa with the hope of building up his fortune but was taken sick and returned

to his eastern home. In 1842 he removed to Yates county, New York, where he rented a farm, and in 1848 he bought a farm in Wayne county, in the same state, where he lived the remainder of his life. He was a man of sterling integrity, was a Universalist in religious belief, and lived to the ripe old age of ninety-nine years and eight months.

Samuel Waters, Allerton, our subject, was but seven years of age when his father failed in business, at which time he received an impression which has influenced his noble life. While the sheriff was selling his father's property, his mother shed tears when two horses which had been highly prized were sold. Putting his arms around his mother's neck he told her that he would be a man and provide for her. In after life he kept his promise. He was the youngest of the nine children and lived in Amenia until he was fourteen years of age, but commenced to work for himself when he was twelve years old. In 1842 he went to Yates county with his parents and remained with them until they had saved enough money to buy a farm in Wayne county. With his brother Henry, he then rented a farm and made fifteen hundred dollars, which they invested in a farm in Wayne county, leaving still three thousand dollars unpaid.

Renting another farm Mr. Allerton began its cultivation and at the end of three years had saved thirty-two hundred dollars. He then went to Newark where he worked with his brothers on their farm and traded in a small way in livestock in Wayne county. On his return from Albany and New York, where he had gone with some stock, he said to his brother Henry: "I believe I know as much as the dealers I met, and as we now have the farm paid for and three thousand dollars in money, I will settle with you, you taking the farm and I taking the money." His brother replied: "If you continue as you are in a few years you will own the best farm in the country, but if you wish to try the livestock business, all right, we will settle on this basis. This is all the advice I have to give you. You will run across smart and tricky men, but they always die poor. Make a name and character for yourself and you are sure to win."

The first hundred cattle Samuel bought after dissolving partnership with his brother, he sold in New York at a loss of seven hundred dollars. This made him sick, but calling on an elderly uncle who had made a success in life, he was told by his uncle, "My boy, you are pretty sick, but don't lose your courage. I never found but one dead sure thing, and that was hoeing corn at fifty cents per day. If you make money you must sometimes lose it. Try it over."

About this time women had burned a number of bridges on the Erie Railroad because the trains would not stop for dinner. Going to Erie, Mr. Allerton purchased one hundred head of cattle, which he shipped to New York over the Erie Railroad, and which on account of the burned bridges had to be unloaded and driven to Dunkirk, where they were reshipped. On his arrival he found the market short on cattle, and his venture netted him three thousand dollars, which gave him new courage. He then drifted west and for one year fed and raised cattle in Fulton county, Illinois. The financial panic which swept over the country at that time wiped out all the capital he had, and becoming ill he concluded that he could not stand the western climate. Returning east, he bought an interest in a store with his brother in Newark, New York, and for a

short time engaged in mercantile business. Selling goods, however, was not agreeable to him, as he desired to deal on a larger scale.

While residing in Illinois he had met a daughter of Astor C. Thompson, of Fulton county, that state. Having regained his health he sold his interest in the store and, gathering his money he had left and borrowing five thousand dollars, he came west, the young lady in Fulton county being the principal attraction. On his arrival there he traded a little, but in March, 1860, he returned to Chicago, which has since continued to be his home. On the 1st of July, 1860, he was united in marriage to Miss Pamilla Thompson, at Peoria, Illinois, and with his young bride returned to Chicago, "where the world turned around every twenty-four hours," and which was the proper place in which to trade.

On going to Chicago, Mr. Allerton commenced to buy and sell livestock in a small way, there being then no general market in the city except for a short time during the winter. Shippers generally took their livestock to the eastern markets. About this time there was a decided break in the Chicago market, and Mr. Allerton desired to buy, but having formed no connection with any bank there, the question was how to get money. Among his few acquaintances in Chicago was a man by the name of Tobey, whom he asked to take him to a bank and identify him. Mr. Tobey was willing to do this but he said that he could not guarantee anything. He was assured by Mr. Allerton that he only wished to be identified and that he would arrange the balance. He was taken to the bank of George Smith and, on being introduced, said to Mr. Willard, "If I pay for three telegrams, one to Halstead, Chamberlain & Company, asking if they will pay my draft; one to your own correspondent, to ascertain if Halstead, Chamberlain & Company are all right; and one to my own bank to assure you that I am all right, can I come down to-morrow and sell you a sight draft?" He replied "Yes." Mr. Allerton went back to the stockyards and bought all the hogs in the market and went down with a draft for eighty thousand dollars, asking Mr. Willard if he had received replies to his telegrams. His answer was that he had and that the replies were favorable. Mr. Allerton handed him the draft and was told that he could not discount so large a draft on telegrams and that he had supposed that he would not want more than five thousand dollars. Mr. Allerton said, "You know Mr. Tobey, and you certainly do not think that he would introduce a thief to you."

Mr. Willard, however, would not discount the draft and Mr. Allerton found himself in a position where he must have money, but what to do he did not know. Leaving the bank, he accidentally met a man from Syracuse, New York, and asked him if he was acquainted with any banks in Chicago, and was told that he knew Aikens & Norton. He was taken to them and introduced. Mr. Aikens looked over the telegrams and signified his willingness to comply with Mr. Allerton's request, but that he would have to charge one per cent. for the use of the money. In this way Mr. Allerton became a customer of Aikens & Norton. The Civil war broke out and the nation needed money. Congress passed the national bank act, issuing bonds to secure the circulation. This was regarded by Mr. Allerton as a step in the right direction toward a national currency, as the nation had never had anything but "red

dog" and "bob-tailed" currency. To start a national bank would aid the government and give the people unifrom currency, but for some reason the people seemed slow to start national banks. Mr. Allerton asked Mr. Aikens why he did not start one and was answered "because he feared he could not get the stock taken." Mr. Allerton said that he, with five other men, would take ten thousand dollars each. In this way the First National Bank of Chicago, one of the strongest financial institutions in the country, was started.

By his union with Pamilla Thompson two children were born. Kate Bennett, born June 10, 1863, married Dr. Francis Sydney Papin, October 14, 1885, and after his death married Hugo R. Johnson. Robert Henry, born March 20, 1873, is represented elsewhere in this volume. The mother of these children died and Mr. Allerton later married her sister, Agnes C. Thompson, the marriage ceremony being solemnized March 15, 1882. They are now residing in a beautiful home on Prairie avenue, Chicago.

Mr. Allerton has been a very successful business man and is well known througout the state and nation. He wrote the first letter published in the Chicago Tribune in favor of organizing the Union Stockyards, so as to bring all buyers and sellers together, which has made it the greatest livestock market in the world and also made Chicago a money center. He always had the desire to own a farm when he succeeded in accumulating enough money. His desire has certainly been gratified, and he is to-day one of the largest farmers in the country who cultivates his own land, cultivating about forty thousand acres in the very best manner. He is said to have a hobby for purchasing poorly productive lands and by culvation "makes them blossom as a rose." He has large interests in ranches and gold mines and has lands in Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York, and has always been interested in the livestock trade and continues to ship livestock to New York and England.

Mr. Allerton received his early political education from Henry Clay and Horace Greeley, and has always been a strong believer in a protective tariff and free schools. He remembers that in the campaign of 1844, when Henry Clay was a candidate for the presidency, the issue was "Shall we put a tariff on iron and inaugurate free schools?" The Democrats said that "a tariff would build up home monopolies and free schools would be a burden and a tax on the people." Clay replied, "Give the people free schools so as to increase their intelligence, their energy and industry, and home competition would reduce the price of iron." It was then one hundred dollars a ton. Remembering the words of Henry Clay and believing the free school system has made this great nation, Mr. Allerton, by giving the land, has had schoolhouses built on each of his farms. Since the organization of the party he has been a stalwart Republican and has been mentioned and his election advocated by some of the best newspapers and best citizens of the state for the high office of United States senator. That he would honor the office and people of the state goes without question. He once ran for mayor of Chicago in the interest of civil service with no pledges to any one. His desire was to give the city an honest, clean administration. The office would have been no honor to him but he would have honored the office. It was his intention to employ the

best engineers in the country to settle the vexed question of engineering and in all departments of the city government to put the right man in the right place, irrespective of politics. He carried the north division of the city and the other intelligent wards, but was beaten by a sharp political trick of his opponent.

Mr. Allerton believes that all men should try to lead a successful life; this he owes to himself, his friends and his people. He believes that young men to-day have better opportunities for advancement than when he was a boy, and that they have better teachers and better schools. Labor is higher and the necessities of life are cheaper, and therefore the opportunities are much greater for success. His life is certainly an object lesson for the young men of to-day, and he certainly deserves all the honor which he receives.

LOUIS C. A. HUMEAU.

Coming to this country from a foreign land Louis C. A. Humeau has improved the opportunities which America offers to her adopted sons and is to-day one of the substantial citizens of Piatt county, Illinois, making his home in Mansfield. He was born in Angers, France, on the 25th of July, 1861, and is the youngest in a family of five children, whose parents were Francis and Mary Homeau. He is also the only surviving member of the family. The father owned and conducted a woodyard in France and during the winter months when his business greatly increased he employed about five men. The mother died when her son Louis was but four years of age and the father passed away when he was eighteen years of age. The oldest sister of the family died in France when about eighteen years old.

Louis C. A. Humeau obtained his early education in France and was provided with good privileges, there being graduated in the agricultural school of his native country when about eighteen years of age. On attaining his majority he determined to establish his home in America and attest the truth of the favorable reports which he had heard concerning the United States and its business possibilities. He landed at New York on the 24th of September, 1882, after a voyage of eleven days on the steamer Circassian, and thence made his way to Montreal, Canada, where he remained for about eighteen months. On the expiration of that period he removed to Illinois and spent about a year at St. Ann. On the expiration of that period he located in Farmer City, DeWitt county, Illinois, and afterward came to Mansfield, Piatt county, where he arrived in the spring of 1885. Here he has resided continuously since and until 1897 was in the employ of Root Brothers, as one of their most trusted representatives. In that year he began working for the D. F. Wyman Company in the lumber business and is still with Mr. Wyman.

On the 25th of September, 1888, Mr. Humeau was united in marriage to Miss Olive S. Clouser and unto them have been born five children, all of whom are yet living and the three eldest are now students in the Mansfield schools. These are George H., who was born April 23, 1891; Adele M., born June 26, 1893; Florence L., born February 27, 1898;

Francis, born on the 24th of May, 1901, and an infant daughter born July 1, 1903.

In 1889 Mr. Humeau purchased a lot in Mansfield and erected the house which he and his family now occupy, it being a pleasant home and the abode of cheerful hospitality which is much enjoyed by their many friends. Politically Mr. Humeau is a stanch Republican and served as village clerk for one term, while for four terms he has been village treasurer. In his religious faith he is a Methodist.

REV. ERNEST HAWLEY.

There is no position held by man more important than pastor of a church, nor is there a position that has attached to it greater importance or responsibility when properly conceived and conscientiously discharged. This is more essentially the case with the clergymen of the Catholic faith, for he is held more as an instructor and guide, not only in religious matters, but in moral and social conduct by his congregation. There are few men by character and education better fitted to preside over a people in all these relations than the reverend gentleman whose name introduces this sketch.

Father Hawley is a native of Leicestershire, England, born February 26, 1866, at Melton Mowbray, a place noted for fox hunters. His parents were Thomas and Mary (Hall) Hawley. The father is now deceased but the mother is still living and continues to reside in England. Our subject acquired his early education in Radcliffe College, Leicester, England, and remained in that country until his eighteenth year, when he commenced his ecclesiastical studies in northern Italy, at Domo D'Ossola, near Turin. He spent nine years in the Alps and spoke nothing else but Italian during that time, being well educated in that language. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Ricardi, of Novara, Italy, on the 10th of July, 1892. Two years were passed in France, and in 1893 he was sent to this country directly from Italy to become a teacher at Galesburg, Illinois, where he spent five years. He also did some missionary and parish work while at that place, and was then sent to Kewanee, this state, for six months as assistant pastor to Rev. F. C. Duffy, now rector of St. Patrick's Catholic church at Danville. On the 29th of June, 1901, Father Hawley was appointed by Bishop J. L. Spalding as vice rector under Rev. F. G. Lentz at Bement with out-mission at Monticello. He is still located here and has done effective work of the parish. He is a man of scholarly attainments and has a splendid library, of which he makes excellent use. At the present time he is engaged in the translation of a historical work from the French, entitled the Sources of Modern Civilization, written from the Christian standpoint by Godefroid Kurth. He is very earnest and conscientious in all that he does and he labors untiringly for the interests of the church. It will be interesting in this connection to note something of the history of St. Michael's church of Bement, of which Father Hawley is the pastor. Its record is as follows.

The Catholic church in Piatt county gained its first stronghold in the early '60s. Previous to this time Catholicism had made its way into this section of the

state for Catholic families had located within the borders of the county and continued their belief in the doctrines of the great organization which has its center in Rome. However, there was no permanent church formation and the people only had religious ministrations as priests came from Danville or Decatur. The Catholic families were scattered in the southern part of Piatt county, but it was only at rare intervals that the priests of the church came to this locality and no record was kept of their visits or of the work done among the followers of Catholicism. At times of baptisms or deaths the people usually visited Decatur, but in the early '60s the work was firmly instituted here by the Rev. A. Vogt of Decatur, who held regular services and continued his work among his Catholic followers in Piatt county until 1865. At that time Rev. P. Toner, pastor of the church in Champaign, was assigned to the mission work of Champaign and Piatt counties. The growth of the Catholic population and their deep interest in the work then led to the formation of a congregation and the erection of a house of worship which was built in Bement in 1867 at a cost of twenty-one hundred dollars. The following year the Rev. P. Bermingham was stationed as pastor of the Catholic church at Ivesdale and Bement was made one of the out-missions of that place, so continuing until June, 1871. At that time, on account of ill health, Father Bermingham took a trip to Europe and upon his return he passed away in Cleveland, Ohio. He was succeeded by the Rev. Thomas Shanley, who was a man of marked executive ability and energy as well as of deep Christian purpose and strong character. He soon brought about many new reforms that proved of marked benefit to Catholicism and led to the growth of the church. He had labored, however, for only a few years when death claimed him and he passed to his reward on the 2d of September, 1874. This worthy Christian priest was then succeeded by the Rev. M. J. Byrne, who very successully carried on his good work not only instructing his people in the teachings of the church, but also having marked influence in behalf of the cause of temperance. He taught the wrongfulness of the vice of drink and largely eliminated the use of intoxicants among the Catholics in this community. Throughout the years the congregation grew in numbers and force and in Christian spirit, and in 1889 the increase in the congregation demanded larger accommodations so that a new church was erected at a cost of forty-five hundred dollars and this was dedicated on its completion September 5, 1889. The work of the church has also been promoted in Bement by Revs. Labrie, O'Dwyer, Devany, Donovan and Barry. They continued their labors effectively in the mission until the 1st of June, 1891, when Bement was cut off from Ivesdale and placed under the charge of a missionary rector, the Rev. F. G. Lentz, who did much to further the cause among the members of the parish. A parsonage was built by this congregation during his administration, containing all modern improvements. It is a credit to the town and county and indicates the devotion of the Catholics of this locality to their church and its best interests. The present pastor is the Rev. Ernest Hawley, who took charge in 1900. He is a man of scholarly attainments, of broad general

learning and a comprehensive understanding of Catholicism and its teachings. His devotion to his parishioners and their best interests is most marked, and under his supervision the church is making rapid and satisfactory progress, the different branches of work being now in a thriving condition.

H. W. WHEELER.

H. W. Wheeler, who is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits on section 36, Cerro Gordo township, is a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Macon county, April 15, 1855. His father, Charles Wheeler, was born in Kentucky and in early manhood married Mary Wheeler, a native of Tennessee. Though bearing the same name they were not related prior to their marriage. They were among the pioneers of Macon county, Illinois, their home being on a farm near Spangler Mills, where in the midst of the forest the father cleared a tract of land and placed it under cultivation. Throughout life he followed the occupation of farming. In his family were fifteen children, seven of whom are now living, namely: Mrs. Hathaway and Alfred, both residents of Nebraska; John, a resident of Long Creek, Macon county, Illinois; Mrs. Belle Schroll, who lives on a farm near Independence, Iowa; H. W., of this review; Leander, a resident of Macon county; and James, of Nebraska.

Reared upon the home farm, H. W. Wheeler obtained his education in the district schools of that locality and gave his father the benefit of his labor in the cultivation of the fields until eighteen years of age. He has made farming his life work, and in following that occupation has met with good success. The first piece of property he acquired was a tract of thirty acres on section 36, Cerro Gordo township, Piatt county, and he has since added to the place until he now has one hundred and twenty acres under a high state of cultivation and well improved with good and substantial buildings.

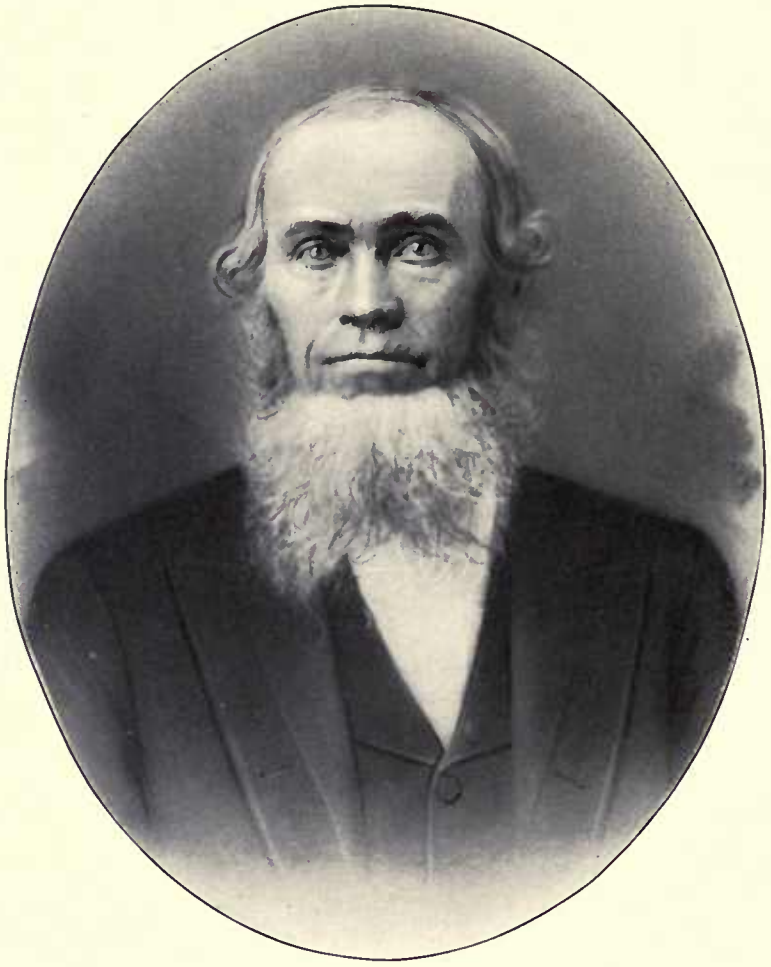
Mr. Wheeler was married on the 12th of March, 1883, to Miss Isabella Dobson, a native of Scott county, Illinois, and a daughter of Philip and Isabella (Morley) Dobson, the former of whom was born in Scarborough, England, and the latter in Whitby, England. In 1850 they emigrated to America and settled near Jacksonville in Morgan county, Illinois, but shortly afterward removed to Lynnville, the same county, and in 1866 came to Piatt county, locating in Cerro Gordo township. Mr. Dobson has been called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died March 13, 1893, and he now makes his home in Richmond, Virginia. Of their eight children seven are yet living: Mrs. Mary Balch, of Cerro Gordo; Mrs. Sarah Ankrom, of Douglas county, Illinois; Isabella, wife of our subject; Robinson, a resident of Cerro Gordo township, this county; Rachel, wife of Arthur B. Lamb, of Bement township; Anna, wife of William Brandenburg, of Cerro Gordo; and John, of Cerro Gordo township. Mrs. Wheeler was educated in the public schools of Cerro Gordo and the Normal College at Valparaiso, Indiana, and for a number of years successfully engaged in teaching in Cerro Gordo township. Our subject and his wife have three children: Philip, Mary and Martha, and the family is one of prominence in the community where they re-

side. In his political views Mr. Wheeler is a Democrat, and he gives an earnest support to all measures which he believes will prove of public benefit.

A. D. PIERSON.

A. D. Pierson, whose home is on section 33, Unity township, is one of the most progressive and enterprising farmers of that locality and a worthy representative of one of the most prominent and influential families of that section of the country. He was born on the 2d of July, 1857, in Vigo county, Indiana, and is a son of Willis C. Pierson, who was a native of Kentucky and from that state removed with his mother to Vigo county, Indiana, when only four years old, his father, Elijah Pierson having died in Kentucky. Prior to that time only three settlements had been made in the county, these being known as the Reed, Drake and Langtry colonies. Indians were then far more numerous than the white men and Vigo county had but just entered upon its era of development. Willis C. Pierson aided in clearing and breaking many an acre of land in that state and bore an active part in its early improvement. In early manhood he married Miss Eveline Reed, a distant relative of S. R. Reed, of Monticello, Illinois, and a daughter of William Reed, whose family was also from Kentucky. By this union thirteen children were born, seven of whom are still living, the birth of six of these occurring in Vigo county, Indiana, and the others in Piatt county, Illinois.

In March, 1865, Mr. Pierson and his family started for Illinois in an old covered wagon. It proved a tedious journey as it took them about fourteen days to make the trip, at times being able to travel only four miles per day. In 1868 the father located permanently in Piatt county, where he found the prairies covered with ponds and sloughs and most of the land wild and unbroken. He purchased an eighty acre tract from the Indiana, Decatur & Western Railroad, now the Champaign, Havana & Western road, for which he paid eighteen dollars per acre. It was all wild and only about thirty acres were then fit for cultivation, the remainder being under water. The village of Pierson has been laid out upon this place, which now belongs to our subject, and was named in his honor. The father tiled this land and made many improvements thereon. For many years he successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising and was also interested in the grain and mercantile business at Pierson for eight years as a member of the firm of Pierson & Son, our subject being the junior partner. His fellow citizens recognizing his worth and ability called upon him to serve as commissioner of Unity township for the long period of nineteen years, and for two years he filled the office of justice of the peace and as tax assessor one year. His friends and neighbors often sought his counsel and he was a man of marked influence in the community where he resided. He was practically the founder of the Missionary Baptist church here and gave the land on which it and the parsonage stood to be the property of the church as long as it stood there, but the buildings have since been removed. For over forty years Mr. Pierson was a member of the Masonic lodge at Atwood and was also a prominent member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for many years, holding the office of treasurer in both organizations for some time. After



WILLIS C. PIERSON



MRS. WILLIS C. PIERSON

his retirement from active business, he devoted considerable attention to his apiary, having forty stands, and he found great pleasure in working among his bees. In his political views he was a Democrat and as every true American citizen should do he took an active interest in public affairs. After a useful and well-spent life he passed away July 6, 1898, honored and respected by all who knew him, and his wife departed this life February 8, 1896.

The children of the family still living are: Mary J., wife of A. Beedle and a resident of Garrett, Douglas county, Illinois; Catherine, wife of H. J. Rigney, the oldest merchant of Pierson; Candacy, wife of Melborn Bell, who has a fruit farm near Redlands, California; A. D., who is fourth in order of birth; J. G., a member of the firm of Pierson & Fisher, hardware merchants of Pierson; Emma, wife of James White, of Moultrie county, Illinois; and Mame, wife of Richard Willis, a fruit farmer of Redlands, California.

A. D. Pierson attended the public schools of Piatt county and gained a good practical business education as his father's assistant. For a time he conducted a hotel and livery stable in Buffalo, Illinois, and since then has made his home uninterruptedly in Piatt county. He had a splendid farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 21, Unity township, north of Pierson, and on selling that place he purchased the old homestead where he now resides. This farm consists of one hundred and eighty-four acres on section 33, Unity township, just south of Pierson, and is a well-improved and valuable tract. Mr. Pierson is engaged principally in raising broom-corn and is regarded as one of the most progressive and practical farmers of Piatt county.

In September, 1880, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Pierson and Miss Susan J. Hook, a daughter of John and Catherine (Montgomery) Hook. Her father was born in Ross county, Ohio, and was but twelve years of age on his removal to Moultrie county, Illinois, with his parents, Jacob and Susan (Frederick) Hook, the family locating there in 1847. The unbroken prairies abounded in wild game and the Hook family experienced many of the hardships and trials of pioneer life in their new home. Mrs. Pierson is the oldest in a family of ten children, all of whom reached man and womanhood, and six of the number are still living, the others being Mrs. Sarah Shultz; Amanda, who married Hiram Meece, of Moultrie county; James, who married Maggie Dick; P. C., who married Alice Chase; and Harvey. The mother of these children died and the father subsequently married Mrs. Susan Davis, and since August, 1902, has lived a retired life in Pierson. He is one of a family of six children and the living are all residents of Moultrie county with exception of Mrs. Pierson's father.

Our subject and his wife have six children: Willis C., Elmer Elsworth, Charley C., Pearl, Grover G. and Samuel D. Willis C., named for his grandfather, was married in May, 1903, to Miss Blanche Benner and lives on the home farm. Mr. Pierson is a member of the Missionary Baptist church and a stanch supporter of the Democratic party. For five years he efficiently served as ditch commissioner and has been a valuable member of the school board for fifteen years, taking an active interest in educational affairs and in the material upbuilding and prosperity of his township and county. He is a man of progressive ideas and sound judgment which renders him an important factor in public affairs.

WILLIAM NOECKER, M. D.

Fifty years have been added to the cycle of the centuries since Dr. William Noecker came to Monticello. He had just graduated from the Starling Medical College, and here he entered upon his professional career, in which he was destined to gain honor and distinction. For thirty years he devoted his energies to the alleviation of human suffering and then he put aside professional cares to engage in the banking business in which he continued for about twenty years, being the president, as well as the founder of the First National Bank of Monticello. Among the earnest men whose depth of character and strict adherence to principles excite the admiration of contemporaries, Dr. Noecker was prominent and he was as influential in financial circles as he was active in the practice of medicine. Banking institutions are the heart of the commercial body, indicating the healthfulness of trade, and the bank that follows a safe, conservative business policy does more to establish confidence in times of widespread financial depression than anything else. Such a course did the First National Bank of Monticello follow under the able management of its president, the subject of this review. For a half century he was one of the active business men of Piatt county, and probably no single individual was more widely or favorably known within its borders.

The Doctor was a native of Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, born in April, 1823, and represented an old family of Berks county, that state. It was in the latter county that his paternal grandfather spent his entire life, and there it was that John Noecker, the father of the Doctor, was born. After arriving at years of maturity, however, he married and removed to Northumberland county, where he engaged in farming. His wife bore the maiden name of Maria Stump, and was also a native of Berks county, but both spent their last days in Northumberland county, where they had long resided and where they reared their family of twelve children, all of whom reached adult age, the youngest to pass away being forty years of age at the time of death.

Dr. Noecker spent the first fifteen years of his life under the parental roof and then accompanied an elder brother to Pickaway county, Ohio. As there were no railroads then they traveled in a spring wagon drawn by a team of horses, and for some years thereafter the Doctor was connected with farm work. He also embraced every opportunity possible for securing an education, and in 1849 he began teaching, which profession he followed for two years. At the end of that time he resolved to give his attention to other professional labor and took up the study of medicine, Dr. Peter K. Hull, of Circleville, Ohio, directing his reading. In the winter of 1851 he became a student in the Starling Medical College, of Columbus, Ohio, where he continued to attend lectures until February, 1853, when he was graduated and received his degree. In March he started for Monticello with the intention of establishing an office and engaging in practice here.

Westward of Ohio lay a section of the country as yet largely unimproved and in many sections the work of cultivation and development had scarcely been begun. Methods of travel were then very primitive

as compared to the parlor coaches on the railroads of to-day, and the young physician traveled by stage from Columbus to Cincinnati, where he took passage on an Ohio river boat. On reaching the Mississippi he proceeded up that stream to Alton and on by rail to Springfield, which was the nearest railroad station to Monticello. He learned that at eight o'clock the next morning the stage would start for Piatt county. He made preparations to continue his journey at that time and when the hour arrived he saw a team drive to the hotel, to which was attached a two-wheeled cart, and on the axle was a dry-goods box. The Doctor engaged passage in this primitive vehicle but the driver refused to take both his trunks and he was obliged to leave one behind. Three times the driver stopped to change horses and yet it was three o'clock on the following morning before they arrived at their destination. In such a manner did Dr. Noecker arrive in Monticello, which was then a mere village in the midst of a sparsely settled region. At that time the merchants largely bought their goods in Springfield and brought them by team to Monticello and Dr. Noecker soon made arrangements with the teamster to bring his trunk.

Then began his professional labor here. He formed a partnership with Dr. C. R. Ward, but the connection continued for only a few months, after which Dr. Noecker practiced alone. His was the usual experience of the physician who settles upon the frontier in a thinly populated district. Calls came to him from long distances, and necessitated hard rides at all hours and through all kinds of weather. Most of the settlers lived in the timber regions bordering the Sangamon river and Goose and Camp creeks. There was little money in circulation and thus collections were very difficult, but as the years advanced and the people prospered Dr. Noecker received a profitable and extensive patronage. For thirty years he continued in practice here and into many a household carried comfort and cheer. His professional skill was continually augmented by his reading and research and viewed from both a professional and financial standpoint his labors were crowned with success. Great had been the changes which had occurred during that time, the country having become thickly populated, while science, too, had made marked advance, rendering the labors of the progressive physician much more beneficial. With a nature that could never content itself with mediocrity, Dr. Noecker had continually kept abreast of the times, and many of his patrons felt loath to part with his professional services when he determined to retire from the practice of his profession. He then turned his attention to the banking business and established the Bank of Monticello, now the First National Bank, which has become one of the safe and reliable moneyed institutions of this part of the state.

In 1861 was celebrated the marriage of Dr. Noecker and Miss Ella Britton, a native of Ross county, Ohio, and a daughter of John and Jane Britton. They had but one child, who died at the age of four years. Mrs. Noecker is a most estimable lady, cultured and of innate refinement, and over her pleasant home she presides with gracious and charming hospitality.

The Doctor's political support was ever given to the Democracy, and he served

as a member of the school board and as city treasurer. There were many elements in his life history worthy of emulation. The secret of his success was undoubtedly that he had a talent for hard work and close application, combined with a mind which delighted in investigation. Realizing that "there is no excellence without labor" he attended closely to the details of his profession and of his banking business, carefully superintending each department. Such methods cannot fail to win success, but it is not the acquirement of success which is so deserving of commendation, but the use of it in ways that benefit mankind, and in this regard Monticello's citizens speak of Dr. Noecker in terms of highest praise. He died very suddenly of throat trouble, May 4, 1897, at Columbus, Indiana.

S. M. FUNK.

S. M. Funk, ex-county treasurer and dealer in hardware, cutlery, buggies and harness at Cerro Gordo, has resided in Piatt county since the year 1853. He is a native of Indiana and a son of Abraham and Eliza J. (McKinney) Funk, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Indiana. The father lived in his native state until 1836, when he removed to Bloomington, Illinois, where he was married, and there made his home until 1853. In that year he arrived in Piatt county, taking up his abode in Willow Branch township, where for several years he was engaged in farming. He then removed to Macon county, Illinois, where he lived for a short time, but soon returned to Piatt county, and at this time settled in the village of Cerro Gordo, where he lived a retired life until called to his final rest in the year 1890. His widow still survives him and is widely known as Grandma Funk in Monticello, where she makes her home. There were five children born unto this worthy couple, four of whom are now living, as follows: Emma, the widow of Sanford Tracy, who resides in Cerro Gordo; Samuel M., whose name introduces this record; Amelia, the wife of William Edie, of Monticello; and Theodore, who married Alice Good and now resides in Decatur, Illinois. For several years he was a successful teacher of Piatt county.

Like the other members of the family Samuel M. Funk pursued his education in the common schools and had no advantages beyond that. After putting aside his textbooks he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits in Cerro Gordo township and was engaged in farming until after the inauguration of the Civil war, when in response to his country's need he offered his services. It was in August, 1862, that he joined Company K, One Hundred and Seventh Illinois Infantry under Colonel Thomas Snell of Clinton, and at a later date Colonel Lowry of Monticello commanded the regiment. Captain U. M. Lawrence was in command of the company which took part in a number of important engagements, including the battle of Knoxville, the Atlanta campaign and the capture of Wilmington and Raleigh. Mr. Funk was never injured in any way and at Salisbury, North Carolina, on the 10th of July, 1865, he received an honorable discharge after three years of faithful and valorous service.

Mr. Funk returned to Cerro Gordo township, where he resumed his agricultural pursuits. He was married to Miss Sarah A. Chilson, a native of Ohio and a daughter

of William A. Chilson, who was one of the early settlers of Piatt county, where he arrived in 1857. Here he followed farming, which he carried on continuously until his death. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Funk have been born eight children, of whom four are now living, namely: John E., who is a partner in his father's store; Samuel E., who is now farming in Cerro Gordo township and who served as county deputy treasurer of Piatt county for four years; Cora A., at home; Aaron L., who is assisting his father in the store and who through several years was a capable teacher of the county. The children of the family who have passed away are Eugene M., who died in November, 1902; Elvaretta, William A. and Charles W.

Mr. Funk engaged in farming in Cerro Gordo township until 1883, when he removed to the village of that name and entered upon his present business. He yet owns a fine farm of 240 acres in Cerro Gordo township, which is operated by his children. He now has two large stores, in one of which he carries a full line of general hardware, stoves, etc. To the conduct of this business he gives his personal attention. The other store is stocked with a good large supply of buggies and harness. Mr. Funk has secured a good patronage and now has a profitable trade. He has also been quite active and well known in public affairs. For several years he served as collector of Cerro Gordo township and in 1898 he was elected county treasurer of Piatt county in which capacity he ably served for four years or until December, 1902, when he retired from office as he had entered it—with the confidence and good will of all. In politics he has always been a Republican, taking an active interest in the growth and success of the party and is recognized as one of its leader in this part of the county. Socially, he is a member of the Grand Army Post, No. 210 of Cerro Gordo and both he and his wife hold membership relations with the Methodist Episcopal church in the town. He has been one of its members for more than forty years and takes much interest in church work. Mr. Funk has been a very successful business man and no man is better known in this part of the county.

JOHN E. COMERFORD.

John E. Comerford is one of the younger and prominent business men of the village of Bement, actively associated with its industrial interests, and he possesses the qualities—industry, enterprise and laudable ambition—which will bring him future success. He is one of Piatt county's native sons, his birth having occurred in Cerro Gordo township, near Milmine, on the 26th of April, 1877. He is a son of Robert and Mary (Seitz) Comerford. His father was a native of Ireland, who when but sixteen years of age left the Emerald Isle for the new world, taking up his abode in Piatt county, Illinois. In 1846 he first purchased a farm in Cerro Gordo township of eighty acres of prairie land, and at once began its development, making excellent improvements upon it and transforming it until it was a rich and productive farm. From time to time he added to the original purchase until he was the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of valuable and improved land. He carried on his work with marked enterprise and industry and by his careful management

and diligence he accumulated a handsome competence. His death occurred upon the old homestead in January, 1895, at the advanced age of sixty-five years. He belonged to the Catholic church and was a Democrat in his political views, but he never sought or desired political preferment. His life record furnishes to his children an example that is indeed worthy of emulation, for he so lived as to merit the regard of all with whom he came in contact. His wife survived him and now resides in Bement, where she has purchased a pleasant home, being there surrounded by the comforts of life. By her marriage she became the mother of six children, five of whom are still living. Barney, who resides near Milmine, occupies a part of the old home farm in Cerro Gordo township, and devotes his attention to its cultivation. He married Bridget Tynan and they have three children: Lona, Mary and Daniel. Anna is the wife of John Uhl, of Pana, Illinois, who is a traveling salesman for a hide and leather house of Cincinnati. They have four children: Mary, Thomas, Victor and Augusta. Michael, who resides upon a part of the old home farm, wedded Alice Gulliford, a native of this county, and they had one child that died in infancy. Robert has recently removed from Bement to Monticello, where he is now living. Joseph died in infancy. The youngest member of the family is John E.

Mr. Comerford of this review entered the public schools at the usual age and continued his studies in Bement until after he had completed the high school course. Subsequently he entered St. Bede College, in LaSalle, Illinois, and was graduated in that institution when eighteen years of age. Returning to his home in Piatt county he accepted a clerkship in a clothing store in Cerro Gordo, and was also employed as a clerk in Bement after the removal of the family to this place about eight years ago. He continued in the clothing business for about four years in Bement, and then followed the undertaking business as a member of the firm of Evans & Comerford, his connection therewith covering two years. On the expiration of that period he sold his interest to A. Swinson, who still conducts the business. Mr. Comerford then engaged in the manufacture of brooms at his present location, and from the beginning his business has steadily and constantly increased so that he now employs a large force of expert broommakers. They also manufacture all kinds of brushes that are made from broomcorn. In the control of this enterprise Mr. Comerford has displayed marked business ability, executive force and keen discrimination. He forms his plans readily and is determined in their execution and along legitimate business lines he is winning very creditable success.

On the 29th of April, 1903, in Ivesdale, Champaign county, Illinois, was celebrated a pretty wedding ceremony which united the destinies of John E. Comerford and Miss Josephine Foohy, a native of Ivesdale. The wedding was solemnized in St. Joseph's church by its pastor, Rev. Charles C. O'Brien, who, assisted by Rev. Hawley, of Bement, and Rev. Berry, of Philo, performed the ceremony in connection with solemn mass. The bride is a daughter of John Foohy, who is now living a retired life in Ivesdale, where he was formerly engaged in the grain business. He has always been a prosperous and pro-

gressive man and has accumulated considerable property. He is a communicant of the Catholic church there and a well-known and influential citizen. Mrs. Comerford was educated in Ivesdale and in St. Mary's Academy, near Terre Haute, Indiana.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Comerford are communicants of the Roman Catholic church, and fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias Lodge, No. 199, of Bement, in which he has passed all of the chairs. He votes with the Democracy, but has never sought or desired public office. A young man of genial disposition and kindly manner, he is popular with a large circle of friends, and in Bement is widely and favorably known. Already he has established for himself a position in the business world and those who know him have no hesitancy in predicting for him a successful future.

H. W. BUCKLE.

The press has not only recorded the history of advancement, but has also ever been the leader in the work of progress and improvement—the vanguard of civilization. The philosopher of some centuries ago proclaimed the truth that "the pen is mightier than the sword," and the statement is continually being verified in the affairs of life. In molding public opinion the power of the newspaper cannot be over estimated, but at all events its influence is greater than that of any other single agency. Mr. Buckle is connected with the journalistic interests of Monticello as the manager of the Monticello Bulletin Company, and through much of his life has devoted his energies to this line of work.

A native of Ohio, Mr. Buckle was born on the banks of the Ohio river, in Gallia county, and began his education in private schools, while later he continued his studies in the National Normal University, at Lebanon, where he was graduated with the class of 1892. He next matriculated in Rio Grande College, at Rio Grande, Ohio, completing his work there by graduation in 1895. Turning his attention to journalistic work he was for some time employed on leading newspapers in Wisconsin, and later he began teaching, which profession he followed for thirteen years, four of which were spent in Kansas, two in Ohio, four in Illinois and the remainder of the time being spent in village schools and in graded schools at Mound City and Milan, Illinois. At Geneseo, Illinois, he published a daily and weekly paper, and from the latter place he went to Freeport, Illinois, where for a year he was interested in the Freeport Daily Democrat. In May, 1901, he bought an interest in the Monticello Bulletin. This paper was established in 1858 and is the oldest paper in the county, having been published by a succession of proprietors. The paper is now owned by a stock company. In January, 1903, it was incorporated and has one hundred stockholders with a paid up capital of five thousand dollars. Its officers are as follows: James Hicks, president; H. W. Buckle, secretary; T. J. Ater, treasurer; and William C. Handlin, vice president, and the board of directors numbers nine members.

Mr. Buckle is now the manager of the paper, which has a large circulation in Monticello and Piatt county, and this constitutes the journal an excellent advertising medium. The offices are equipped with a

large two revolution cylinder press, a new modern gasoline engine, a folder, a perforator, job press, paper cutter, type, etc., in fact, it is the best equipped newspaper and job plant in Piatt county. Mr. Buckle is thoroughly familiar with newspaper work in all its various departments and as manager of the Monticello Bulletin he has developed a paper which is a credit to the city.

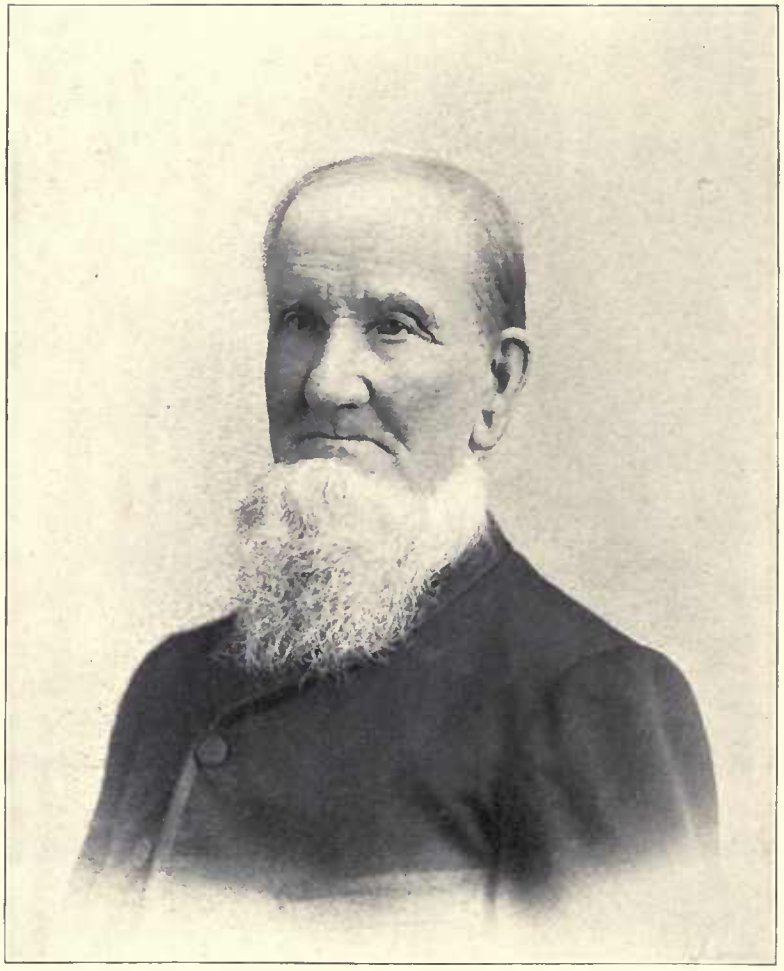
JOHN H. SMOCK.

John H. Smock, who is a son of Samuel Smock, follows farming on section 3, Monticello township. He was born on the old home farm in Piatt county, November 15, 1861, and was educated in the common schools. He can remember that in his early life there were many log houses in the district and the school was one of the primitive constructions supplied with slab benches, while planks hinged into the wall served as desks, but long since such buildings have given place to buildings of modern construction. Farm work claimed his attention during the summer months, while the duties of the schoolroom occupied his time through the winter seasons. He put aside his text-books about 1881 and continued upon the home place until he had attained his majority, when he began farming in partnership with his father. They made a specialty of the raising of thoroughbred hogs, which they carried on extensively until cholera occasioned the loss of many of these animals. They had mostly hogs of the Poland China breed. Mr. Smock continued to carry on farming in connection with his father until 1893, when he was married.

The lady who now bears the name of Mrs. John H. Smock was in her maidenhood Miss Emma Frances Hubbart, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hubbart, of Neosho county, Missouri, but who were early settlers of Piatt county, removing from here to Missouri about thirty years ago. At the time of his marriage Mr. Smock began by renting the farm upon which he resides, then known as the old Hast farm. This he has continued to operate for ten years. The entire place shows general improvement and the farm indicates the careful supervision of the owner who is a progressive and practical agriculturist. He has planted a good orchard, has built a new residence and outbuildings and has continued the work of improvement until to-day the farm is valuable and most attractive. For three years Mr. Smock has served as school director and he gives his political support to the Democracy. He belongs to White Heath Camp, No. 2219, Modern Woodmen of America, and his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JOHN M. CAMP.

John M. Camp, one of the early settlers of Piatt county now residing in the village of Bement, was born at Mount Morris, New York, on the 3d of January, 1832. The Camp family is of English lineage and the paternal grandfather of our subject was Abram Camp, who was a physician and spent the greater part of his life in the Empire state. He never came to the west except to visit his children and he died in New York at an advanced age. Eldad Cicero Camp, the father of our subject, was born in Connecticut in 1804, and in early life became a resident



ELDAD CAMP



J. M. CAMP

of New York, where for many years he followed farming. Upon his removal to Ohio, he purchased land in Knox county and continued its cultivation until 1865, when he continued on his westward way, this time locating in Piatt county, Illinois. For more than thirty years he remained a resident of this county, dying in the village of Bement in 1896. Throughout his business career he carried on general farming and stock-raising. At the time of his arrival here he purchased a tract of raw prairie land which he cultivated and improved, developing it into a good home for himself and family. He wedded Miss Minerva M. Hinman, who was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, their marriage being celebrated in Mount Morris, New York. She died in Ohio in 1863 when about fifty-nine years of age. Both were members of the Presbyterian church, living lives in consistent harmony with its teachings, and for many years he was an elder in the church, his labors in its behalf being far-reaching and beneficial. His political support in early life was given to the Whig party and upon its dissolution he joined the ranks of the new Republican party, with which he continued to affiliate until his demise. Unto him and his wife were born thirteen children, six of whom are yet living, the eldest of the survivors being John M. Camp. The others are James H., who resides in Tolono, Champaign county, Illinois; William M., who is president of the First National Bank of Bement; Eldad C., a resident of Knoxville, Tennessee; Curtis, who is engaged in the grain business in Bement; and Henry N., who is also living in Knoxville, Tennessee. Two of the sisters died in early life, but the other reached years of maturity. Those who passed away in early childhood were both named Harriet and the elder died at the age of five years and the younger at the age of two years. Emily F. became the wife of Dr. Edward Swaney and both are now deceased. She resided in Bement and died at the age of fifty-eight years. Stanley departed this life at the age of twenty-five years. Edgar, who responded to his country's call for aid and became a captain of the One Hundred and Seventh Illinois Infantry, was killed in the Civil war. Hanson, who was a boot and shoe merchant of Bement, died in this place about two years ago, leaving a widow, but no children. Frederick departed this life about 1865.

John M. Camp was only four years of age when his parents removed from New York to Knox county, Ohio, and in the latter place he was reared to manhood and obtained his education in the common schools. When not engaged with the duties of the schoolroom he assisted his father in the work of the home farm. In his youth he also learned the carpenter's trade which he followed for a number of years in Ohio and which he continued to make his life work after his removal to Illinois. Settling in Bement he did the carpenter work and was the contractor for the first house erected in this village. It was built in 1855 and was the property of Joseph Rodman. Mr. Camp also built the first schoolhouse that was erected here and took and executed the contracts for the erection of the Christian and Presbyterian churches in this place. Monuments to his enterprise are still seen in a number of substantial buildings in Bement, but in 1872 he discontinued his connection with industrial life and turned his attention to commercial pursuits, becoming a grain merchant here. He has since followed the business and to-day he owns an

elevator having a capacity of thirty thousand bushels. He is also largely interested in the grain trade at Ivesdale and at Vorhies, Illinois, owning the elevators at different places having greater capacity than the one at Bement. His operations in grain are now extensive and profitable, his business returning to him an excellent financial income.

In 1860 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Camp and Miss Margaret Holm, a native of Ohio. The wedding took place in Marion county, Ohio, and with her husband Mrs. Camp came to Illinois, her death occurring in Bement in 1870.

For his second wife Mr. Camp chose Frances A. Kimber, a native of England who came to the United States to live with her sister, but her parents spent their entire lives in England. Three children have been born of the second marriage, of whom two are living: Mallary C., the eldest, was born in Bement, November 15, 1876, was educated in the common schools and is now engaged in the grain trade with his father. He married Lulu B. Bennett, a native of Ohio. He is a popular representative of the Masonic fraternity and he also belongs to the Presbyterian church. William R., the second of the family, died when about three years old. Lena Z., also born in Bement, resides at home.

Mr. Camp gives his political support to the Republican party and has served as the supervisor of the county, as a member of the town board and in other offices, yet has never been a politician in the sense of office-seeking, preferring to devote his energies to his business affairs. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Presbyterian church and for some years he has been a member of the board of finance. He also belongs to the Masonic fraternity and is true to its teachings and its tenets. For almost a half century Mr. Camp has made his home in Piatt county and his mind bears the impress of its early annals as well as of the later events which have shaped its history. He has been particularly active in business and public life in this section of the county and has cooperated along many lines for public improvement and progress. In his business dealings he has always been found reliable and energetic, and what he has accomplished has been won through his own well directed efforts. By those who know him his worth is widely acknowledged and his name is inscribed high on the roll of honored pioneers of Piatt county.

ANDREW J. RICHEY.

After years of honest toil, mostly devoted to agricultural pursuits, Andrew J. Richey is now living a retired life in the village of Atwood, enjoying a well-earned rest. He was born in Shelby county, Kentucky, on the 2d of October, 1827, his parents being Robert and Elizabeth (Biggs) Richey, who were also natives of the Blue Grass state and were married in Shelby county in 1826. When our subject was about five years of age the family removed to Montgomery county, Indiana, being among the early settlers of that locality, and later they lived for some time in Vigo and Sullivan counties, that state, where the father was engaged in general farming. He died in Vigo county in 1861, and his wife, who long survived him, passed away in the same county in 1901, at the extreme old age of ninety-four years. Unto them were born

nine children, of whom one died young but the others reached man and womanhood and five of the number are still living.

Andrew J. Richey spent his boyhood and youth upon a farm, and was educated in the old-time subscription schools so common in that day in Indiana, the temple of learning being a primitive log structure with its rude furnishings. As soon as old enough to be of any assistance he began to aid in the work of the farm and throughout his active business life continued to engage in agricultural pursuits. He remained with his father until he attained his majority.

On the 9th of November, 1848, Mr. Richey was united in marriage to Miss Barbara Doty, a native of Indiana, who died in 1867, leaving five children, as follows: Theodore, now a resident of Clay county, Indiana, married Martha Wilson and has five children. Emery married Belle Nolan and died, leaving six children, who, with their mother, reside in Arkansas. James wedded Eva Lumly and with his wife and five children makes his home in Atwood, Illinois. Mary is the wife of James Griffin, a farmer of Unity township, this county, and has eight children. Eli, a resident of Moultrie county, Illinois, married Sarah Wagner and has seven children. Mr. Richey was again married December 12, 1867, his second union being with Mrs. Elizabeth Williams, widow of Cornelius Williams and daughter of John and Catharine (Terry) Moon, who were pioneers of Piatt county and are now deceased. This Mrs. Richey was born in Monongahela, Pennsylvania, December 12, 1830, and died in 1901. For his third wife our subject married Elizabeth Doty, a native of Indiana, their wedding being celebrated May 21, 1902.

Mr. Richey continued his residence in Indiana until 1862, when he removed to Moultrie county, Illinois, where three years later he bought a farm of two hundred acres in Lowe township, and he also purchased a tract of eighty acres in Unity township, Piatt county, but made his home on the former place, his time and attention being devoted to general farming until his removal to Atwood in 1891, when he retired from business life. On coming to Illinois he found much of this section of the state still wild and unimproved and as the land in many places was low and under water ague was prevalent. Most of his own farm, however, was higher land and he drained the remainder, using a dredging boat. He fenced his property, erected good and substantial buildings and planted the seed from which to-day have grown the large and beautiful trees which now adorn the place. Mr. Richey has been prominently identified with the upbuilding of Atwood and laid out fifteen acres into town lots. Land which he purchased at nine dollars per acre in 1864 is to-day valued at one hundred and twenty-five dollars, while the eighty-acre tract in Piatt county for which he paid forty-five dollars per acre is now worth one hundred and twenty-five dollars, owing to the rise in value and the many improvements he has placed thereon.

Mr. and Mrs. Richey hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church of Atwood and have the respect and confidence of all who know them. He cast his first presidential vote for Zachary Taylor and is now a stalwart supporter of the Republican party and its principles. He has efficiently filled the offices of township trustee and school director, assisted in organizing his district and was prominently identified with the upbuilding of Lowe township morally, socially and

materially. Mr. Richey has ever been regarded as one of the representative men of his community and a leader in public affairs.

GEORGE W. PITTMAN.

Although born in Ohio George W. Pittman has spent the greater part of his life in Piatt county, Illinois, and is here widely and favorably known. His birth occurred on the 24th of February, 1837, in Butler county, Ohio, his parents being Aaron Ford and Katherine Bake Pittman. The father was born in New York and the mother in the Buckeye state. He devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits, which he carried on in Ohio for a number of years. In 1854, however, he brought his family to Piatt county, Illinois, and here purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, for which he paid eleven dollars per acre. Establishing his home thereon, both he and his wife lived there until called to their final rest, and they were widely known as prominent farming people of the community, enjoying the warm friendship of many with whom they came in contact. Mr. Pittman, who was born August 14, 1811, died April 19, 1900, and his wife, whose birth occurred on the 17th of February, 1815, passed away on the 13th of August, 1875. In their family were nine children, of whom the subject of this review was the fourth in order of birth: J. V., who was born March 11, 1832, and died July 7, 1893; Jacob Bake, who was born November 17, 1833, and died August 11, 1834; George W., born February 24, 1837; Johnson C., who was born April 14, 1841, and died August 22. 1870; William A., born November 11, 1843; Leonard, born August 2, 1845; Sylvester, who was born May 21, 1847, and died September 29, 1865; Franklin, born June 6, 1850; and Lida A., born September 14, 1855.

George W. Pittman acquired his early education in the district schools of Piatt county. He began working by the month when a young man, being employed by George Hayde for sixteen dollars per month. Later he rented his father's farm and thus began agricultural pursuits on his own account. When his labors had brought to him sufficient capital, he made purchase of a tract of land of eighty acres in Blue Ridge township, becoming owner of this property in 1875. About a quarter of a century later he made another purchase, comprising sixty acres, and thus his farm constitutes in all one hundred and forty-one acres. A farm in Piatt county is a synonym for fertile soil and productive fields, if even moderate care is bestowed upon it, so rich is the land. Mr. Pittman raises stock and grain and is very successful in his work.

On the 22d of February, 1893, Mr. Pittman was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Duckwall, who was the third in a family of nine children. Her father, William Duckwall, was born August 15, 1808, and is now living near Dayton, Ohio. Her mother, who bore the maiden name of Caroline Bruner, was born January 27, 1820, and died September 15, 1890. Their children were Sarah Ann, who was born January 21, 1828, and died when but six months old; John William, born September 27, 1840; Mary Jane, born March 17, 1843, and now the wife of our subject; Laura, born November 17, 1845; Charles, born September 13, 1849; Francis Ash-

bury, born February 19, 1852; Clayton, born February 9, 1855; Clara Ellen, born April 2, 1858; and Elmer Ellsworth, born June 3, 1861.

Mr. Pittman is well known in Piatt county, having here resided for almost half a century. He has witnessed, therefore, almost the entire growth and development of this portion of the state. He has seen Piatt county when it was largely an unimproved district, when its lands were wild and when the work of cultivation had scarcely been begun. He has borne his full share in the task of improvement here and in all measures for the general good he has taken a deep interest, co-operating in many movements that have resulted for the benefit of the community.

THOMAS LAMB, SR.

Thomas Lamb, Sr., a retired agriculturist of Bement, now in his ninetieth year, is a true type of the energetic, hardy men who have actively assisted in the development and improvements of this beautiful and fertile agricultural country. His career has been such as to command the respect and confidence of men, and by honest toil and industry he has secured a competence which now enables him to spend the sunset of life in quiet and retirement.

A native of Yorkshire, England, Mr. Lamb was born at Kirklavington, April 1, 1814, and is a son of Robert and Hannah Lamb, who spent their entire lives in that country. Before coming to America he lived for a time near Middlesex, and in 1854 came to the United States, first located in Woodford county, Kentucky, where he was employed as herdsman for a Mr. Alexander, a large property owner and cattle-raiser. After spending five years in that locality he came to Piatt county, Illinois, and was engaged in farming for Mr. Scott about five years. At the end of that time he purchased one hundred and sixty cares of land about one mile west of Bement, and in his farming operations here he met with remarkable success, becoming the owner of a large amount of land, but he has recently presented each of his sons with one hundred and sixty acres of improved land, though he still retains six hundred acres in this county. The sons have other property besides the quarter-sections given them by their father.

Before leaving England Mr. Lamb was married in that country to Miss Elizabeth Lee, whose parents, John and Ann Lee, died since our subject and his wife came to the United States. Mr. Lee was a weaver by trade, and both he and his wife were lifelong residents of England, where their daughter was also born and reared. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Lamb were born eleven children, as follows: John, who died in Bement at the age of nineteen years; Robert, who married a Miss Fisher and is engaged in farming in Unity township; Thomas, who married Miss Baker and lives in Bement township; Elizabeth, at home; William, who married a Miss Hall and follows farming in Bement township; Hannah, deceased; Charles, who wedded a Miss Duncan and resides in Bement township; Arthur B., who married a Miss Dobson, a daughter of Philip Dobson, of Cerro Gordo township and lives in Bement township; Albert J., who married a Miss Kelly and resides in Bement township; Edward, who is married and makes his home in Unity township; and Mary J.,

wife of J. P. Rose, of Bement. The last four were born in this country, the others in England, and the birth of Arthur and Albert occurred in Kentucky.

Throughout his active business life Mr. Lamb continued to engage in agricultural pursuits, but about six years ago he retired and has since made his home in the village of Bement, where he is enjoying a well-earned rest in the midst of all that goes to make life worth the living. He came to this country in limited circumstances, but being industrious, enterprising and honorable in all his dealings he prospered in his undertakings and succeeded in accumulating a handsome competence. He is now a supporter of the Methodist church, but he formerly belonged to the Episcopal church, and his life has been an upright and honorable one.

B. F. HUFF.

For about twenty years Cerro Gordo has numbered B. F. Huff among its most prominent and progressive citizens. He may well be termed one of the founders of the town, for he has been the promoter of many of its leading business enterprises, and the growth and development of the city depends upon its commercial and industrial activity. His connection with any undertaking insures a prosperous outcome of the same, for it is his nature to carry forward to successful completion whatever he is associated with. He has won for himself an enviable reputation as a careful man of business, and in his dealings is known for his prompt and honorable methods, which have won him the deserved and unbounded confidence of his fellow men. He is now connected with various enterprises of Cerro Gordo, but gives his attention chiefly to the control of the lumber and coal business.

The first representative of the Huff family to settle in Piatt county was Charles Huff, an uncle of our subject, who located here in 1863. B. F. Huff is a native of Coshocton county, Ohio, where his birth occurred in 1853. His parents were Aquilla and Elizabeth (McMorris) Huff, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Ohio. On account of the institution of slavery Aquilla Huff left the Old Dominion in 1832, and removed to Coshocton county, Ohio, in order to be away from the pernicious influence of the institution which at that time was dominant in the south. In the Buckeye state he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, which he followed there until 1865, in which year he came to Illinois, settling first in Douglas county. There he successfully engaged in farming until 1881, when he came to the village of Cerro Gordo and here lived a retired life until called to his final rest in March, 1887. At the time of the Civil war he espoused the cause of the Union and held a captain's commission. He was adjutant in his regiment of the Ohio National Guards, and was very loyal to the nation's cause. In both Ohio and Illinois he was regarded as a prominent citizen of his community. His worth was widely acknowledged by a large circle of friends. His wife survived him for a short period, passing away in Ohio while visiting a son, in October, 1888. In their family were several children, but these are now living in various sections of the United States.

B. F. Huff is the only representative of

this branch of the family residing in Piatt county. After mastering his preliminary studies in the common schools he entered the University of Illinois in 1874, and afterward became a student in the Wesleyan University at Bloomington, this state. In 1881 Mr. Huff and his brothers, W. J. and S. E., established a lumberyard on the site he now occupies, under the firm name of Huff Brothers. Having other business connections in Moultrie and Edgar counties he did not make his home permanently until 1886, when having severed his connection with the lumber business he bought a half interest in a hardware store, with which he was identified until 1891. In that year he sold out and again entered the lumber business. In 1892 he entered the corporation of Huff Brothers Lumber and Planing Mill Company, of Decatur, Moweaqua, Moroa and Cerro Gordo, as its treasurer, and shortly afterward purchased the yard where he still carries on business. He disposed of his interest in the company in 1898, and has since been alone in business at Cerro Gordo. He deals in building materials and coal, with office near the depot, and enjoys a large trade.

Mr. Huff is a man of resourceful business ability, of keen foresight and discrimination, and his wise counsel and untiring activity have been important factors in the successful control of many business interests in Cerro Gordo. For twelve years he has been president of the Building and Loan Association of that place, with which he has been connected since its organization in 1886, and for two years was its secretary. He is now treasurer and a director of the telephone company of Cerro Gordo, and is one of the directors of the State Bank of Cerro Gordo. In addition to these investments Mr. Huff also owns a small farm situated three miles west of Cerro Gordo, in Macon county.

In 1885 he was married at Moravia, Iowa, to Miss Annie Horner, a native of Streator, Illinois, and a daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Brandon) Horner. Her father was a farmer and a coal miner, and at one time owned the land upon which the city of Streator has been built. There is still a mine near that place known as the Horner coal bank. Both Mr. and Mrs. Huff hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, take an active interest in its work, donate liberally to its support and do everything in their power for the extension of its influence. Mr. Huff is now serving as one of the stewards in the church and is also an active worker in the Sunday-school.

His political support is given to the Republican party, and his opinions carry weight in its councils. In 1901 he was elected supervisor of Cerro Gordo township, and is now the incumbent in that office for the second term. He is chairman of the committee on county claims and records and a member of the special building committee of the county buildings. For six years he was a member of the school board, and during that time acted as its secretary, and the cause of education received from him valuable assistance in a practical nature. He is now the president of the township school trustees of Cerro Gordo township. He has held a number of other offices in the township and county, and in all he has been found loyal to the trust reposed in him and capable in the performance of his duties. Socially he is a member of the Piatt Camp,

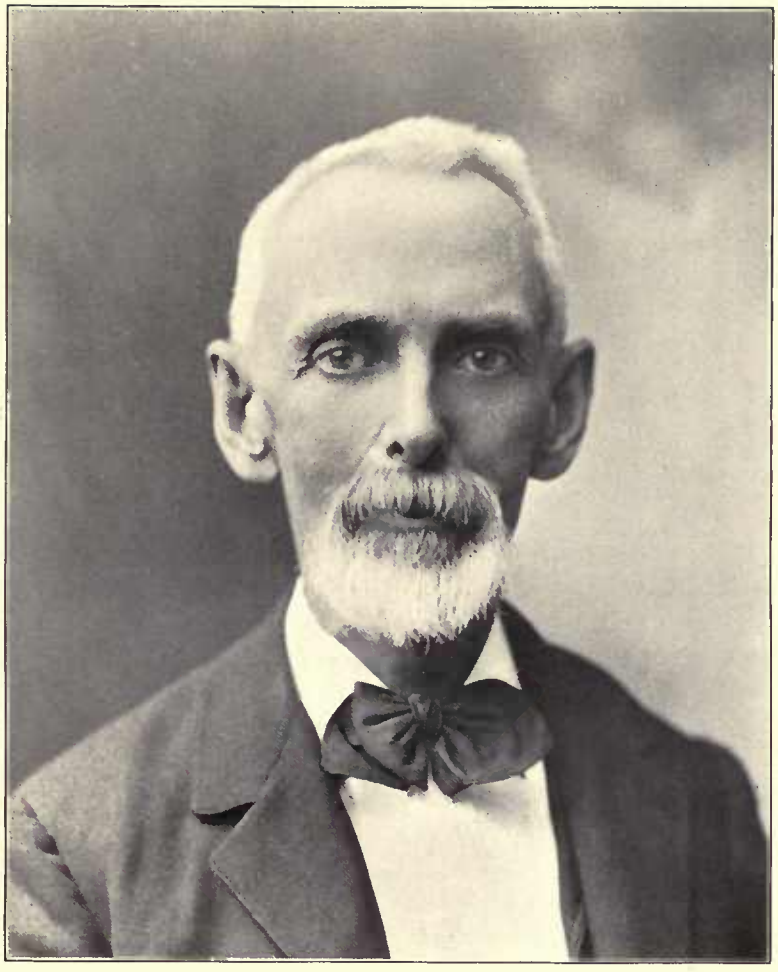
No. 323, M. W. A., of Cerro Gordo, which is one of the oldest camps in the county. He also belongs to Eclipse Lodge, Knights of Pythias. To him there has come the attainment of a distinguished position in connection with the business interests of Piatt county, and his efforts have been so discerningly directed along well-defined lines of labor that he seems to have realized at any one point of progress the full measure of his possibilities for accomplishment at that point. A man of distinct and forceful individuality, of broad mentality and most mature judgment, he has left and is leaving his impress upon the business world and his efforts have not only advanced individual prosperity, but have conserved the general welfare of the city and locality in which he makes his home.

WATKINS L. RYDER.

Honored and respected by all there is no man in Monticello who occupies a more enviable position than Watkins L. Ryder in business and financial circles, not alone on account of the brilliant success he has achieved, but also on account of the honorable, straightforward business policy he has ever followed. He possesses untiring energy, is quick of perception, forms his plans readily and is determined in their execution, and his close application to business and his excellent management have brought to him a high degree of prosperity which is to-day his. He stands as one of the foremost representatives of the real estate and insurance interests of Piatt county, his business having assumed large proportions. He is also prominent in public affairs, being a cooperant factor in many measures for the general good, and his citizenship is characterized by progression and loyalty.

Mr. Ryder was born in Chaumont, Jefferson county, New York, on the 6th of March, 1834, and comes of English ancestry, the family having been established in this country at an early period in the colonial development of America. The Ryders are of English lineage and the first representative of the name lived in Rhode Island, whence others went to Vermont. It was in the Green Mountain state that Joseph Ryder, the grandfather of our subject, was born in December, 1780. Arriving at years of maturity he wedded Mary Hill, and later removed to Jefferson county, New York, which was then a frontier region, the family being surrounded by pioneer environments. The grandfather purchased a tract of land from a Frenchman named De LaRay, whose realty holdings were very extensive and who sold his land cheap to actual settlers. Clearing a small portion of his home farm Mr. Ryder built thereon a two-story stone house and after comfortably establishing his family in their new home he continued to work in the fields, developing and cultivating his land, making his home upon the old farmstead there until his demise.

It was on the 21st of December, 1806, in Vermont, that Benjamin Ryder, the father of our subject, was born and during his early boyhood he accompanied his parents to New York, where he was reared on the home farm, assisting in its cultivation until he had attained the age of eighteen years. He then left the parental roof and began work as a raftsman on the St. Lawrence river, transporting lumber. After his marriage he purchased fifty acres of land from Mr. De LaRay and built a log house which



W. L. RYDER

later he replaced by a frame dwelling. With characteristic energy he began clearing the property, transforming the wild tract into richly cultivated fields. He afterward extended the boundaries of his farm by the purchase of an additional tract of forty acres adjoining his first property and upon the old homestead he continued to live until his death. He had wedded Ann Caroline Horton, a native of Chaumont, New York, born on the 13th of June, 1806. Her parents were James and Martha (White) Horton, and she was a descendant in the eighth generation of Barabas Horton, who was the first of the name known in America. History gives it that this gentleman was born in the hamlet of Mously in Leicestershire, England, and that he came to the new world as a passenger on the American ship Swallow in 1633 or 1638. After a long voyage he arrived safely at Hampton, Massachusetts. In 1664 he was a resident of New Haven, Connecticut, and assisted in the organization of the Congregational church there. On the 21st of October, 1670, he sailed for Southhold, Long Island, where he built the first frame house ever erected on the island. It stood for more than two centuries, one of the landmarks of that section of the country. Barabas Horton took a very prominent part in public affairs and served for many years as a magistrate and was a number of times a member of the general assembly in Hartford and New Haven. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Ryder were born eight children: Watkins L., Cornelia, Wallace, Walter, Vanrantz, Mary, Gaylord and Bruce. The father died on the 31st of December, 1866, and his wife long surviving him, passed away at the age of ninety-three years.

The boyhood days of our subject were quietly passed on the old family homestead in the county of his nativity. He is indebted to the public school system for the educational privileges he enjoyed in his youth and when eighteen years of age he began earning his own livelihood as a teacher, following that profession for three winter terms in the Empire state. When twenty-one years of age Mr. Ryder left New York for Ohio, establishing his home in Oberlin, where he further continued his own mental discipline by becoming a student in the university at that place. His residence in Oberlin covered three years during which period he attended college, taught school and also studied law.

The spring of 1858 witnessed his arrival in Monticello, Illinois, and he became a law student in the office of Milligan & McComas. In the following year he was admitted to the bar and entered upon his professional duties at Bement, where he practiced until 1861. During this time he was captain of the Wide-Awake Company, of which he continued at the head until his enlistment in 1861. The war was then inaugurated and feeling that his first duty was to his country he offered his services to the government in the month of June of that year. He was assigned to duty with Company F, Second Illinois Cavalry and like the others of the command he furnished his own horse and accoutrements. In August of the same year he was mustered into the United States volunteer service and at that time went south, where soon afterward he was detailed to act as sergeant of orderlies to General McPherson. For one year he filled that position and rejoined his regiment, with which he continued in active service until the expiration of his term of enlistment. He was in a number of important engagements

which led to the final victory that eventually crowned the Union arms and when three years had been spent in the service he received an honorable discharge at Baton Rouge. Mr. Ryder was always found at his post of duty, faithfully defending the old flag and the cause it represented and he has every reason to be proud of his military service.

Once more establishing his home in Bement, Mr. Ryder became principal of the schools at that place, continuing his active identification with educational interests until the fall of 1865. He was then called to official service and for eight years acted as county clerk. At the time of his election in 1865 he removed to Monticello, where he has since resided. He retired from office as he had entered it—with the confidence and good will of all concerned. He then turned his attention to real estate and land operations. That business has since claimed his time and energies and has been so capably conducted that his labors have brought to him a handsome financial return. Through all the years Mr. Ryder has had a most comprehensive and accurate knowledge of the value of realty and has thus been able to make judicious investments and profitable sales. He has also been instrumental in securing good investments for others and in the line of his business has ever enjoyed a large clientage.

On the 31st of August, 1864, Mr. Ryder was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Spaulding, with whom he has since traveled life's journey. The lady was born in Lake county, Illinois, and is a daughter of Allen and Hannah Spaulding. Her educational advantages and her innate refinement and her many excellent traits of womanhood have won her the love and friendship of all with whom she has come in contact. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ryder were born four children, of whom Gale died in infancy, while the others are Edith, Clyde H. and Gaylord C. Edith is the wife of Frank W. Caldwell and they reside in Decatur, where Gaylord C. is also living, being engaged in the real estate and loan business. He married Nellie Norton. Mr. and Mrs. Caldwell have two children, Kenneth and Robert. To their children Mr. and Mrs. Ryder gave excellent educational privileges, thus preparing them for life's practical and responsible duties and the members of the family occupy a very prominent position in social circles.

Mr. Ryder exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party and, keeping well informed on the questions and issues of the day, has ever been able to support his position by intelligent argument. He has, however, sought neither the honors nor emoluments of public office, his best service being done as a private citizen. In matters pertaining to the public welfare he is enterprising, alert and active, and his co-operation has been of value in promoting many interests which have contributed to the general good. Mr. Ryder finds one of his chief sources of pleasure and recreation in travel and has visited many points of interest in this country and also abroad. He has thus gained the knowledge and culture which only travel can bring, and he has stored his mind with many interesting incidents concerning the peoples and places he has visited. His interest in his fellow men is deep and sincere and arises from a humanitarian spirit which has prompted his support and co-operation of many measures and enterprises for the general welfare. His career has ever been such as to warrant the trust and confidence

of the business world and his activity in business circles forms an important chapter in the history of Piatt county.

JOHN MAIER.

For more than thirty years John Maier has been a prominent representative of the business interests of Monticello, for throughout this period he has been connected with the lumber trade and to-day is extensively engaged in dealing in lumber, shingles and all kinds of building materials. He is a son of the fatherland—a country which through many centuries has been a potent factor in the civilization of the world, sending its representatives into all countries to carry with them the learning, the culture and the artisanship of their own country. The German-American element in our own citizenship is very important, and Monticello is the home of at least one from the fatherland who is loyal to her interests and active in advancing her business affairs.

A native of Wittenberg, Germany, he was born on the 7th of January, 1832, and is a son of Patrick and Catherine (Straub) Maier. The father had charge of timber interests there, and both he and his wife died in Germany. At the usual age of six years John Maier began his education and in accordance with the laws of his native land he there pursued his studies until fourteen years of age. He then began working upon a farm and was employed in that manner until eighteen years of age. At the age of twenty he went into the army, serving for eight years. In 1860 Mr. Maier resolved to try his fortune in America, for he had heard very favorable reports of the opportunities afforded in this country and thought to better his financial condition on this side of the Atlantic. He therefore bade adieu to home and friends and took passage for the new world, crossing the Atlantic upon a sailing vessel, which was twenty-eight days in reaching the harbor of New York. He made his way to Logansport, Indiana, and as he had no capital it was necessary that he secure immediate employment. This he did, working at chopping wood. After about eighteen days he went to Champaign, Illinois, and became connected with the lumber business, being for eleven years in the lumber yard of W. H. Kratz & Company, at that place.

In April, 1872, Mr. Maier arrived in Monticello, where he has since made his home, and here he remained in the employ of W. H. Kratz until 1883, when he bought out his employer and became proprietor of the lumber yard, which he has since conducted.

During his residence here Mr. Maier has become very widely and favorably known in business circles, and throughout his long connection with commercial pursuits in Monticello he has always sustained an unassailable reputation, his business methods being such as neither seek nor require disguise.

In 1860 Mr. Maier was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Yoerg, a native of Germany and a daughter of Michael and Mary (Vogel) Yoerg, also born in the same country. Mr. and Mrs. Maier have become the parents of fifteen children, of whom fourteen are yet living: Fred; Charles; William; John; Otto; Lena, the wife of Dr. Graves; Albert; Kate, de-

ceased; Anna, the wife of Walter Crisap; Emma; Harry; Martha; Thomas; and Mary.

Mr. Maier owns forty acres of land in his homestead place, which is well improved, and he also has another tract of one hundred and sixty acres in Monticello township which he rents. His property is the visible evidence of his life of industry and enterprise, his earnest labor and his straightforward methods, and now he is in possession of a comfortable competence for the evening of life. The hope that led him to seek a home in America has been more than realized, and he is to-day one of the prosperous merchants of Piatt county. In his political views Mr. Maier is a Republican, but has never been an office-seeker, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business and the pleasure of the home circle. His force of character is indicated by the fact that after coming to America, while working in the daytime, he attended night schools in order to gain a good knowledge of the English language. The same determination has always characterized him, and has made him a prosperous business man and valued citizen.

JOSEPH WILSON.

For many years Mr. Wilson was one of the active and progressive farmers of Piatt county, as well as one of its most reliable and honored citizens, and now in his declining years he is enjoying a well-earned rest, free from the cares and responsibilities of business life. He makes his home in DeLand and is widely and favorably known throughout the county where he has resided for over a quarter of a century.

Mr. Wilson was born in Maryland, July 16, 1833, a son of John and Sarah (Hunt) Wilson, who were also natives of that state, where the father spent his entire life, his occupation being that of farming. He died in 1834, and his wife, who was born in 1802, departed this life in Ohio in 1874. To them were born two children: Joseph, of this review, and his sister, Sophia.

When four years old Joseph Wilson went to Ohio with his mother, his father having died during his infancy, and at the age of seven he commenced earning his own livelihood. For about two or three months during the winter he was allowed to attend school, conducted in an old log building, but his educational privileges were meager, the remainder of his time being devoted to farm work. At the age of sixteen he hired out to work by the month at eight dollars per month, and was employed in that way until coming to Illinois in 1853. Settling in Tazewell county, he continued in the employ of others until his marriage, and then rented a farm in that county. He afterward operated his father-in-law's place for eight years, and then purchased one hundred and nine acres in the same county, moving his home thereon for three years. On selling his farm he removed to Normal, Illinois, where he spent two years, and the following five years were passed at Atlanta, Logan county, this state, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. In 1876 he came to Piatt county and bought three hundred acres near DeLand, which he operated until January 20, 1901, when he retired from active business and removed to DeLand, renting his farm. With

the hope of benefiting his health, which was much impaired, he recently spent four months at Eureka Springs, Arkansas, and on his return purchased the Dresbach property, which he expects soon to occupy. He bought a house and lot here in 1898 and another in 1902, both of which he now rents.

On the 16th of October, 1856, Mr. Wilson was united in marriage to Miss Lucinda Judy, a daughter of Jacob and Mary Ann (Musick) Judy. Her mother was born on November 20, 1812, and died in 1884, but her father, who was born in Greene county, Ohio, January 9, 1804, is still living, and, although ninety-nine years of age, still enjoys good health, though his eyesight has failed him. In early life he engaged in farming in his native state, but as early as 1823 he came to Illinois and settled in Tazewell county, where he followed the same pursuit. He is now a resident of Logan county, this state. In 1886 he was again married, his second union being with Mary Ann Hawes. The children by his first marriage were Nancy Jane, the widow of Ellis Roberts, of Champaign county, Illinois; Robert, who died on March 27, 1902; Eliza, the widow of Nimrod Brighton, of Hopedale, Tazewell county, who died at Eureka Springs, Arkansas, about eight years ago; Annie, wife of Allen Haneline, of Armington, Illinois; Mattie M., wife of John Montjoy, of Armington; H. C., a resident of Hopedale, Illinois; Mary Belle, who died April 28, 1897; Lucinda, wife of our subject; and Sarah, Hattie and John, who all three died in infancy.

The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were as follows: Rose Ellen, now the wife of William Gelsthorpe, a farmer of Logan county, Illinois; Sarah Ann, wife of D. P. Swisher, a farmer of Piatt county; Amanda, who died February 29, 1888; May Bell, wife of J. L. Borton, who is engaged in farming near DeLand; Jacob G., a farmer of this county; and Mattie May, who died October 9, 1887. The parents are both earnest and consistent members of the Christian church, and are held in the highest respect by all who know them. Politically, Mr. Wilson is identified with the Republican party, but he has never cared for the honors or emoluments of public office, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his business interests. He deserves great credit for what he has achieved in life, as he began making his own way in the world at the age of seven years and has since been dependent upon his own rsources. He is a man of good business ability, sound judgment and strict integrity, and to these characteristics is due his success.

JOSHUA G. ELLIS, M. D.

A native of Illinois, Dr. Joshua G. Ellis was born in Pope county on the 26th of November, 1858, and is a son of James M. and Kizziah Ann (Clay) Ellis, both of whom were natives of this state. The family comes from the same ancestry to which Henry Clay, a noted American statesman, traced his lineage. James McKee Ellis was born and reared in southern Illinois, his abode being in Pope county, where he engaged in farming until his death, which occurred in January, 1862. His wife, surviving him for a number of years, passed away in 1878.

The Doctor is the only one of this family now living. During his boyhood days he worked upon the home farm and attended the common schools of Pope county, his time being largely passed in this way until he attained his majority. Not desiring, however, to follow the plow as a life work, he turned his attention to professional labors, and entered upon the study of medicine. He matriculated in the American Eclectic Medical College of St. Louis, and was graduated in that institution in June, 1880, at which time he received his certificate to practice. He then opened an office and established his home in Dudenville, Missouri, and in due course of time received a good patronage, demonstrating his ability to successfully cope with the intricate problems which continually confront the physician in his efforts to restore health and prolong life. He continued to practice in Dudenville for about six years, and in October, 1885, he returned to Illinois, settling in Oakley, Macon county, where he practiced until 1888. That year witnessed his arrival in Cerro Gordo, where he has since remained, and he is now the oldest physician in years of continuous practice in this place. For several years he has been a member of the State Medical Society, and through the interchange of thought and experiences there he adds greatly to his knowledge, while reading and investigation are also continually broadening his mental ken and his comprehension of the powers of the physician in the administration of remedial agencies.

While residing in Dudenville, Missouri, the Doctor was united in marriage to Miss Rose Brown, a daughter of the Rev. Samual Brown, who was a minister of the United Brethren church, but is now retired, making his home in Cerro Gordo. The Doctor and his wife are parents of two children: Homer, born in 1886; and Mervyl, born in 1889. The Doctor and his wife have a pleasant home in Cerro Gordo, and its good cheer is greatly enjoyed by their many friends. Both hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and shape their lives in conformity to its teachings. The Doctor is a Democrat in his political views, and while he has never been an aspirant for office, he has kept well-informed on the questions and issues of the day. Fraternally, he is connected with the Masonic order, belonging to Lodge No. 600, in Cerro Gordo, and he also has membership relations with the Woodmen Camp of this place. Socially and professionally the Doctor is popular and well-liked. He has a large practice, both in the village and the surrounding country, and while his ability in his profession ranks him among its leading representatives, his many excellent personal traits of character have gained him the high regard and warm friendship of those with whom he has been associated.

EDMOND W. LUMSDEN.

Edmond W. Lumsden, who for a number of years was actively connected with mercantile interests in Monticello, but has now retired from commercial pursuits, is a representative of the class of citizens in America known as self-made men, and in early manhood he entered upon a business career which has been creditable and successful alike. His interests have been con-

ducted with the strictest regard to commercial ethics, and his course has ever been one which would bear close investigation and scrutiny. Thus he has won an honored name as well as prosperity, and in Piatt county he is widely and favorably known.

Mr. Lumsden has spent his entire life in Illinois and doubtless early became imbued with the spirit of enterprise and advancement which have been so potent in the wonderful development of this section of the country. He was born in Morgan county, Illinois, near Jacksonville, on the 14th of June, 1842, and on the paternal side comes of Scotch ancestry, while in the maternal line he is of German and Irish extraction. His father, William G. Lumsden, was a native of Virginia, born in 1807, and in Kentucky he was united in marriage with Miss Lucy Keeling, a native of Virginia, who was born in 1804. Her girlhood days, however, were largely passed in Todd county, Kentucky, and there she gave her hand in marriage to William G. Lumsden. In 1828 they removed to Morgan county, Illinois, settling near Jacksonville in pioneer times—only ten years after the admission of the state into the Union. Mr. Lumsden became the owner of a wild tract of land, upon which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made, and with characteristic energy he began the development of a farm. He broke and improved his land and added to the property until he has two hundred and twenty acres, highly improved and constituting one of the fine farms of the locality. When he came to Illinois he brought with him one child, born in Kentucky, Susie E., who is now living in Iowa. Later other children were added to the family, as follows: James W., who makes his home in Macoupin county, Illinois; Martha N., a resident of Canada; Francis M., who lives in Morgan county, Illinois; John T., a resident of Champaign, Illinois; Mary J., of Jacksonville; Edmond W.; Nancy F., who resides in Blakepoole, England; and Annie, who is living in Morgan county, Illinois. The father of these children died in 1892, and the mother passed away in 1894.

Edmond W. Lumsden was reared in the usual manner of farmer boys, having, perhaps, more privileges than some, and less than others. He received ample training at farm labor, and in the district schools near his home he acquired his education, leaving school when in his fifteenth year. He then continued to work upon the home farm, and when in his twenty-second year he was united in marriage to Miss Parthenia Ayer, who was born in England, a daughter of Jonas and Annie (Towers) Ayer. Mr. Lumsden took his bride to the old homestead farm, and for five years was engaged in agricultural pursuits there. On the expiration of that period he left his native county and removed to Champaign county, Illinois, where he was engaged in general farming for four years.

In August, 1873, Mr. Lumsden arrived in Monticello, where he has since made his home, and for a number of years was actively connected with business interests here. He first formed a partnership with R. T. Ayer, under the firm name of Ayer & Lumsden, and for five years they conducted a meat market, meeting with a high degree of success, for they secured a large patronage. Selling out this business Mr. Lumsden then purchased the hardware stock of Dr. Ward, and succeed-

ed to the business, which he operated successfully for some time. He had a well-appointed store, carrying a large and selected stock of general merchandise, and for eleven years he did a profitable business, which brought to him the competence which now enables him to live retired. He then sold out to McMillen & Company, and since that time has engaged in no active business save the supervision of his farming interests. He is the owner of two farms, both being choice land. One comprises two hundred and forty acres and the other is three hundred and twenty acres in extent, and is situated in Moultrie county. The rental from these properties brings to him a very desirable income, and his landed interests show that his money has been carefully invested.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Lumsden was blessed with seven children: Walter K., who is living in Monticello; Jonas A., a resident of Moultrie county; James R., who follows farming in this county; Annie E., a student in the Woman's College, of Jacksonville, Illinois; Olive E., graduate of the Monticello high school; Ethel May, who is a student in the high school; and Albert, who completes the family.

Mr. Lumsden votes with the Republican party, believes firmly in its principles, and is often found in its councils. He was for three years one of the aldermen of the city, and for a similar period was a member of the school board. An intelligent and public-spirited citizen, he gives an active and earnest support to many progressive measures, and since coming to Monticello he has been numbered among her representative men. His has been a busy and useful life, largely devoted to business interests, and through the exercise of diligence and unabating energy he has won a creditable position among the substantial citizens of his adopted county.

ROBERT H. BENSON.

No history of Piatt county would be complete without extensive mention of Robert Harvey Benson. There is no man in this section of the state who has done more for agricultural interests. For many years he was one of the most extensive farmers and stock-raisers of this portion of Illinois and by improving the grade of stock and thereby advancing prices he did much for his fellow men who were connected with the same line of activity. Having now reached the advanced age of eighty-two years, he is practically living retired, an honored and respected citizen and venerable gentleman who is revered as one of the patriarchs of the community and as one whose mind bears the impress of the early historic annals of Piatt county. He located here in pioneer times and down to the present he has taken a deep and helpful interest in matters pertaining to public progress.

Mr. Benson, who now lives on section 25, Sangamon township, was born on a farm near Springfield, Ohio, April 3, 1821, his parents being Andrew and Sarah (Renick) Benson. His paternal grandfather, William Benson, was born in Virginia and there spent his entire life. Andrew Benson was born on the south bank of the Potomac river in Virginia, in 1781, and obtained his education in the public schools of his native state. In 1808 he left the Old Dominion for Clark county, Ohio, where he took up his abode and there in 1812 he was united in



R. H. BENSON



MRS. R. H. BENSON

marriage to Miss Sarah Renick, whose birth occurred in Greenbrier county, Virginia, December 20, 1795. Andrew Benson entered a large tract of land from the government, cleared and broke it and successfully carried on farming up to the time of his death, which occurred very suddenly in 1826. Returning to his home, he lay down on the lounge and went to sleep. At nine o'clock his wife requested their son, Robert, to awaken Mr. Benson, which he attempted to do. Failing in this he called his mother and they found that the husband and father had passed away, dying of heart failure. He had never been ill a day in his life nor had he complained of illness on the day of his death.

Mr. Benson of this review resided in one of the pioneer log cabins of Ohio during his youth and attended school for about three months in the winter. The little "temple of learning" was a log structure on one side of which there was a log removed and the aperture covered with greased paper through which the light was admitted to the room. In one end of the room was an old-fashioned fireplace eight by ten feet capable of accommodating an immense back log. This school was situated about four and a half miles from Springfield and its methods of instruction were also somewhat primitive—in keeping with the crude furnishings. Later Mr. Benson attended a select school for a time. Through broad experience, observation and reading, however, he added largely to his knowledge as the years passed and gained an excellent practical education.

When twelve years of age he began working in a brickyard for four dollars per month, but in this way he injured his back, the work being too heavy for him and he has never fully recovered. During the winter of 1833-34 he engaged in sawing wood for twenty-five cents per cord, and when fifteen years of age he began farming on a tract of land of one hundred acres left by his father. He supported his mother, being the eldest of her children. His life through many years was one of earnest toil. In 1841 he started for Missouri on horseback, but the horse died on the road and he was obliged to go to work in order to make the money with which to pay for the animal which he had borrowed for the purpose of making the trip. Mr. Benson remained in Missouri until 1844 and while he was in the west his mother died. Returning to Ohio he there hired out to drive cattle for four dollars per month. That fall he borrowed one hundred dollars and purchased twenty-five head of cattle. This was the beginning of his stock dealing which in years grew to be most extensive and important. A year later he borrowed four hundred dollars, which he also invested in cattle in Indiana, forming a partnership with another man in this enterprise. Nearly every deal of this character which he made proved profitable and thus he added continually to his income. Wisely he invested his money in real estate and in 1862 he became the owner of six hundred acres of land in Piatt county, Illinois. He continued to reside on the old homestead in Clark county, Ohio, however, until the fall of 1864, when he came to the west.

Piatt county was then largely an unimproved region, being a tract of wild prairie land, much of which still belonged to the government. Mr. Benson took a very important part in reclaiming this district for purposes of civilization. He assisted in breaking the prairie, in building roads and in laying the foundation for the present

prosperity of this section of the state. He endured all of the hardships and trials incident to frontier life, but his energy and determination enabled him to overcome all of the obstacles and difficulties that barred his advance toward the goal of success. He worked almost night and day in these early years in an attempt to gain a good start in business and his unremitting diligence was at length rewarded. For many years he was one of the most extensive, successful and prominent stock-dealers and breeders of this section of Illinois. In 1876 he purchased several imported Norman horses and began breeding, his efforts resulting largely in the improvement of the grade of horses raised in Piatt county. In 1882 he went to France, where he purchased nine head of Norman horses which he brought to America. In 1883 he again crossed the Atlantic and returned with twelve head of horses, paying as high prices for some of them as was ever given by an American for French horses. He has also been an extensive dealer in cattle and hogs, which he has raised upon his own farm, having large pastures in which his stock has grazed in the summer months, while during the winter seasons it has been sheltered in his extensive barns. From time to time Mr. Benson added to his landed possessions until he had at one time over two thousand acres in Piatt county, but he has in recent years disposed of much of this, not caring to be burdened by its supervision. To-day he retains only one hundred and sixty acres of his farm and he has also put aside business cares in other directions. In the last year he sold but two car loads of stock. His rest is well merited for his life has been one of untiring industry and should be crowned with a period in which to enjoy the fruits of his former toil.

On the 17th of December, 1877, Mr. Benson was united in marriage to Mrs. Mary A. Piatt, who was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and died May 9, 1880. She was a lifelong member of the Methodist Episcopal church and by her first marriage to Jacob Piatt she became the mother of six children, three of whom are still living.

There are few, if any, residents more widely known in Piatt county than Robert Harvey Benson. His extensive and valuable farming and stock-dealing interests made him a leading and representative agriculturist of this section of Illinois. In all his business dealings he was honorable and straightforward and his word is as good as any bond. He certainly has just reason to feel proud of the success he has achieved and he well deserves the proud American title of a self-made man. His youth spent upon a farm in Ohio, living in a log cabin, he is to-day one of the most prosperous citizens of Piatt county, Illinois, and at one time was one of the largest landowners here. His capital is now invested, however, in other ways, releasing him from much of the care incident to the control of extensive property interests. Widely known and honored, it is with pleasure that we present this record of his life to our readers.

JOHN MOERY.

This well known and successful farmer living on section 24, Bement township, was born on the 4th of November, 1853, in the Canton of Berne, Switzerland, and was but six years of age when he came to the United States in company with his parents, Rudolph and Mary (Goodman) Moery, who were

also natives of that country. By occupation the father was a farmer and also a school teacher, following both pursuits inSwitzerland. On his arrival in America, he located near New Philadelphia, Ohio, where he was engaged in farming for about three years, and then removed to Crawford county, Indiana, where he was similarly employed for some years. In connection with general farming he also engaged in stock-raising to some extent. Politically, he was identified with the Democratic party, and religiously was a member of the German Reform church. He died in Crawford county, Indiana, at the age of seventy-one years, honored and respected by all who knew him, and his wife passed away about sixteen years previously. They were the parents of seven children, but one died in infancy, and Godfred, Mary and Alice are also now deceased. Those living are Lina, wife of Fred Feller, a resident of Missouri; Ernest, a farmer of Oklahoma; and John, of this review.

The early education John Moery acquired was largely obtained from his father, and during his younger years he assisted in the operation of the home farm. He remained in Indiana until twenty-six years of age, whence he removed to Sangamon county, Illinois, and two years later came to Piatt county, where he worked in different townships. The first land owned by him was in Moultrie county, where he purchased one hundred and seventy-five acres, to the cultivation and improvement of which he devoted his time and energies for four years. At the end of that time he bought eighty acres near his present home in Bement township, Piatt county, and subsequently traded his Moultrie county property for his home place of three hundred and twenty acres. Here he has erected a large and substantial dwelling and other buildings and has made many other improvements which stand as monuments to his thrift and industry. In the spring of 1902 he bought another eighty-acre tract, and to-day has one of the best and most desirable farms of its size in the county. He follows general farming and stock-raising with marked success and to-day is numbered among the prosperous citizens of the community in which he lives.

In 1879 Mr. Moery married Miss Ellen Loveless, a native of Macoupin county, Illinois, where her father, Thomas Loveless, still resides, his occupation being that of farming. Six children were born to our subject and his wife, namely: Lina, who is a graduate of the Bement high school and is at home with her parents; John, who assists his father in the operation of the home farm; Ralph, also at home; Ernest and William, who both died in infancy; and Helvenia, who died in childhood. All of the children were born in Bement township.

Mr. Moery is a member of the Court of Honor and attends and supports the Methodist church. He votes with the Republican party, but has never cared for office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business interests. He is widely and favorably known throughout the county of his adoption, and is held in high regard by all with whom he comes in contact either in business or social life.

NELSON W. ZOOK.

Nelson W. Zook, who is one of the most enterprising and energetic farmers of Monticello township, his home being on

section 1, was born at Bethany, Illinois, October 14, 1872, and is a son of William and Mary (Kutch) Zook. His paternal grandmother is still living at the extreme old age of ninety-six years, and is now a resident of Kansas. His father was born in Indiana, on the 3d of October, 1845, and was a lad of ten years when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois, his education being acquired in the schools of Fayette county, this state. During his boyhood and youth he assisted his father in the operation of the home farm, remaining under the parental roof until eighteen years of age, when he entered the Union army, enlisting in 1863 in the One Hundred and Forty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry. After serving one year he was honorably discharged on account of blood-poisoning caused by vaccination. He then returned to Moultrie county, Illinois, and rented a farm near Bethany, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, which he subsequently purchased, and which he still continues to operate. He is a man of influence in his community and is now serving as justice of the peace in Bethany. In early life he wedded Miss Mary Kutch, who was born January 26, 1845, in Moultrie county, where her parents had located in 1830, being pioneers in that portion of the state. They were of German and Irish descent. Nelson W. Zook is the oldest in a family of three children, the others being Thomas M., a resident of Bethany; and Margaretta, who is at home with her parents.

The subject of this biography was educated in the common schools of Bethany, and at the age of eighteen years started out in life for himself by working at the carpenter's trade, but he has mainly engaged in agricultural pursuits, and since 1900 has operated the Dighton farm on section 1, Monticello township, Piatt county. He owns all of the machinery used in the cultivaton of the land, and also the stock upon the place, being quite extensively engaged in the fattening of stock for market.

On the 11th of September, 1891, Mr. Zook was united in marriage to Miss Nannie Duke, a resident of Bloomfield, Indiana, and a daughter of Richard and Hannah (McDonald) Duke. On the maternal side her ancestors were related to Daniel Boone. Her father served for four years in the Union army during the Civil war, and died in 1898 of heart trouble at his home in Bloomfield, Indiana. He was largely interested in the raising of pure blooded Percheron horses and Hereford cattle, and was an extensive and prosperous farmer, owning and operating six hundred acres of land which was supplied with the latest and best facilities for doing his work. He also operated coal mines on his own land, and in all his undertakings met with excellent success, so that he was able to leave his family in most comfortable circumstances. His widow and four children now derive a good income from the proceeds of the farm and mine, the estate being still undivided. Mr. Duke was widely and favorably known and was a man of prominence in the locality where he resided.

Mr. and Mrs. Zook have one child, Harold, now nineteen months old. They are prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which our subject's parents also belong, and have a large circle of friends and acquaintances in their adopted county. Fraternally, Mr. Zook is connected with Todds Point Camp, No.

550, M. W. A., of Todds Point, and Thomas Strayhorn Camp, No. 227, Sons of Veterans at Bethany, Illinois. In politics he is a stanch Republican, but he does not care for official honors, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his business interests.

JOHN H. BURNS.

John H. Burns, deceased, was a leading farmer and respected citizen of Piatt county, and when he passed away he left many friends who will be glad to see this mention of his life work in our history. His birth occurred in Carroll county, Maryland, on the 19th of January, 1848, his parents being Daniel and Mary (Knipple) Burns, who were residents of Maryland at the time of his birth, but had formerly made their home in Pennsylvania. John H. Burns was one of a family of five children, being the third in order of birth. His father was a saddler by trade, following that pursuit in the years of his early manhood, while later he engaged in farming.

The son received his education in the common schools of Maryland and became a well-informed man. In 1873 he removed to the west, locating first in Tazewell county, Illinois, where he remained for eight months. He then removed to McLean county, where he rented land for six years, and on the expiration of that period he took up his abode in Blue Ridge township, Piatt county, where he purchased two hundred and twelve and a half acres of land that is still in possession of his family. Afterward he added to his farm, extending its boundaries until it comprised two hundred and thirty-eight acres, lying within a mile and a half of Mansfield. There Mr. Burns carried on agricultural pursuits up to the time of his death. He thoroughly understood farm work in all of its departments, was progressive in his labors and his place, always neat and thrifty in appearance, indicated his careful supervision.

On the 21st of December, 1870, Mr. Burns was united in marriage to Miss Rebecca A. Petry, of Carroll county, Maryland, a daughter of Jacob and Ann Rebecca (Roop) Petry. The father was born in Pennsylvania and the mother in Maryland and both came of Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry. Mrs. Burns was one of a family of eight children and was the third in order of birth. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Burns were born seven children: Anna May, now the wife of David P. Smith, a resident of Manson, Calhoun county, Iowa, by whom she has two children, Harold Burns and Everett; William, who is now the efficient and popular cashier of the State Bank of Mansfield and who married Miss Allie Speer, by whom he has one child, Wayne Emerson; Corda Irene, Amy R., Ida Blanche, Catherine R. and Charles L., all of whom are still at home.

In his political views Mr. Burns was a stalwart Republican and while living in McLean county he served as county commissioner. He also held many other offices of trust and responsibility and was always loyal in these, progress and fidelity characterizing his entire official service. He belonged to the German Baptist church in Blue Ridge township and died in that faith April 25, 1887, his remains being then interred in the cemetery adjoining

the Brethren church. The strong characteristics of Mr. Burns were such as commended him to the confidence and regard of his fellow men and many delighted in his friendship and in his companionship.

After her husband's death Mrs. Burns left with a large family commenced to carry on the home farm. There was quite a large sum owing upon it at that time, which she has succeeded by her capable business management and executive force to discharge and is now renting the place, having removed to Mansfield in 1892. She has since made her home in the city and is a well-known and most highly esteemed lady there. She belongs to the German Baptist church and takes an active and helpful interest in its work.

ELI DRUM.

The value of the local newspapers in the upbuilding of the best interests of any community is universally conceded. The rule is that good papers are found in good towns, inferior journals in towns of stunted growth and uncertain future. It is not so much a matter of size as of excellence and of adaptability to the needs of its locality. These conditions given, in an appreciative and progressive community, the size of the paper will take care of itself in a way mutually satisfactory to publishers and patrons. Mr. Drum as editor and proprietor of the Star of Cerro Gordo, is a worthy representative of the journalistic interests of Piatt county.

A native of Ohio, he was born in Pickaway county on the 21st of April, 1843, his parents being Benjamin and Lydia Drum. The father was a farmer by occupation and died about 1848, while his wife passed away in 1893, having long survived her husband. In the country schools of Ohio and of Illinois the subject of this review pursued his education. It was in October, 1856, that he removed from the place of his birth to Piatt county, Illinois, where he has since lived. He remained upon the home farm until nineteen years of age, when he enlisted in the Union army in response to the need for soldiers to aid in the preservation of the Union. On the 11th of August, 1862, he became a private of Company K, One Hundred and Seventh Illinois Infantry and was discharged in July, 1865, after about three years of faithful and valorous service. He served in eastern Tennessee, took part in the Atlanta campaign and then returned to Nashville, where he aided in the movements which resulted in the victories for General Thomas and his army.

After the close of the war Mr. Drum returned to the north and was engaged in the drug business for twelve years, being a well known merchant of Cerro Gordo. In 1881 he began his present work, and three years ago started the Cerro Gordo Star, and has made of this paper an interesting journal which has a large and growing patronage and which has returned to the proprietor a good income. He has made it an excellent advertising medium and at the same time it treats in a fair and interesting manner of the leading questions and issues of the day and disseminates local news.

On the 3d of February, 1868, at Cerro Gordo, Mr. Drum was united in marriage to Miss May E. Stuart. Their children are S. M., who married Adeline Van Ordstrand; Flora Lillian, who was the wife of H. L. Lesley and died sixteen months after her marriage; Arthur J., who wedded Miss Er-

ma Ater; Benjamin E.; W. Webb; Harry; and Mary. Mr. Drum is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the Presbyterian church and gives his political support to the Republican party, furthering its interests through the columns of his paper and also in the same channel advancing the welfare and improvement of the community along many lines.

FRANK HETISHEE.

Frank Hetishee is assistant cashier of the Dighton-Dilatush Loan Company of Monticello and is thus actively connected with financial interests. The business with which he is so closely associated has become one of importance in Piatt county, and like the other members of the company Mr. Hetishee is recognized as a man of reliability, of enterprise and of honor. He is a son of John and Elizabeth (Ruff) Hetishee. His father was born in Berne, Switzerland, on the 16th of March, 1826, acquired his education in the schools of his native country and afterward learned the tailor's trade there. In 1848, when twenty-two years of age, he boarded a sailing vessel bound for the port of New York for he had heard much of the privileges and opportunities offered in a business way in the new world and had resolved to try his fortune in America. Therefore, he came to the new world, arriving after fifty-one days spent upon the bosom of the broad Atlantic, the vessel dropping anchor in the harbor of America's metropolis. Mr. Hetishee did not remain in New York, however, but proceeded at once to Ohio, stopping first at Dayton. In 1851 he began farming near that city and there carried on agricultural pursuits for two years. At the end of that time in 1853 he came to Monticello and soon afterward made choice of a location in Sangamon township, Piatt county, where he devoted his energies to general farming and stock-raising. For a number of years he was an active representative of that line of business and in 1870 he removed to Ivesdale, Piatt county, where he purchased a farm, continuing its further development and cultivation until 1891, when he took up his abode in the capital city. While upon the farm he prospered in his undertakings, becoming the owner of five hundred and fifty acres of valuable land, which he placed under a high state of cultivation. The improvements which he made and the rise in land values, owing to the increase in population in this section of the state, made his property a very desirable one and at the time of his death he was considered one of the wealthy men of his adopted county. Upon his farm he erected substantial buildings and also placed modern equipments which would facilitate agricultural work and he was likewise successful in the raising of hogs and cattle and to this branch of his business in large measure can be attributed his prosperity. His business affairs were always conducted with energy, diligence and strong purpose and at the same time his methods were honorable and would bear the closest investigation. Both he and his wife held membership in the Lutheran church and lived lives in consistent harmony with their religious faith and professions. Mr. Hetishee passed away in 1898 and his wife, surviving him for a

few years, died in 1902. They were the parents of the following named: William, who is a farmer in Piatt county; Henry, who also carries an agricultural pursuits here; Carrie, the wife of Jacob Geoggle, who resides upon a farm in this county; and Frank, of this review.

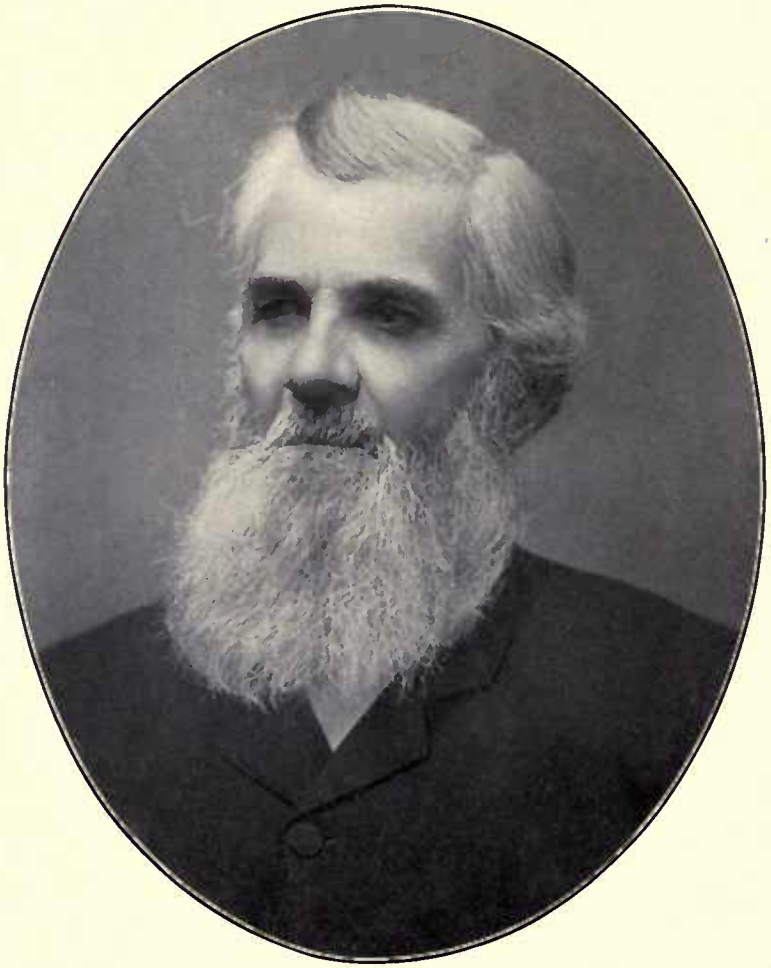
It is a noticeable fact that the great percentage of men who are successful and prominent in commercial, industrial and professional circles are they who have spent their youth upon farms. Of this class Frank Hetishee is a representative, his boyhood days being passed under the parental roof at the old family homestead, where in his early youth he was a student in the district schools. He showed much aptitude at his lessons, mastering the various branches of learning taught in the public schools and largely supplementing his knowledge by reading, experience and observation. On leaving the farm he accepted the position of assistant bookkeeper in the National Bank of Monticello, acting in that capacity for three years, after which he become connected with the Dighton-Dilatush Loan Company of this city. He was one of its organizers, the company being formed in October, 1900, with a capital stock of thirty thousand dollars, all paid up. In the organization of the company Mr. Hetishee was made assistant cashier which position he still holds and in large measure to his efforts may the success of the institution be attributable.

On the 12th of June, 1902, Mr. Hetishee was united in marriage to Miss Elsie B. Gleiser, of Monticello, Illinois, a daughter of the Rev. Henry G. Gleiser, who is pastor of the First Presbyterian church. Her mother bore the maiden name of Elsie F. Kratzer. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hetishee hold membership in the First Presbyterian church of Monticello and are interested in its work and to its support contribute generously. Their pleasant home was erected in 1902 and is the center of a cultured society circle. It is modern in all of its improvements and equipments and is tastefully furnished. It is also the abode of hospitality and is a favorite resort with the many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Hetishee. In business affairs our subject stands prominent, possessing excellent qualifications, strong determination and laudable ambition. He is a genial and affable gentleman and thereby wins the good will and friendship as well as the respect and confidence of those with whom he is brought in contact.

JAMES C. EVANS.

In the death of James C. Evans on the 5th of March, 1903, Bement and Piatt county lost one of their most prominent and highly esteemed citizens. His career was a long, busy and useful one, and although he was earnest and active in business, he never allowed the pursuit of wealth to warp his kindly nature, being to the end of his life a kindly, genial friend, one whom it was a pleasure to know and meet under any circumstances. He attained the advanced age of seventy-eight years, retaining to the last those qualities of the mind and heart which had endeared him to every one throughout his life.

No history of Piatt county would be complete without mention of James C. Evans and it is a pleasure to the historian to present his life record to our readers. His



JAMES C. EVANS



MRS. MARY E. EVANS

life span covered almost four score years and his career was so honorable that he won the highest regard of all with whom he was associated. A native of Clark county, Kentucky, he was born in the year 1825, and on both the paternal and maternal sides was a member of early Kentucky families. His father was a second cousin of Daniel Boone, the noted pioneer explorer and hunter who led the way into the wilds of the Blue Grass state. Mr. Evans was one of a family of five sons and one daughter, all now deceased.

When about ten years of age our subject accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois, the family home being established in Scott county. There he resided until 1846, at which time his father entered the Mexican war as a lieutenant under Colonel John J. Hardin. Filled with the spirit of patriotism James C. Evans, who about that time attained his majority, also offered his services to the government and became a private in his father's company. He went to the south where he valiantly aided in the protection of his country's rights and after the cessation of hostilities he returned to Scott county, where he worked at the cooper's trade, which he had learned previous to his enlistment. To this industry he gave his attention until after the discovery of gold in California. Men from all sections of the country flocked to the Pacific coast in the hope of rapidly acquiring a fortune and Mr. Evans was among the number who made the long overland trip across the hot stretches of sand and through the mountain passes to the Golden state. In the trip he accompanied his father and brother and they spent two years at Hangtown Gulch, which was one of the early mining settlements of California and is now the city of Placerville. Although he did not acquire a fortune as he hoped, he yet found some gold and brought back with him the precious metal which was made into the wedding ring that signified through more than half a century his union with Miss Mary Elizabeth Hopkins. Upon his return to Scott county he embarked in merchandising with B. G. Hopkins in the town of Winchester and a year later he was united in marriage to his partner's daughter.

Mr. Evans' connection with mercantile interests in Scott county continued until 1856, when he removed to Piatt county and located on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Willow Branch township. This property continued in his possession up to the time of his death, although after a few years he left its cultivation to others, while he turned his attention to commercial pursuits. About 1863 he entered into partnership with D. Vaughan in the lumber business, but continued to reside upon his farm until 1870, when he took up his abode in the town. Through long years the partnership with Mr. Vaughan continued with mutual pleasure and profit, the firm enjoying a large and continually increasing patronage. A few years prior to his death, however, Mr. Evans purchased Mr. Vaughan's interest and the firm of Evans & Son was then formed and continued up to the time of the father's death.

The home life of Mr. Evans was ideal. They traveled life's journey together for more than fifty years, sharing with each other in all the joys and sorrows, the adversities and prosperity which came to them, their mutual love and confidence increasing as the years went by. Mrs. Evans came of early New England ancestry of English lineage, the line being traced back to the early set-

tlers of Connecticut, who located there in 1642. She is of the fifth generation in direct descent from General John Sedgwick, of Cornwall, Connecticut, and of the fourth from Benjamin Hopkins and Stephen Gold of her father's ancestors and of the fourth generations from Elijah Stanton and Joseph Hollister, who came to America in 1642, all of the above men being prominent in the country's early history. She is also of the eighth generation from Captain John Stanton, who came to America in 1646 as colonial interpreter for the six nations of Pequod Indians.

By the marriage of James C. and Mary Elizabeth (Hopkins) Evans thirteen children were born, of whom eight are still living. William G., who resides in the village of Bement, married Miss Viola Workman, and they have two children, Harold and Clarence. Charles E., who is a minister of the Christian church and resides at Weiser, Idaho, wedded Miss Jennie Miller, of Ohio. They had four children: Lester, who died when about nineteen years of age; Mayo, a musician, residing in Oregon; Miller and Oliver S. Dora, the third member of the Evans family, is the wife of S. S. Jones, a minister of the Christian church, now located in Danville, Illinois. Ellen G. is the wife of George D. McKay, of St. Joseph, Missouri, and they have two children. James O., who resides in Bement, Illinois, was born two miles west of the village on the home farm, April 23, 1870, and after pursuing the high school course in Bement continued his studies in Eureka College at Eureka, Woodford county, Illinois. He was graduated on the completion of the business course and then returned to Bement, where he joined his father in the lumber business, the partnership continuing until the latter's death, since which time the son has been alone in the conduct of this enterprise. He is well known in the commercial circles of the city, and is a leading and representative business man of this place. For three years he has been one of the trustees of the village and is now a stalwart Republican in his political views. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Christian church, and he is a member of the Masonic and Knight of Pythias fraternities at Bement, and has passed all of the chairs in the latter organization. Albert A., born December 18, 1872, the sixth member of the father's family, is likewise a resident of Bement. He married Miss Grace L. Landis, a native of Owen county, Indiana, and they have one son, Albert Canada. Albert A. Evans is now associated with his brother, James, in the lumber business. Darley, born September 15, 1875, in Bement, is a clerk in the village of Mansfield, Piatt county. He married Miss Carrie Burns, a daughter of John Burns, of Bement, and they have one son, Eugene. Grace G. is the wife of H. A. De Vaux, of Mankato, Minnesota, where he is manager of the World's Stock Food Company. The other children of the father's family died in infancy with the exception of Dollie, who died in Bement, when twenty-one years of age. Mr. Evans was most devoted to his family and considered no personal sacrifice on his part too great if it would enhance the welfare and promote the happiness of his wife and children. On Sunday, the 23d of March, 1902, Mr. and Mrs. Evans celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary, holding an "open house" reception between the hours of two and five in the afternoon. This worthy couple had traveled life's journey together for a half century and more than one hundred guests called to

express their pleasure over this fact and wish for them happy returns of the day, but ere a year had passed Mr. Evans was called from this life. There was nothing, however, to indicate that his life's journey was so rapidly nearing its close, and the occasion of the golden wedding anniversary was a most happy one. The guests were received in the parlor and later passed through the sitting room into the dining room, which was handsomely decorated with cut flowers and yellow ribbon, its beautiful golden tint being in harmony with the occasion. Refreshments were served and each guest was given a favor—heart-shaped cards tied with yellow ribbon and bearing a design in gold with the number "50" in white in the center.

Mr. and Mrs. Evans were long faithful and devoted members of the Christian church, with which the lady is still identified. He united with the church of this denomination at Winchester, Illinois, about 1845, under the preaching of Alexander Campbell, and he connected himself with the church in Bement during the meeting held by Rev. A. B. Rice, who obeyed the gospel at the same time that Mr. Evans became one of the followers of that church. For long years Mr. Evans was very active in church work, and even in advanced years his interest therein never abated in the slightest degree. He always contributed liberally of his means to its support, and his time and energies were freely given for its welfare and progress. Frequently he would perform the baptismal ceremony for the pastor in charge and his character was manifest in his daily life. He lived peaceably with all men, possessed a kindly, charitable spirit and was anxious for the moral welfare of the community. He was also very benevolent, and the poor and needy found in him a friend. During all the long years in which he was able to personally superintend his business it is safe to say that he never left his office on Saturday evening without having given at least five dollars in charity during the week. He passed away March 5, 1903, and thus closed a most honorable and useful career. The county lost one of its pioneers, the community a valued citizen and those with whom he was associated a faithful friend, while his wife and children mourned the loss of a devoted, loving and tender husband and father. His memory, however, is still enshrined in the hearts of all who knew him, and remains as a blessed benediction to those with whom he was associated in the daily walks of life.

JOHN R. PONDER.

The history of such a man as John R. Ponder is always of interest to the public, especially when it comes as a direct result of meritorious effect. Mr. Ponder has justly earned the title of a self-made man and his life history stands as an exemplification of what can be accomplished when one has the will to dare and to do. He has controlled extensive farming interests in Piatt county and is now a director of the Bank of Hammond, and also the president of the village board. He likewise represents one of the pioneer families of Piatt county, having lived here since 1864.

Mr. Ponder was born in Washington county, Tennessee, on the 18th of December, 1855, and is a son of Joseph and Matilda (Radford) Ponder, both of whom are natives of Buncom county, North Carolina, the former born on the 23d of May, 1816, and the latter on the 8th of March, 1820.

Joseph Ponder made his home in North Carolina until after his marriage and then removed with his wife to Washington county, Tennessee, where he was engaged in farming for several years. He afterward took up his abode in Clay county, Kentucky, where he followed the same pursuit until the 17th of March, 1864, when he bade adieu to home and friends in that locality and came to Illinois. He had a cousin living in Piatt county, and thereby was induced to settle in this section of the state, establishing his home in Unity township northeast of the village of Pierson. Resuming agricultural pursuits, he carried on farming for two years, and then went to Douglas county, Illinois, where he engaged in the tilling of the soil for a year. At the end of that time, however, he returned to Unity township and purchased a farm here, devoting his energies to its further development and improvement until 1880. He then went to the home of his son, John R., where he lived for two years, and on the 1st of March, 1882, he removed to the village of Hammond, where he lived retired until his death, which occurred on the 8th of December, 1892. His widow survived him for about ten years and passed away on the 27th of January, 1902. Both were respected and honored people, and they reared a family of six children who are now living and are residents of Piatt county.

Like the other members of the family John R. Ponder obtained his education in the common schools and through his youth he spent the summer months in working in the fields on the home farm. He continued to assist his father until the time of his marriage, which was celebrated in 1883, Miss Elizabeth E. Bolin becoming his wife. She is a native of Moultrie county, Illinois, and a daughter of J. R. Bolin, who is now a retired farmer, making his home in Hammond. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ponder have been born three children: Ray B.; Wilbur H. and Wilma E., twins.

Mr. and Mrs. Ponder began their domestic life upon a farm in Unity township, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits until 1890. He then removed to the village of Hammond, where he built his fine residence. It is situated in the southeastern part of the town and is a most attractive and commodious home, celebrated for its gracious hospitality. The house stands in the midst of beautiful grounds and everything about the place indicates the cultured taste of the owner. In addition to this property Mr. Ponder owns seven hundred and forty acres of fine farming land, all under a high state of cultivation, and therefore returning to him a good tribute for the labor bestowed upon it. Of this twenty acres is located in Lovington township, Moultrie county, but the remainder is situated in Unity township, Piatt county. Mr. Ponder gives his personal supervision to the operation of five hundred and sixty acres of the land, while the remainder he rents, and annually golden harvests are gathered in return for the labors bestowed upon the fields. He is also a stockholder and director in the State Bank of Hammond, and thus his activity has touched upon many lines, whereby he has won prosperity.

In matters pertaining to the general good Mr. Ponder is ever progressive and public spirited, and has given his co-operation to many measures for the welfare of town and county. In politics he is a Democrat, and in 1901 was elected mayor of Hammond, in which capacity he is still serving, having been re-elected for a second term.

For eleven years he has been a member of the village board and since 1901 has been its president. He also served on the school board for several years and for one year was tax collector of Unity township. He belongs to the Baptist church, and his wife to the Church of Christ, and he is one of the most prominent, influential and prosperous residents of this part of Piatt county. Over the record of his public career and private life there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil, for his wealth has been obtained through honorable methods and he has ever been found faithful in friendship and in citizenship. Hammond owes much to his active efforts in her behalf, and no history of this part of Piatt county would be complete without mention of John R. Ponder.

GIDEON CHENOWETH.

Among the honored veterans of the Civil war now living retired in De Land is numbered Gideon Chenoweth, who was born in Darke county, Ohio, March 16, 1840, his parents being Jacob and Sarah (Foster) Chenoweth, natives of Virginia and Ohio, respectively. On the paternal side he is of Welsh descent, while his maternal ancestors came originally from Scotland. His father was born in the Old Dominion in 1798 and was educated in the subscription schools of that state, the temple of learning being a rude log structure with greased paper windows, puncheon floor and huge fire-place. He was married in 1818 and settled in Darke county, Ohio, where he entered three hundred and twenty acres of timber land, which he developed into a fine farm. He gave considerable attention to the raising of cattle, sheep and hogs and was considered one of the best and most successful farmers and stock-raisers of his locality. After his death, which occurred in 1853, the family remained upon the farm but a year, when the widowed mother sold the place and with her children removed to De Witt county, Illinois, where she made her home throughout the remainder of her life. She died very suddenly in 1867 while visiting friends and relatives in Iowa and was buried in the town of Bedford, that state. Her early life was passed amid primitive surroundings and our subject well remembers hearing her relate of turning the grindstone for Indians while they sharpened their scalping knives.

Gideon Chenoweth is one of a family of twelve children, the others being Abraham, who died in Kansas in 1891; Rebecca, who died in Clinton, Illinois, in 1899; Joseph, who died in Versailles, Illinois, in 1877; John, who died in Nebraska in 1890; Thomas, who died in 1856 or 1857; Mary Ann, who married Jacob Rarrick and is now living in Portland, Oregon, at the age of seventy-five years; William, deceased; Martha, who is the wife of Jacob Harless and is living in Weldon, Iowa, at the age of seventy-one; Noah, who is living in Kansas, at the age of sixty-nine; Eliza, who died in 1874; and Cassandra, who died in infancy.

During his boyhood Gideon Chenoweth attended school in Ohio for about three months during the winter season, the remainder of the time being devoted to the work of the home farm. In 1854 he accompanied his widowed mother on her removal to Clinton, De Witt county, where he continued his education until six-

teen years of age. In 1857 he led to the marriage altar Miss Mary A. Bryant, a daughter of Cornelius and Agnes (Sims) Bryant, who were of Irish descent. By this union were born five children, as follows: George H., the eldest, died at Argenta, Illinois, November 5, 1892. Francis H., the next of the family, was born in Clinton, Illinois, June 22, 1866, and is a druggist of Charleston, this state. Edward B., born January 4, 1869, is mentioned more fully below. Eliza A., born August 22, 1872, died May 4, 1874. William C., born June 28, 1878, is a druggist of Charleston, Illinois.

After his marriage Mr. Chenoweth engaged in operating a rented farm until he entered the army during the Rebellion. In 1861 he joined the boys in blue of Company E, Twentieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry and remained at the front until honorably discharged at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, April 16, 1863. He participated in the battles of Frederickstown, Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh and Corinth, and was accidently wounded at Jackson, Tennessee, being confined in the hospital from the 16th of September 1862, until he left the service.

On his return home Mr. Chenoweth accepted a clerkship in a general store in Clinton, Illinois, where he was employed until 1867, when he came to Piatt county and for four years rented and operated the farm belonging to his sister, Mrs. Eliza Lowery. At the end of that time he removed to Monticello, where he conducted a meat market for two years, and then assisted in building a branch of the Illinois Central Railroad from White Heath to Clinton, this state. In 1876 he became connected with the firm of Piatt, Hubbell & Company, who were in the elevator business at Monticello, acting as their buyer at Cisco, Illinois, and when the business was sold to E. A. Townley, he remained with that gentleman in the same capacity until 1883. During the following two years he was with W. H. Telford, who was in the same line of business, and on the expiration of that time he went to Ness county, Kansas, where he pre-empted three claims, both homestead and timber claims. He had nothing on his removal to that state but on his return to Illinois after five years he was the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of fine farming land in Kansas and one hundred head of cattle besides other personal property, so successful had he been. After his return to Monticello he was in the employ of E. C. Knight in the grain business until November, 1900, when he accepted a position as carrier in the rural mail service and faithfully served as such for two years and two months, during which time he lost but seven days. He made a trip of twenty-seven miles and a half each day and therefore traveled nearly nineteen thousand miles during the twenty-six months' time.

Mr. Chenoweth has been called upon to mourn the loss of his estimable wife, who died in Monticello of heart failure on her way home from church December 3, 1899, when sixty years of age. She was a lifelong member of the Methodist Episcopal church and was an active and faithful worker in the same. On the 7th of January, 1903, Mr. Chenoweth removed to De Land, where he is now living a retired life, honored and respected by all who know him. He is still a member of the Grand Army Post at Monticello and enjoys meeting with the gray-haired

veterans who as young men fought with him on the bloody battle-fields of the south.

EDWARD B. CHENOWETH.

Edward B. Chenoweth, a son of Gideon Chenoweth, was born in Piatt county, January 4, 1869, and has here spent almost his entire life. Since attaining man's estate his attention has mainly been devoted to mercantile interests. For two years he engaged in clerking in a store in Argenta and for about eight years was similarly employed in De Land, although during six months of that time he served as assistant cashier in a bank at this place. In November, 1902, he embarked in business on his own account, opening a new store in De Land with a well selected stock of general merchandise. He carries an excellent grade of goods and spares no pains to please his customers.

In 1891 was celebrated the marriage of Edward B. Chenoweth and Olive S. Mitchell, of Weldon, Iowa, a daughter of Rev. George E. and Rosetta (Westfall) Mitchell, and three children bless this union: Lela, now eleven years of age; Lola, nine years; and Beulah, a year and six months. Socially Mr. Chenoweth is a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 740, of De Land, of which he is treasurer; Twentieth Century Lodge, No. 603, K. P.; and the Modern Woodmen Camp, No. 2178, of which he is clerk. He was also a delegate to the head camp of Modern Woodmen in 1903. Politically he is identified with the Republican party and has held the office of township clerk two years and village clerk the same length of time. He is regarded as one of the leading young men of the town, active, enterprising and progressive, and although he has been in business for himself only a short time he has already built up a good trade and his patronage is steadily increasing.

MRS. HELEN C. TIPPETT.

Mrs. Helen C. Tippett, a well-known resident of White Heath and a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family of this county, was born on the 11th of January, 1842, in Ross county, Ohio, and is a daughter of David and Anna (Porter) Heath. Her father was a native of New Jersey, and when a young man removed to Ohio, where he married Miss Porter, who was born near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, February 27, 1799, and was a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Clinton) Porter. On the maternal side she was of Scotch-Irish descent. Mrs. Tippett's paternal grandmother bore the maiden name of Wood and was of English descent. After farming in Ohio for about eighteen years, David Heath came to Piatt county, Illinois, and purchased eighty acres of land near White Heath. He then returned to Ohio to settle up some business, making the journey on horseback, as there were no railroads at that time, and while there caught a severe cold which developed into pneumonia, from which he died within a year from the time he come to Piatt county, and it was two weeks before his relatives in this county learned of his death. His widow then took charge of affairs, and with the assistance of her two sons, James and Noble,

she transformed the wild tract into a good farm. She was one of the bravest and best of women, bearing uncomplainingly the hardships and trials of frontier life. Many times she was left alone for two or three days while her sons went to the city for supplies. Their home was at the edge of the timber and the nearest neighbor was at least one mile away. Wolves and rattlesnakes were numerous and many dangers and difficulties were encountered by those early settlers.

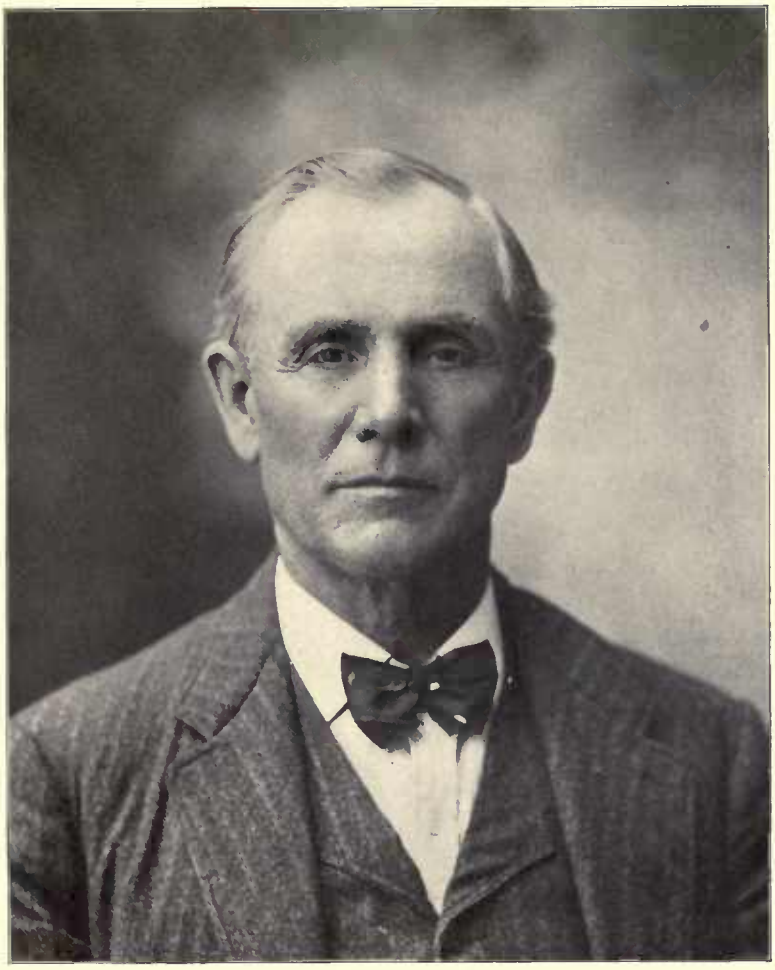
In the Heath family were six children, namely: Mary J., born January 3, 1825, became the wife of B. F. Harris, a banker of Champaign, Illinois, and died March 23, 1883; James Clinton, born August 20, 1828, died December 22, 1872; Noble Porter, born February 8, 1833, died June 8, 1893; Anna E., born June 6, 1838, died in 1851; one died in infancy; and Mrs. Tippett is now the only survivor. The mother passed away June 10, 1877, loved and respected by all who knew her.

Mrs. Tippett was only three years old when she accompanied her parents on their removal to this state and amid pioneer scenes she grew to womanhood. She was educated in an old log school house, known as the Hughes school, and after her graduation commenced teaching at the age of eighteen years, following that profession from 1860 to 1870. On the 9th of March, 1871, she gave her hand in marriage to Cumberland Tippett, who then took charge of the old Heath homestead and operated the farm until his death, which occurred October 2, 1875. He was a member of Monticello Lodge, F. & A. M., and was a local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he was a lifelong member, always taking an active part in church work and doing all in his power for the uplifting of his fellow men. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Tippett were born two children: Florence B., born December 18, 1871, is now the wife of Dr. B. E. Duvall, of Atlanta, Georgia. She is also a physician, being a graduate of the Eclectic Medical College of Atlanta, and having also taken a post-graduate course at the Cincinnati Eclectic Medical College. James Clinton, born January 3, 1873, was married October 4, 1896, to Mattie I. Jamison, and is now circuit clerk and county auditor, living in Monticello, Illinois. His sketch appears on another page of this volume.

After the death of her husband Mrs. Tippett and her mother took charge of the farm, hiring a man to run it, and when her mother died she went to Champaign, where she lived for four years, her brother having charge of the place during that time. The following eighteen years were spent upon the farm with her children, her brother still continuing to conduct the property. In 1901 Mrs. Tippett purchased her present comfortable residence in White Heath, where she has since resided. Her brother continued to manage the farm until 1894, when her son, J. C., was old enough to take charge of the same. He lived there until he was elected circuit clerk and still rents the place. Mrs. Tippett is a woman of many excellent traits of character, who is highly respected and esteemed by all who know her.

HON. SEYMOUR MARQUISS.

Among the citizens of Piatt county on whom has been conferred public honor and whose careers have reflected credit upon



SEYMOUR MARQUISS

those who have reposed in them public trust is numbered Seymour Marquiss. He has represented his district in the legislature and has been active and influential in business circles, where his course has ever been such as to commend him to the confidence and good will of those with whom he has come in contact. He is now living a retired life in Monticello, having acquired a competence which has enabled him to put aside business cares and enjoy the fruits of former toil.

Mr. Marquiss is one of Piatt county's native sons, his birth having occurred in Goose Creek township on the 7th of June, 1837. He is a son of Ezra and Ann Maria (Norris) Marquiss, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Maryland. Their marriage was celebrated in Illinois, the father having come to this state in 1833 with the paternal grandfather of our subject, Abraham Marquiss, who was a native of Virginia. He settled in Piatt county in 1833 at a very early period in the development of this portion of the state, and there he took up government land. He made the journey from Ohio by wagon and cast in his lot with the early settlers who lived amid frontier environments. Not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made upon his place, but he at once began the development of a farm and soon rich fields returned to him good harvests. Ezra Marquiss was one of a family of seven children and his education was obtained during his residence in Ohio. After coming with his father to Illinois he began farming in Goose Creek township, Piatt county, near the old Abraham Marquiss homestead, entering forty acres of land from the government. As the years passed he prospered and his business methods were such as to win for him public confidence as well as to gain for him gratifying success. As his financial resources increased he made judicious investments in real estate until he became the owner of two thousand acres of land. His death occurred on the 3d of January, 1898, when he had reached the advanced age of eighty-four years, and his wife passed away on the 10th of August, 1881. This worthy couple were the parents of eight children, of whom four are yet living, namely: Seymour; Paulina, the wife of Frank McMillan, of Monticello; Ezra, who is a resident of Monticello; and Mary E., the wife of John Kirby, who is also living in the county seat.

Under the parental roof Seymour Marquiss was reared and attended the old Piatt school in Goose Creek township. He spent his winter months in mastering the studies therein taught, and during the summer seasons he worked upon the home farm, early becoming familiar with the labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. The sun shone down on many a field which he plowed and planted in his youth, and when autumn came he assisted in harvesting the crops. He remained at home until twenty-four years of age and then made preparations for having a home of his own by his marriage to Miss Caroline McMillen, the wedding taking place on the 19th of December, 1861. The lady is a daughter of Thomas McMillen, who came to Illinois in 1856 and located in Goose Creek township, Piatt county. He was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, in 1806, and in 1812 was taken by his parents to Highland county, Ohio, where he lived until 1828. He then went to Indiana, where he was married to Miss Mary Hathaway, who was born in Fort Harrison during the war of 1812. In 1856 he again became a pioneer settler. He

had previously lived amid frontier surroundings in Ohio and in Indiana, and now he cast in his lot with the early settlers of Piatt county, Illinois. Later he removed to Champaign county, where he died in 1869, when sixty-three years of age. Mrs. Marquiss was one of a family of ten children, being the third in order of birth.

At the time of his marriage Seymour Marquiss began farming and buying stock. He took up his abode in Goose Creek township near DeLand, and for many years was a most prominent representative of agricultural interests. He continued to reside upon his farm until 1887, when he established his home in the village of DeLand, but is now living retired in Monticello, although he has given his personal supervision to the management of his farming interests. While living on the farm he was very extensively engaged in feeding stock, using in this way all of the grain which he raised and also purchasing large amounts of feed for his cattle. He owns two hundred and forty-eight acres of rich and arable land lying in sections 8, 9, 16 and 17, Goose Creek township, eight acres of which is in the village of DeLand.

Mr. and Mrs. Marquiss have never had any children of their own, but the kindness of their hearts has prompted them to give homes to six different children, namely: Sophia Norris, who is now the wife of R. M. Cathcart and resides upon Mr. Marquiss' farm; Lillie Ives, the wife of Don P. Chandler, a resident of Nebraska; Minnie Hubbard, who died in San Diego, California; Delta M. Parsons, now the wife of Doctor Keel, of Monticello; Jessie Parsons, who is teaching school southeast of White Heath, and Florence Tripp, who is nine years of age, and is yet with Mr. and Mrs. Marquiss.

Mr. Marquiss exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party. He served as assessor in his township, was also township clerk, highway commissioner and school director. He was found so loyal and faithful in all of his local offices that his fellow townsmen conferred upon him higher political honors, electing him to the fortieth general assembly as the representative of what was then the Thirtieth senatorial district. There he served on several committees, including those on license, agriculture, roads and bridges, public buildings, public grounds and state institutions. He was an active working member of the house and did everything in his power to promote what he believed would prove the best interests of the state. He has been president of the DeLand village board for three terms and has taken an active part in the growth and development of this place. Prompt and faithful in the discharge of his duties his official service is a criterion of his entire career, for in all life's relations the qualities of an honorable and upright manhood have been manifested. He enjoys the confidence and respect of young and old, rich and poor, and well deserves representation in the history of his native county.

WILLIAM S. HIGGINS.

William S. Higgins is one of the native sons of Piatt county and, although a young man, is classed among the representative farmers successfully conducting agricultural pursuits upon his home place on section 10, Monticello township. He was born on the 2d of December, 1872, in Milmine, a son of George and Henrietta Higgins. He be-

gan his education in the Shadynook school and later successfully attended the Howell and Baker schools, continuing his studies until fifteen years of age, after which he devoted his entire time to assisting his father in the work of the home farm. He never worked for any one save his father until he began farming on his own account. This occurred in the year 1895.

On the 18th of March, of that year, William S. Higgins was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Lewis, a daughter of Stephen and Omilia (Oliver) Lewis, of Indiana. The young couple began their domestic life upon the Hale farm, which Mr. Higgins rented for five years. He then removed to the C. E. Pierson farm which he rented for three years, and at the end of that time he took up his abode upon a farm which is now his home. He cultivates one hundred and sixty acres of land and he is making a specialty of the production of corn and oats. He also feeds a large number of hogs annually for the market, and he has eighteen head of cattle, principally of the Galloway and shorthorn breeds. He also has eight head of horses and several mules which he utilizes in the cultivation of his farm. He now owns a Galloway bull, for which he has refused sixty dollars, and he has a shorthorn cow called Roney for which he has refused one hundred dollars. Mr. Higgins keeps good stock and manifests practical judgment in their care. He also has a nice orchard upon his place and everything about his farm is in various ways showing him to be a wide-awake, loyal and enterprising owner.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Higgins has been blessed with four children, but only one is now living—George D., who was the second in order of birth, and is now a lad of five years. Emmet, the eldest, died at the age of one year and twelve days. The other children, Iva and Ora, were twins and died in infancy. In his political views Mr. Higgins is a Democrat, but, though requested many times to accept public office, he has always refused, preferring to devote his time and energies to his business affairs, in which he is meeting with creditable and well-merited success.

HIRAM ROYSE.

When Hiram Royse was called to the home beyond one more name was added to the list of honored dead, whose earthly records closed with the words "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," but as long as memory remains to those who knew him the influence of his upright life will remain as a source of encouragement and inspiration. "Our echoes roll from soul to soul," and the good we do lives after us through all ages, handed down from generation to generation. Mr. Royse was a man well known in Piatt county, where, for many years, he was identified with agricultural pursuits.

He was born in Bartholomew county, Indiana, upon his father's farm, October 23, 1840. His parents were Aaron and Elizabeth (McGuyre) Royse. The father was born in Clark county, Indiana, and the mother's birth also occurred in that state. They remained residents of Indiana throughout their entire lives, and during the greater part of the time Aaron Royse was connected with agricultural interests. Thus it was that Hiram Royse was reared upon a farm, and like most farmer boys of the period he

attended the district schools through the winter months, while in the summer seasons he worked upon the home farm, thus continuing to assist his father until he reached his twenty-second year.

At that time Hiram Royse was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Helen Long, who was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, in August, 1844, being the fifth in order of birth in a family of ten children, whose parents were Young B. and Catherine (Weaver) Long. Both Mr. and Mrs. Long were natives of Pennsylvania, but soon after their marriage they removed to Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and when Mrs. Royse was a little maiden of six summers they went to Bartholomew county, Indiana, where she was reared, educated and married. It was on the 23d of October, 1861, that she gave her hand in marriage to Hiram Royse.

The young couple began their domestic life in Indiana, where they lived for about seven years. They also spent two years in Macon county, Illinois, but not being pleased with that locality, they removed to DeWitt county, Illinois, where they spent one year. On the expiration of that period they came to Piatt county, settling in Goose Creek township in 1871. Mr. Royse purchased eighty acres of new land upon which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made, but he at once began to break the prairie and to carry on the work of cultivation. Therefore, it was not long before a marked change was wrought in the appearance of the place, and instead of the wild prairie grasses were seen rich fields of grain, giving promise of abundant harvests. From time to time Mr. Royse added to his property as his financial resources increased until within the boundaries of his farm was comprised a valuable tract of three hundred and sixty acres. On this place he carried on general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising, meeting with excellent success in his undertakings. He erected a good residence, built substantial barns and other outbuildings and added other improvements as they were needed. His farm became a valuable one, attractive in appearance and was the visible evidence of the life of industry and enterprise led by Mr. Royse. For many years he carried on agricultural pursuits with success, annually adding to his income until he had obtained a very desirable competence. He then removed from his farm to Monticello in 1895 and continued to make his home in the capital city until his death, which occurred May 14, 1900. The last five years of his life were spent in honorable retirement from business cares. He well merited the rest which came to him for all that he possessed had been acquired through his own honest efforts.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Royse were born nine children: Emily, who is now the wife of A. M. Doss, a resident farmer of Willow Branch township; Amanda E., the wife of Fred Swam, also a farmer; Albert E., who resides in Johnson county, Indiana; Mary A., the wife of John Stilabower, of Piatt county; Ella O., who died in her eighth year; Clara E., the deceased wife of William O. Daffer; Josie, at home; John A., who resides on the old homestead farm in Goose Creek township; and Harvey E., who is a student in school.

The home farm of three hundred and sixty acres is still in possession of the family, and of this Mrs. Royse owns one hundred and sixty acres in her own right. She has performed her part of wife and mother in the home, and is a most estimable lady

who shares in the high regard of all with whom she comes in contact. She has a comfortable residence in Monticello, where she is now living, and she has seventeen grandchildren, who take great delight in visiting their grandmother. Of the Methodist Episcopal church she is an acceptable member and her life has ever been in consistent harmony with its teachings and faith. To this church Mr. Royse belonged and was one of its liberal contributors, took an active interest in its work and thus did what he could to advance its growth and welfare. He died in its faith in 1900, and, passing away, he left to his family not only a handsome competence, but also an untarnished record, for his life was ever honorable and those who knew him entertained for him the highest confidence.

J. M. SHIVELY.

The world instinctively pays deference to the man whose success has been worthily achieved, who has overcome the obstacles in his path and has reached a creditable position in the business world. This is a progressive age and he who does not continually advance is soon left behind. By the improvement of opportunities by which all are surrounded, J. M. Shively has steadily and honorably worked his way upward and is to-day one of the prosperous business men of Cerro Gordo, where he is connected with the grain trade as a member of the firm of J. M. Shively & Company. He represents an old and prominent family of the county. He was born in Indiana in 1860, a son of Andrew and Barbara (Metzger) Shively, the former of Montgomery county, Ohio, and the latter of Clinton county, Indiana. Andrew Shively went to Indiana in his youth, locating first in Clinton county, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until 1872. He then came to Piatt county and purchased a tract of land in Cerro Gordo township, where he carried on general farming with success until 1887. His well directed efforts, his sound business judgement and his indefatigable industry brought to him capital sufficient to enable him to put aside business cares and after removing to Cerro Gordo he lived retired here for a few years. Wishing, however, to enjoy the balmy climate of California, he removed to Lordsburg, that state, where he is still living, resting in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. His wife passed away in Cerro Gordo in 1895. They were the parents of three children: Susan, who is now the wife of Isaac Metzger, a resident of Cerro Gordo; John M., our subject; and Joseph, who resides upon a farm in Cerro Gordo township.

To the public school system of this county J. M. Shively is indebted for the educational privileges he enjoyed. After putting aside his text books he began farming in Cerro Gordo township and was thus employed until 1887, when he took up his abode in the town and turned his attention to the grain business. The grain elevator which he owns is the largest here. It was built in 1886 by Mr. Shellabaer, who operated it until May, 1889, and then sold to E. R. Ulrich & Son and this firm continued to conduct the business until the spring of 1902, when they sold it to Mr. Shively and on the 1st of November, 1902, our subject admitted

H. Phillips to a partnership and the enterprise has since been carried on under the firm style of J. M. Shively & Company. They are engaged in buying and shipping grain, for which they pay the highest market price and their business has already assumed extensive and profitable proportions.

Mr. Shively was happily married to Miss Katie Wagoner, of Oakley, Macon county, Illinois, and both he and his wife are members of the Brethren church of Cerro Gordo. In politics he is independent, supporting the men whom he thinks best qualified for office. He has never held nor desired office for himself, preferring to devote his time and attention to his business affairs, in which he is meeting with creditable success. His life has been quietly passed and yet there are in his history lessons worthy of consideration and emulation, for he has always been loyal to the ties of home, of friendship and of citizenship and such a man well merits the esteem of those with whom he comes in contact.

FLORENCE SULLIVAN.

Among the worthy sons of the Emerald Isle who have become residents of Illinois is numbered Florence Sullivan and there is in his life record much that is worthy of commendation and emulation. He has engaged in the harness business in Mansfield since 1870 and under circumstances that would have utterly discouraged many a man of less resolute spirit he has worked his way steadily upward, acquiring a comfortable competence and gaining the respect and good will of all with whom he has been associated.

Mr. Sullivan is a native of County Cork, Ireland, born on the 4th of May, 1836. His parents were Florence and Ellen (Rouan) Sullivan, in whose family were nine children, the subject of this review being the sixth in order of birth. The children were named as follows: Cornelius, Mary, Julia, James, Daniel, Florence, Johanna, Patrick and John, but Mr. Sullivan of this review is the only one now living. In the schools of his native country he began his education and was there reared to manhood. He perhaps had more advantages than some boys and less than others. His youth, however, was largely a period of toil. He was thirteen years of age when he crossed the Atlantic to America in company with some of his relatives, the family embarking on the sailing vessel Bridalbin, which was five weeks and three days in completing the voyage. At length, however, anchor was dropped in the harbor of Boston, Massachusetts, in the year 1849 and the family went from that city to Rutland, Vermont.

In 1851 Mr. Sullivan had both of his legs taken off by the cars. He afterward learned the harness maker's trade and embarked in business on his own account in the spring of 1854, opening a shop in Aurora, New York. During the Civil war he was employed in making harness for the army and earned good wages at that time. He has ever been a man of unfaltering industry and certainly deserves great credit for what he has accomplished in life. He continued to reside in the east until 1870, when he removed to Illinois, establishing his home in Mansfield, Piatt county, on the 3d of November. Here he

opened a harness shop which he has since conducted. He is an excellent workman in this line and the business which he has carried on has brought to him a good financial return because of the splendid quality of harness which he manufactures. These find a ready sale upon the market and he now enjoys a good trade.

On the 2d of January, 1870, Mr. Sullivan was united in marriage to Miss Margaret McCarty and unto them were born four children, but the mother and children have all passed away. In his political views Mr. Sullivan is independent, voting for the men rather than the party. He has served as a member of the village board for two years and is deeply interested in everything pertaining to the progress and welfare of his community. He holds membership in the Roman Catholic church and is a wide-awake, energetic American citizen imbued with the progressive spirit of the times and keeping in touch with the world's advancement.

COLONEL W. H. JAMISON.

Deeds of valor have been the theme of song and story throughout all the ages, nor can such tales be told too often. When this country became involved in civil war over the attempt of the south to destroy the Union, patriotic men from all walks of life flocked to the standard of their country. They came from the shops, the fields, the counting room, the offices and even from the pulpits, all anxious to aid in the preservation of the nation. Among the brave sons of Illinois was Colonel William H. Jamison. Although several years passed after the close of the war before he was called to his final rest, he practically laid down his life upon the altar of his country for his long and arduous service in its defense, undermined his health that he was never again able to take his place among the active business men. All honor is due him and his name should be enrolled high among the brave sons of Illinois who bore such a glorious part in the struggle for the Union.

Colonel Jamison was a native of New York, born in the Empire state, on the 6th of October, 1831. His parents were William and Ann Jamison, the former of Scotch and Irish extraction, while the latter was born in England. In her early girlhood, however, she was brought to America, becoming a resident of New York. During the early boyhood of the Colonel his parents removed from New York to Ohio, settling in Franklin county, about ten miles east of Columbus, where he grew to manhood, acquiring his education in the public schools. and in a select school of London, Ohio. In 1855 he started westward and came as far as Monticello, Illinois. He had learned the blacksmith's trade in London, Ohio, and on arriving in this city he opened a shop, which he continued to conduct until after the outbreak of the Civil war, when in response to his country's call for troops he enlisted, becoming a member of the Twenty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry under command of Colonel U. S. Grant. He was mustered in at Mattoon, Illinois, and on the organization of the company he was commissioned first lieutenant. He participated in a number of important battles which bore a part in shaping the final victory of the Union army. He took part in the engagement at Lookout Mountain and in the battle of Franklin, Tennessee, and at that place he

barely escaped with his life, a ball passing through his chin whiskers. He was always a loyal and valorous soldier, and his bravery and meritorious conduct on the field of battle several times won him promotion. He was first made captain of his company, then promoted to the rank of major, and finally became lieutenant colonel of his regiment, with which rank he served until after the close of the war, receiving an honorable discharge in December, 1865, having been with the army over four years. His military service was certainly most creditable. He was a faithful officer, and while he never needlessly exposed his men to danger, he often led them into the thickest of the fight and by his own courage inspired them to deeds of valor.

Colonel Jamison, however, made a great sacrifice for his country. He returned to his home in Monticello much broken in health, and was thereafter unable to attend to business. He continued to suffer from the troubles brought about by the exposures and hardships of army life until thirteen years had passed and he was then called to his final rest in 1878.

Before going to the war Colonel Jamison had married Miss Martha J. Tinder, who was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, on the 19th of March, 1833, the second daughter of Asher W. and Delila C. (Lewis) Tinder. In 1853 her parents removed to Piatt county. She was at that time a young lady of about twenty years, and on the 10th of February, 1856, she gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Jamison. They became the parents of two daughters: Inez and Flo A., the wife of Scott Miller, a resident of Wilmington, Illinois. He is the superintendent of the Widows' Home and was instrumental in its establishment. Mrs. Jamison has two granddaughters: Zola Urda, who is an artist; and Mattie, who is now the wife of J. C. Tippett, circuit court clerk and recorder of Piatt county.

Colonel Jamison was a most active and earnest Republican, joining the party on its organization. It become the defender of the Union in the dark days of the country's peril, and he never wavered in his allegiance thereto, giving to it his stalwart support up to the time of his demise. He did everything he could for its success, and he was always deeply interested in the welfare of the city and the promotion of its best interests. At his death many friends mourned his loss for his many excellent traits of character had endeared him to those with whom he was associated. His widow is a member of the Woman's Relief Corps of Monticello, and also of the Chapter of the Eastern Star, the auxiliary of the Masonic fraternity. She is a lady of culture, having graduated in the high school of London, Ohio, and she has a good home in Monticello and is granted a pension by the government.

JAMES W. LOWTHER.

Prominent among the citizens of Piatt county who have witnessed the marvelous development of this section of the state in the past thirty-five years, and who have, by honest toil and industry, succeeded in acquiring a competence and are now able to spend the evening of life in quiet and retirement, is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. His home is on section 7, Unity township.

Being left an orphan at a very early age, Mr. Lowthers knows nothing of his par-

ents, and he was reared by John Dawson, of Ohio. His boyhood and youth were passed upon the farm, where he early became familiar with hard work and thoroughly mastered agricultural pursuits, but his literary education was limited. He was reared amid pioneer conditions in Scioto county, Ohio, and when a boy often used a single shovel plow drawn by one horse. Many a day he has dropped corn by hand and cut grain with a scythe and cradle. The hum of the spinning wheel was heard throughout the day in the home of his foster parents, and the clothes of the girls were made from linsey-woolsey, while the boys wore jeans. Kerosene lamps had not come into use, and tallow candles furnished the light in the little pioneer homes.

Coming west in 1868, Mr. Lowther settled in Piatt county, Illinois, and has since watched with interest the growth and development of this portion of the country. The wild prairies stretched for miles around and were covered with ponds and sloughs, and small game was plentiful. The railroad had not then been built through Voorhies and he has seen the upbuilding of that and other villages in this county.

For one year after his arrival Mr. Lowthers worked by the month as a farm hand and then rented land until 1875. In the meantime he saved money to buy a home and invested in one hundred and twenty acres of raw prairie on section 7, Unity township, for which he paid twenty-five dollars and a half per acre, but it is now worth one hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre. After tiling and draining his land he placed it under cultivation and successfully engaged in general farming for several years. He planted every tree now found upon the place, built fences, set out an orchard and made many other improvements, so that he now has a very desirable place. For the past nine years he has practically lived retired from active labor, leaving the land to be operated by a tenant, and Mr. Hubbell has been in charge for three years. Mr. Lowther votes the Republican ticket and takes a commendable interest in public affairs. He is one of the old and honored residents of his section of the county and deserves representation in the Past and Present of Piatt county.

SAMUEL J. FOULK.

Samuel J. Foulk, who is connected with agricultural pursuits in Bement township, where he owns and operates two hundred acres of land on section 21, is a native of Pennsylvania, his birth having occurred in Somerset county, on the 31st of January, 1843. The family is of German descent and was founded in America by the great-grandfather of our subject who came from that country and located in the Keystone state. George Foulk, the grandfather of our subject, died in Pennsylvania when a comparatively young man. Jacob Foulk, the father of our subject, was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, in 1817, and throughout his entire life he followed the occupation of farming in the state of his nativity. He was a prosperous and progressive man, his business being capably conducted along the lines which brought to him a good financial return. His political support was given to the Whig party until its dissolution when he joined the ranks of the new Republican party, but while he kept well informed on the questions and issues

of the day, he never sought or desired public office, content to do his duty as a private citizen. He was a member of the Mennonite church, to which his wife also belonged. In her maidenhood Mrs. Foulk bore the name of Barbara Gincrick. She was born in 1816 in Germany, and when seventeen years of age came to the United States with her brother, her parents having died in the fatherland. Her death occurred when she was seventy-three years of age. To her family she was a devoted wife and loving mother, and by her marriage she had seven children, of whom three are living, the subject of this review being the third in order of birth. His brothers are Jeremiah, who is a retired farmer residing in Pennsylvania; and Ananias, who carries on agricultural pursuits in Pennsylvania.

Samuel J. Foulk remained in the Keystone state until after he had attained his majority, and in 1865, when twenty-two years of age he came to the west, believing that he might have better opportunities in this growing section of the country. He located in McLean county, Illinois, near Hayworth, where he lived for one year, devoting his energies to general agricultural pursuits. He then removed to the vicinity of Bloomington, where he resided for five years. On the expiration of that period he came to Piatt county and purchased eighty acres of land in Bement township. This was situated on section 21 and was only partially improved, but with characteristic energy he began its further cultivation and development, and as the years have passed he has also extended the boundaries of his farm until it now comprises two hundred acres, a part of which he rents to a tenant, but the remainder of the land he cultivates and it has been his home since his arrival in Piatt county in the early seventies. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and in his business career he has met with prosperity, owing to the excellent farming methods which he follows and his progressive labors, placing him in the front ranks of the leading agriculturists of the community.

In 1863 Mr. Foulk was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie Welfly, who was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and came to Illinois after her marriage. She is a daughter of Israel and Susannah Welfly, who were likewise natives of the Keystone state. The father is still living at the age of ninety-three years, but the mother passed away many years ago, dying at the early age of twenty-eight years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Foulk have been born five children, but only one is now living. The eldest, Emma, died at the age of six months; the second died in infancy; Alsinus died at the age of four years; and Orville died at the age of seventeen years. The three eldest were born in McLean county and the others in Bement township. The living son is Earl E., who was the fifth member of the family and is now twenty-three years of age. He was educated in Bement township and assists his father in the operation of the home farm. Both Mr. and Mrs. Foulk are members of the Methodist church, taking an active and helpful part in its work, and he is serving as steward, and is one of the church trustees. In politics he is a stalwart Republican and held the office of school director, while at the present time he is school trustee. The cause of education finds in him a warm friend who has done much to promote the interests of the schools and advance their permanent improvement. Coming to the west in early manhood, Mr. Foulk here

found the business opportunities he sought for throughout the length and breadth of the land there is no better agricultural district than is afforded in Piatt county. Working earnestly and systematically he has year by year added to his possessions until he is now accounted one of the substantial farmers of this community.

LOUIS BENARD.

Louis Benard is a retired farmer and extensive landowner now residing in the village of Hammond, where he occupies a beautiful residence. He is well known throughout Piatt county and is numbered among its pioneer settlers for he located in Bement in 1864 and has since resided in this portion of the state. Great changes have occurred since that time and the transformation wrought in Piatt has kept this county abreast with the universal improvement, making it one of the leading agricultural counties of this great state. For a number of years Mr. Benard was actively associated with farming interests and as the years passed he made judicious investments in real estate until he is now one of the extensive landowners.

A native of Canada, Louis Benard was born in Montreal in 1837, and is a son of Louis and Ovede (LaCrosse) Benard, who were also natives of Canada, in which country they spent their entire lives, the father devoting his energies to agricultural pursuits there. Unto him and his wife were born ten children, among whom were three sons who served in the Union army and are now residents of Albany, New York. The other members of the family, with the exception of our subject, are residents of Montreal.

Mr. Benard of this review obtained his education in the country schools of Canada and at the age of seventeen years he left home, going to Upper Canada and afterward to Ogdensburg, New York. Starting out in life with but limited means, he soon realized that there is no royal road to wealth and also recognized the fact that persistency of purpose and strong determination are forceful elements in obtaining success. Therefore he labored energetically at whatever claimed his attention. While living in Ogdensburg, New York, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Smithers, a native of St. Lawrence county, that state, born on the 9th of Ocober, 1837, and a daughter of Thomas and Marie (Stephens) Smithers, who were natives of England and came to the United States in 1836, settling in St. Lawrence county, New York, where both the father and mother passed away. Throughout the years of his active business career Mr. Smithers engaged in farming.

After his marriage Mr. Benard resided for five months in New Hampshire and during that time learned and followed the shoemaker's trade. He afterward removed to Vermont, living successively in Northfield, Montpelier and other places, where he followed shoemaking for six years or until August, 1864, when he came to the west and has since made his home in the Mississippi valley. He settled in the village of Bement, Piatt county, Illinois, where he worked at the shoemakers' trade for four years. He then traded his shoe shop for a team of horses and removed to Moultrie county, Illinois,

having but three dollars and fifty cents in his pocket at that time. There he engaged in farming for four years and in 1872 he returned to Piatt county, settling on a farm in Unity township, where he engaged in tilling of the soil for more than twenty years. In 1895 he removed to the village of Hammond and built his present residence, since which time he has lived retired. Those who know aught of his history recognize that he has been a man of marked industry who has carried on his work so steadily and energetically that he has gained a comfortable competence. He is still the owner of one hundred and eighty acres of land in Unity township near Hammond, this constituting a well improved property. In addition to this he has six hundred and forty acres of productive land in central Minnesota and three hundred and twenty acres of land in the Yazoo valley in Mississippi. He has placed his capital in the safest of all investments, real estate, and is to-day the owner of valuable property which returns to him a splendid income, enabling him to live retired from further business cares, save the supervision of his property.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Benard was blessed with four children: Louis, who is with his parents; Lilly, the wife of Charles Bunyan, who is engaged in the lumber business in Hammond; Marie, the wife of John Dick, a farmer residing in Moultrie county, Illinois; and Fred E., who married Ethel Kizer, by whom he has one child and who is now engaged in general merchandising in Hammond.

Mr. Benard gives his political support to the Democracy, having always voted that ticket, but he has never been an office seeker nor has he desired political preferment. Socially he is a member of the Masonic order, belonging to Bement Lodge, F. & A. M. He always spends his summer months on his land in Minnesota, while the winter season is passed in his pleasant home in Hammond. He is a man of sterling purpose, of strong force of character and of upright life and his successful career excites the admiration and commands the respect of those who are at all familiar with his history. He started out upon his business career empty handed and to no fortunate combination of circumstances does he owe his success. Such a history should serve as a source of encouragemnt to others, showing that prosperity may be won through perseverance and diligence.

JOHN G. FULK.

The subject of this sketch in one of the leading and representative citizens of Cerro Gordo township, where after years of active labor mainly devoted to agricultural pursuits he is now living retired at his pleasant home on section 35. He was born in Rockingham, Virginia, November 9, 1849, and is a son of John and Martha (Roadcap) Fulk, who spent their entire lives in that state. In their family were ten children, all of whom reached man and womanhood. Two of the sons were killed during the Civil war, one while serving in the Southern army, and the other while fighting with the Union forces in North Carolina. The father's sympathies were with the north during those trying days. One son and five of the daughters are still living in Virginia and

all are married and have families. One daughter is deceased.

John G. Fulk passed his boyhood and youth in his native state and was given good educational advantages. On reaching manhood he was married December 19, 1875, to Miss Sarah Wine, a daughter of Michael S. and Elizabeth (Fry) Wine, also natives of the Old Dominion, where her father still resides, her mother being now deceased. They had five children, two sons and three daughters, four of whom are now living, two of the number making their home in Virginia. One son, J. C. Wine, is a resident of Cerro Gordo township, this county.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Fulk. Rilla, the eldest, is now the wife of O. R. Turney, of Pocahontas county, Iowa, and has two children, Fern and Elma J. George L. is a graduate of De Pauw University at Greencastle, Indiana, and is now studying law in Chicago, at the same time being in the employ of Baldwin Brothers, prominent attorneys of that city. He is thus making his way through school though he saved part of the money to meet his expenses while teaching in Kentucky for one year. He is also serving as notary public in Chicago. William, the youngest of the family, is a graduate of the Cerro Gordo schools.

It was on the 28th of February, 1885, that Mr. Fulk arrived in Piatt county and for nine years he rented the John S. Kuns farm. He had brought with him nine hundred dollars, but this was spent in stocking the farm and he would have found it difficult to make a start here if it had not been for the kindly assistance of Mr. Kuns, who is to-day an extensive fruit farmer of California. In 1894 he removed to his present farm on section 35, Cerro Gordo township, which at that time was only partially improved. The place consisted of two hundred and forty acres, to which he subsequently added forty acres, but he later sold eighty acres, so that he to-day has two hundred acres of as fine farming land as is to be found in the state. He has erected thereon a large and substantial barn, sixty by ninety feet with a brick floor, and capable of accommodating twenty horses, and has also built two cattle stables which will shelter thirty head. He has a corn-crib which holds about twenty-five hundred bushels and also has storage room for twenty-eight hundred bushels of small grain besides seven hundred bushels of oats in the feed bin. He has a good system of private water works upon his farm, and has spent between five and six thousand dollars on improvements since locating here, making his place one of the most desirable farms of its size in this section of the state.

To his industry, enterprise and good management Mr. Fulk owes much of his success in life, but he also gives his wife credit for her share in the same as she has proved to him a faithful companion and helpmate on life's journey, aiding him in every possible way by her encouragement and cheerfulness as well as by her labor. They are active members of the German Baptist church of Cerro Gordo, in which he is serving as deacon, and they have the respect and confidence of all who know them. Mr. Fulk is now practically living retired while two hired men operate his farm, although he still gives his personal supervision to the work. During eight of the nine years while living on the Kuns farm he served as school director and has

ever given an earnest support to those measures calculated to advance the educational, moral and material welfare of the community in which he resides. He is therefore justly entitled to prominent mention in the history of his adopted county.

WILLIAM L. LORD, D. D. S.

Although one of the more recent additions to the professional circles of Piatt county, during the five years of his residence in Monticello, Dr. Lord has gained a prominent position as one of the leading dentists here, having a large and growing practice. Dentistry is unique among the professions, in that it demands three elements for success—marked technical knowledge, mechanical skill and the ability to handle the financial interests of the work. He must not only be well equipped in the knowledge which can be gained from text books, but he must also have the power to handle, with mechanical precision, the varied and delicate little instruments with which work upon the teeth is executed. In all these lines Dr. Lord is well equipped for his professional work, and has attained a high degree of success in the prosecution of his chosen calling.

A native of Iowa, Dr. Lord was born in the city of DesMoines, on the 8th of June, 1857. His father, P. A. Lord, is a native of Ohio, but removed to Iowa in 1856, and there engaged in merchandising. Later he made his way to the Pacific coast, where he spent six years, and on the expiration of that period he returned to the east, taking up his abode in Monticello, Illinois, where he carried on merchandising for a number of years. He was one of the leading representatives of business interests here, and his efforts added greatly to the commercial activity of the city. He married Miss Margaret Oliver, of Mechanicsburg, Illinois, in which place she was born, reared and married. Her death occurred in Monticello, in April, 1899, and was deeply lamented by many friends, who had learned to prize highly her sterling worth and her faithful friendship. After the death of his wife P. A. Lord, having disposed of all his property in Monticello, removed to Springfield, Illinois, where he is now living, in the seventy-fourth year of his age, his birth having occurred in October, 1829.

Dr. William L. Lord spent his boyhood days in Logan county, Illinois, and attended the public schools of Mount Pulaski, acquiring a good English education. Determining to make the practice of dentistry his life work he then entered upon preparation for that calling as a student in the office of Dr. D. M. Doty, of Mount Pulaski. He completed his studies by attending for one term the dental school in Washington Territory, and then successfully passing an examination before the state board, he received a certificate to practice and located in Mount Pulaski.

In 1884 Dr. Lord located in Dayton, the county seat of Columbia county, Washington, where he engaged in practice for four years, or until 1888. He then returned to Mount Pulaski, Illinois, but after a short time removed to Homer, Illinois, where he practiced successfully for nine years. He then came to Monticello, arriving on the 26th of January, 1898. Here he has since built up a good practice, having a well appointed office supplied with everything necessary for the successful prosecution of his work in accordance with modern improved

methods. He has always kept abreast with the progress of the times in the science of dentistry, and in no profession has there been made more marked advance than in the one to which Dr. Lord devoted his energies.

On Christmas day of 1879 Dr. Lord was happily married to Miss Mary Eve Mathews, who was born in Mount Pulaski, Illinois, December 11, 1858. They became the parents of seven children, four still living, namely: Ralph O., who is assistant general agent of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad at Sprinfield, Illinois; Ada, L., the wife of Carl Motherspaw, of Peoria, Illinois; Hilma and Eldon H., who are at home. On the 13th of January, 1900, Mrs. Lord was called to her final rest. She had made many friends during her brief residence in Monticello and here, as in other places where she had lived, her death was deeply mourned by those who knew her. Perhaps no better estimate of her character and life can be given than was presented in the obituary notice published in one of the Monticello papers, which said: "Mrs. Lord was a devoted, faithful wife, a tender and indulgent mother and a kind and thoughtful neighbor. In times of sickness and distress she was ever ready to offer her assistance in any capacity it might be needed. Her nature was broad and generous, and no needy one ever appealed to her for aid in vain. She was an accomplished artist, who delighted in the beautiful and her home was adorned with many specimens of her talent and skill. Mrs. Lord was a member of the Christian church, was of a deeply religious nature, but was quiet and unostentatious in her belief. She believed in deeds, not words, as an expression of her faith, and in her life she certainly exemplified the true spirit of Christianity. She was a member of the Royal Neighbors of America and other fraternal organizations, and in their beneficent work took an active part. The funeral services were in charge of the Monticello Royal Neighbor Camp, and the funeral sermon was pronounced by the Rev. W. S. Calhoun, then amid the flowers which she loved so well—a very profusion of beautiful floral offerings—she was laid to rest."

Dr. Lord, in the line of his profession, holds membership with the Washington State Dental Society, and Eastern Illinois society. He is a gentleman of many excellent traits of character, not the least of which is his public-spirited citizenship and his deep and helpful interest in everything pertaining to the general welfare. In manner he is cordial and genial, and his unfailing courtesy has rendered him popular with those whom he has met—and his acquaintance is a wide one. His attention, like that of the enterprising business man, is chiefly given to his profession, and by his skill and ability he has won the liberal patronage which is to-day accorded him.

SYLVESTER WILHELMY, M. D.

Sylvester Wilhelmy is a young man of strong nature and marked force of character who could never content himself with mediocrity. He has engaged in practice in the village of La Place only since the 29th of October, 1902, but has already won public recognition of his skill. Dr. Wilhelmy is a native of Decatur, Illinois, and was born on the 27th of September, ber, 1875. His parents, Jacob and Mary Wilhelmy are residents of Decatur and the father is there engaged in teaching music.

This worthy couple are the parents of six children, of whom Dr. Sylvester Wilhelmy is the second son. The eldest is Dr. A. F. Wilhelmy, a medical practitioner in Decatur. The daughter Mrs. E. E. Edwards resides in the village of Cerro Gordo. Mrs. Charles Edie and Mrs. Charles Pease are residents of Decatur.

In the public schools of his native city Dr. Wilhelmy of this review acquired his early education and in Decatur continued his studies until he had completed the high school course by graduation with the class of 1897. Desiring to enter upon professional life and making choice of the practice of medicine as his preferred occupation, he then went to Cincinnati, where he entered upon preparation for his chosen calling as a student in the Cincinnati Medical College, in which he remained for four years. He was also an attendant in the hospital of the same college and thus gained broad, practical experience as well as theoretical knowledge. He was graduated from the institution with the class of 1901, receiving his diploma of practice in May of the same year. He was class orator the same year, which is the highest honor of the class. He then returned to Macon county and, locating west of Decatur, entered upon his professional career there. After about a year and a half he came to La Place and purchased the practice of Dr. Davidson, since which time he has been located here, steadily gaining favor with the public as his capability is evidenced.

Dr. Wilhelmy was married in Cincinnati to Miss Ida Sanker, a native of Cincinnati and they have a nice residence in La Place where gracious hospitality is dispensed. The Doctor is connected with the Woodmen of America, belonging to the camp in La Place and is a Republican in politics, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Episcopal church in Decatur. As there is no drug store in La Place he carries quite a large stock of drugs in his office and he has built up quite an extensive practice, especially through the country.

THOMAS J. MITCHELL, M. D.

Dr. Thomas J. Mitchell has reached the eightieth milestone on life's journey and after many years of active and honorable connection with the medical fraternity he is now living a retired life. He was born in Chautauqua county, New York, June 18, 1823, a son of Christopher and Mary A. (Lillibridge) Mitchell. His paternal grandfather was one of the heroes of the Revolutionary war and his father loyally served the country in the war of 1812. His birth occurred in Herkimer county, New York, and in early manhood he removed to Chautauqua county of the same state. As a companion and helpmate for life's journey he married Mary Lillibridge, who was born in Rhode Island and was left an orphan at the age of ten years. About that time she went to New York and it was in that state that she formed the acquaintance of Mr. Mitchell, to whom she afterward gave her hand in marriage. A farmer by occupation, he devoted his energies to that pursuit throughout his entire business career and he died in the Empire state at the advanced age of eighty-three years. His wife also reached a ripe old age, passing away in her eightieth year. She was the mother of twelve



DR T. J. MITCHELL

children, of whom but three are now living, the Doctor and one brother and a sister. Both of the parents were laid to rest on the old home farm in New York, where Doctor Mitchell's birth occurred.

In the place of his nativity the Doctor remained until the time when he had attained his majority and he acquired his early education in the common schools of the locality. He afterward became a student in the Academy at Fredonia, Chautauqua county, and when he had completed his academic course he began the study of medicine and was graduated from the Louisville Medical College of Louisville, Kentucky. On the completion of that course he returned to New York, where he resided for a short time, but, thinking that a more western district would prove a better location, he started for Ohio and on the 1st of January, 1850, he opened an office in Ironton, Ohio, on the Ohio river. There he continued for about two years, removing thence to Lucasville, Ohio, where he continued in the practice of his chosen profession until the fall of 1853. That year witnessed his arrival in Piatt county, Illinois. He made the journey westward by wagon, after the primitive manner of the times and located in Mackville, where he practiced for about eighteen years, his professional skill and ability gaining for him a large patronage. He then removed to Milmine, where he resided for five years and on the expiration of that period he came to the village of Bement, where he has since made his home, continuing in active practice until about 1895, since which time he has lived retired. He was a member of the Piatt County Medical Society and a physician of broad learning and wide experience. He continually added to his knowledge through reading and research and his practice embraced almost every department of the medical science. He became the loved family physician in many a household. There is no man in business life who holds a more confidential relation to his patrons than does the physician and there is no represesentative of the profession who has had stricter regard for the ethics of the fraternity than has Doctor Mitchell. Of a hopeful nature, he carried cheer and sunshine into many a home and his appearance was an effective supplement to the medicines he administered.

In Lucasville, Ohio, in 1851, Doctor Mitchell was united in marriage to Mrs. Nancy A. Tabor, the widow of Edwin A. Tabor. They became the parents of a daughter, Mary A., who is now the wife of James A. Hawks, of Atwood, Illinois. Mr. Hawks is a native of New York and came to the west in 1869. He engaged in teaching school at Mackville, Illinois, for four terms after arriving in Piatt county and then became engaged in general merchandising. After a time, however, he turned his attention to the milling business and is a prominent and influential representative of business interests in Atwood. At the time of the Civil war he responded to his country's call for aid, enlisting from New York in Battery G, Third New York Light Artillery. He participated in the battles of Roanoke Island, Plymouth and Kingston and was never wounded, but was captured and for one month was incarcerated in Libby Prison. At the close of the war he returned to his home and he soon afterward cast in his lot with the residents of Piatt county, Illinois, where in 1877 he married Miss Mary Mitchell. At one time he served as township treasurer and supervisor, and in matters pertaining to the general good he

has always been public-spirited and progressive. He is now successfully engaged in business in Atwood as a grain merchant, lumber dealer and banker, and his efforts have been effective in promoting commercial activity and prosperity of the town, where he resides. Unto him and his wife has been born a daughter, Mildred C., who is now seventeen years of age. By her first marriage Mrs. Mitchell had a daughter, Susan L., who is now the wife of C. H. McCoy, of North Yakima, Washington.

In 1900 the Doctor was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 7th of March of that year in Bement, where her remains were interred. She was a daughter of Thomas Boyle, of Louisville, Kentucky, who was a large mill owner, owning and operating an extensive gristmill at the time of his demise. The Doctor afterward married Mrs. Susan C. Sampson, who was born in Louisville, Kentucky, and is a sister of his first wife.

Doctor Mitchell has ever been deeply interested in the welfare and advancement of his country and when the stability of the Union was threatened by the secession movement in the south he offered his services to the government and valiantly aided in its defense. For fifteen months prior to his own enlistment he was engaged in recruiting and helped to raise nine companies, but for such service he received no remuneration. It was on the 13th of August, 1862, that he enlisted, being assigned to duty in Company H, One Hundred and Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry. With that command he served until the close of the war and was honorably discharged at Nashville, Tennessee, in May, 1865. He participated in the battles of Resaca and Rocky Face Creek in Tennessee, and on the 12th of May, 1865, he was commissioned surgeon of the Eighth Tennessee Mounted Infantry at Nashville. He is now a member of the Grand Army Post at Bement, and thus maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades. At the close of the war he returned to Piatt county, where he has continuously made his home, and no resident of this section of the state is more highly or justly honored. His life work has been of value to the people among whom he has lived. His fidelity to honorable principles has been above question and his life record should serve as an example to the young and an inspiration to the aged.

CARLETON ORR BOOTH, M. D.

Dr. Carleton O. Booth, who is successfully engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery at De Land, Illinois, was born in McDonough county, this state, on the 9th of July, 1871, and is a son of Robert and Dora (Jennings) Booth. The father, who is of Irish descent, was born in Youngstown, Ohio, June 20, 1833, and in early life came to Illinois, settling on his grandfather's farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Macomb, McDonough county. Later he purchased the property and continues to make his home thereon, his entire life having been devoted to agricultural pursuits. In October, 1869, he married Miss Dora Jennings, a daughter of Harvey and Cornelia Jennings, who also lived on a farm near Macomb. She was born November 24, 1851, at Quincy, Illinois, and is descended from an old Connecticut family. The Doc-

tor is the oldest in a family of three children, one of whom died in infancy. His sister, Alta Belle, was born August 29, 1877, and is now the wife of Fred D. Rexroat, a farmer of McDonough county. An uncle, James O. Booth, is a well-known farmer of Blue Ridge township, Piatt county.

Dr. Booth began his education in the common schools of McDonough county and afterward attended the Western Illinois Normal College at Macomb, graduating in the literary and commercial departments in 1893. For nine years he successfully engaged in teaching school and now holds a teacher's life certificate in both Illinois and Missouri. On abandoning the teacher's profession, he entered Barnes Medical College at St. Louis, Missouri, and was graduated at that institution in 1901, with the degree of M. D. Prior to this time he was graduated at the College of Electro Therapeutics of Lima, Ohio, October 5, 1899, and was graduated with the degree of M. E. On the 7th of September, 1901, Dr. Booth located in DeLand and purchased the office building he has since occupied. He was not long in building up a good practice, meeting with success from the start, and being a young man of pleasing social qualities he stands high in both social and professional circles.

On the 15th of October, 1902, Dr. Booth was united in marriage to Miss Jeanette Houk, a daughter of William and Rebecca Houk. Her father died several years ago and her mother was subsequently married to Mr. Fry, of Paris, Illinois, where they are now living. The Doctor is a member of DeLand Lodge, No. 812, A. F. & A. M., of DeLand; Twentieth Century Lodge, No. 603, K. P., of DeLand; DeLand Post, No. 131, F. A. of A.; and Rosel Hadd Temple, No. 72, D. O. K. K., at Macomb. His excellent knowledge of the profession which he has chosen as a life work has gained for him the public confidence and a liberal patronage, and his pleasant, genial manner has won the friendship of those with whom he has been brought in contact in any relation of life.

HENRY P. HARRIS.

For fourteen years Henry P. Harris has been connected with mercantile interests in Monticello as a hardware merchant and previous to that time he was a representative of agricultural life in Piatt county. He has won for himself an enviable reputation as a careful man of business and one whose success is well deserved, as in him are embraced the qualities of unabating energy, unfaltering honesty and industry that never flags. He is now dealing in hardware, stoves and tinware, and also does a business as a dealer in plumbing and heating apparatus.

Mr. Harris is numbered among Piatt county's native sons, his birth having occurred upon a farm here. His parents were William H. and Ann Eliza (Hart) Harris, the latter a daughter of James Hart, a native of Kentucky, who settled in Piatt county in 1836, among its pioneer settlers, the work of improvement and development having scarcely been begun in this section of the state at that time. After his marriage Mr. Harris took up his abode in Monticello township and became one of the prosperous farmers of Piatt county. His investments were

carefully made, his business conducted along practical and progressive lines, and thus he won prosperity in his undertakings. His first wife died leaving four children: Henry Payne, Rebecca J., Sally A. and James William. Mr. Harris afterward married again and by that union there was one son. The father of our subject passed away in 1869 and his widow later became the wife of William Branch.

In taking up the personal history of Henry Payne Harris we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely and favorably known in his native county and central Illinois. He was reared in the usual manner of farmer lads who spend their youth in mastering the branches of learning taught in the district schools and in learning the methods of farm work in the fields and meadows. After leaving the common schools he resumed his farm work in Monticello township, and there engaged in general farming and stock-raising, following these pursuits until 1889, when, deciding that he wished to engage in mercantile pursuits, he came to Monticello and purchased an interest in a hardware store, formerly owned by Mr. Ferra. In this enterprise Mr. Harris became a partner of W. S. Ridgely under the firm style of Harris & Ridgely, and this connection was continued until 1897, when Mr. Harris purchased his partner's interest and has since been sole proprietor. He carries a large and carefully selected stock of goods fitted to meet the requirements of a varied trade, and he now has a large patronage, his business having assumed profitable proportions.

Mr. Harris has been honored with public office and served for two years as a member of the city council, during which time the Monticello water works were established and the electric light plant was also built. In the spring of 1903 he was elected supervisor of Monticello township, for a term of two years, and is now filling that position. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity and is a genial gentleman who has a wide acquaintance and many friends. During fourteen years he has been accounted one of the leading business men of Monticello, his efforts promoting its commercial activity and consequent prosperity while at the same time they have advanced his individual success.

JOHN C. BARNHART.

John C. Barnhart is numbered among the honored veterans of the Civil war. It is usually found that the soldier, all else being equal, makes a citizen of rare value. His army experience teaches him precision, together with rapidity and exactness of movement, his duty to his country is paramount, and these characteristics developed amid the scenes of battle or upon the tented field, are apt to remain with him throughout the years of an active manhood. John C. Barnhart won distinction in the Civil war as a most patriotic defender of the stars and stripes. He stands to-day as one of the distinguished citizens of Cerro Gordo, a man who in all life's relations is true to duty and principle.

Mr. Barnhart was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, December 27, 1836, and has been a resident of Piatt county since 1864, his home being in the village of Cerro Gordo. He is a son of Daniel and Mary Ann (Whitehurst) Barnhart, both of whom are natives of Ohio. The father was twice mar-

ried, his last union being with a Mrs. Russell, whose maiden name was Andrews. She was a native of Tuscarawas county, Ohio. There are five living children by their marriage: Joshua, Sibey, Elizabeth, Ann and Maggie, all of whom are residing in Adams county, Indiana. Unto the parents of our subject were born five children, of whom three are now living, while two are deceased, namely: John C.; Elizabeth, who is the wife of Isaac Leslie, a farmer residing in Carlisle, Arkansas; Comfort Ann, the wife of William Nicholson, a resident farmer living in Columbus, Ohio; and Hannah and Peter, who have passed away. Hannah was the wife of William Johnson, who for thirty years was an extensive farmer of Piatt county. They removed to Columbus and subsequently to Colorado, where both died. Peter died in Fairfield county, Ohio, in February, 1866, at the age of twenty-one years. The father of our subject was a carpenter and millwright by trade and followed these pursuits through his entire business career. He died in Adams county, Indiana, and his wife passed away in 1841.

John C. Barnhart was a little lad when his parents left the Buckeye state and took up their abode in Adams county, Indiana, where he was reared and acquired a common school education. He remained under the parental roof until after the outbreak of the Civil war, when on the 16th of December, 1861, a few days before he was twenty-five years of age, he enlisted at Buck Creek, Indiana, as a member of Company H, Fortieth Indiana Infantry. He was first under command of Colonel Wilson and later Colonel J. W. Blake. His first captain was William H. Bryan, who was succeeded by Captain Alfred Cole. With his company Mr. Barnhart participated in the battles of Shiloh, Perryville, Corinth, Murfreesboro and Chattanooga. At the last named place Mr. Barnhart was the first commissioned officer that crossed the Tennessee river and took charge of the men. He was also in the battle of Mission Ridge and in all of the engagements of the Atlanta campaign. On account of ill health he returned from Atlanta to Lookout Mountain, where he lay in the hospital for two months and then because of his continued illness he resigned and returned to his home.

Mr. Barnhart had friends residing in Cerro Gordo and it was this that led him to come to Piatt county. He was married on the 11th of February, 1866, to Miss Susan Drum, a native of Pickaway county, Ohio, and a daughter of Benjamin and Lydia Drum. Her father was a farmer, who died in the Buckeye state in 1848, but the mother long survived him and passed away in 1893. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Barnhart has been blessed with six children, but the eldest, Charles, died in infancy and Lydia, the fifth child, died at the age of two years. The others are Lura, at home; Estella, who is a teacher in the public schools of Cerro Gordo; Arthur, who married Cora Houston and is a barber of Gibson city, Illinois; and Reed, who is employed as a clerk in a shoe store in Cerro Gordo and makes his home with his parents.

After coming to Cerro Gordo Mr. Barnhart built the Clifton House, which is the only hotel in this place. He was engaged in the hotel business for six months, and afterward worked at the carpenter's trade for three years. He then began wagonmaking, carriage building and woodworking. He retired from business for two years, but his friend, E. O. Troxel, induced him to take charge of his (Troxel's) shop, and he has had charge of it for twelve years.

Mr. Barnhart voted with the Republican

party in early days, but is now a stanch Democrat. He has never been an aspirant for public office nor has he held such positions. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and both are highly esteemed people, having many warm friends in the village and throughout this portion of Piatt county. In matters of citizenship Mr. Barnhart is as true and loyal to his country as he was when he wore the blue uniform of the nation and followed the starry banner upon southern battlefields.

CHARLES ADKINS.

There has been no greater advancement made along any line of business than in agriculture, and in this regard America has gained the leadership of the world. No other country has so greatly improved farm implements or given to civilization as many useful inventions along this line as has the United States. Keeping in touch with the universal progress Charles Adkins of Bement township, has become one of the most progressive farmers of Piatt county and the excellent methods which he has followed have been of value to the community, giving to his fellow citizens an example well worthy of emulation.

Mr. Adkins was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, on the 7th of February, 1863, and comes of a family of English lineage. His paternal grandfather was Reuben Adkins, whose early life was spent at Snowhill, Maryland, whence he removed to Ross county, Ohio, in 1802. After a short time, however, he established his home in Pickaway county, Ohio, where he lived until his death, which occurred when he was seventy-two years of age. Sampson Adkins, the father of our subject, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, in 1839 and spent his entire life there, devoting his energies throughout the period of his manhood to agricultural pursuits. At the time of the Civil war, however, he put aside all business and personal considerations, offering his services to the government as a member of Company A, Ninetieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He then went to the front, but after ten months' service was honorably discharged on account of disability. In his business affairs he was energetic, wide-awake and prosperous and gained for his family a comfortable competence. He married Miss Eliza A. Mintun, who was born in Ohio and is a daughter of William and Phoebe Mintun. Her father was one of the early settlers of the Buckeye state, removing there from Hardy county, Virginia. He, too, was an agriculturist. In his political views Sampson Adkins was a stalwart Republican and in matters of citizenship he was public spirited, giving a helpful interest to all measures which he believed would prove of general benefit. He died in 1882 and is still survived by his wife who is now living in Monticello, where she has made her home for about a year.

In the family of this worthy couple were thirteen children, twelve of whom are still living and all now reside in Piatt county with the exception of two. The members of the family are as follows: Charles, who is the eldest; Mary E., who is the wife of Thomas Mintun, of Willow Branch township; Benjamin F., who follows farming in Willow Branch township; Elizabeth, wife of Charles Reeves, of Boone, Iowa; Reuben of Willow Branch township; Ida, the deceased wife of Ellsworth Anderson, of Monticello; Harry H., who is a bookkeeper for

the Chicago Woodenware Company, of Chicago; Amanda, the wife of Charles Jones, a farmer of Monticello township; Nancy A., the wife of Ellsworth Anderson; William N., who is living in Monticello township; Clara A., who resides with her mother; Joice, who is a school teacher and resides in Monticello; and Sampson, who also follows school teaching and is living in Monticello. All of these children were born in Ohio.

Charles Adkins spent the first twenty-two years of his life in the county of his nativity and pursued his education in its public schools. He afterward engaged in teaching for one term in Pickaway county and then assisted in the operation of the home farm. In December, 1885, he left Ohio and with his mother and the other members of the family came to Piatt county, locating in Monticello township on what was then known as the E. B. Hale property. There he engaged in farming for three years and on the expiration of that period he removed to the W. F. Stevenson farm in Willow Branch township, where he also lived for three years. He next settled upon his present farm, where he has charge of five hundred and sixty acres of valuable land, belonging to W. F. Stevenson. This he has managed continuously since, having entire supervision of the property, on which there are about eight men employed. All of this extensive farm is under cultivation, and his time is given in an undivided manner to the oversight of the property. He has upon the place a herd of shorthorn cattle, and raises high grade hogs. He feeds cattle for the market, and in his stock-dealing, as well as in other lines of business, he is most progressive and prosperous. He has made many improvements upon the farm, which is considered one of the finest in this part of the state. Mr. Adkins is continually seeking new, improved and practical methods of agriculture, and he has put into use the system of rotation of crops, which has proven very successful.

In January, 1888, Mr. Adkins was united in marriage to Miss Dora E. Farrow, a native of Piatt county, and a daughter of Frank and Elizabeth (Lorish) Farrow. Her father was born in Kentucky, and at an early day came to Illinois, settling in Macon county, where he resided for a number of years, carrying on agricultural pursuits. About 1868 he removed to Piatt county, where he again engaged in farming, and he is still living at the age of seventy years. His wife, who was born in Pennsylvania, died at about the age of thirty-eight years in the faith of the Christian church, of which she was a consistent member. She was the mother of eight children, of whom two are still living. Mrs. Adkins obtained her education in the common schools of Piatt county, and is a most estimable lady, possessing many excellent traits of character. She has one brother, John Farrow, who is a resident farmer of Bement township; and a half-brother, Frank Farrow, who also follows agricultural pursuits in Bement township. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Adkins have been born nine children: Ella; twins who died in infancy unnamed; Charles Otis; Benjamin F.; Reuben; Roy; Ruth and Grace. All of the children were born in this county and are being educated in the schools of Bement.

At one time Mr. Adkins entered into a contest for a prize to be given for the best one hundred acres of corn raised in Piatt county, and he was at that time farming in Willow Branch township. The prize was five hundred dollars, offered by S. W. Allerton, the father of Robert Allerton, who is living in this county. Mr. Adkins had a splendid field, as did one of his neighbors.

and the committee was unable to decide between them, so the prize was divided between the two. The corn was estimated to have a yield of one hundred bushels to the acre, and these two gentlemen carried off the prize over thirty competitors. Mr. Adkins received the following letter from Mr. Allerton about that time:

Chicago, November 14, 1889.

Mr. Charles Adkins,

Monticello, Illinois:

Dear Sir—Inclosed you will find my check for $250, the prize awarded you by Messrs. C. F. Tenney and T. E. Bondurant, which I send you with pleasure, for I feel you have paid me the highest compliment of any man in the county, for you had the best cultivated one hundred acres of corn, and you have demonstrated to the people of Piatt county, as a matter of fact, one hundred bushels of corn can be raised on an acre of land.

I took great pleasure in walking through your field of corn. It was a more beautiful picture to me than any that the old masters could paint.

With my best wishes, I remain,

Yours truly,

SAMUEL W. ALLERTON.

Mr. Adkins is deeply interested in everything pertaining to agriculture and the advancement of farming interests. He has been actively connected with the Farmers' Institute of this state, has delivered many addresses before its meetings and during the past year of 1902 has delivered many addresses in different counties of Illinois upon questions of vital interest to the farmer. Socially, he has been connected with the Masonic order for the past sixteen years, and he is also a member of the Modern Woodmen Camp and the Tribe of Ben Hur. In 1901 he was elected supervisor of Bement township, and has since acted in this capacity. He has also been a member of the school board for two years, and in politics he is a stalwart Republican, having firm faith in the principles of the party. He stands to-day as one of the most prominent, enterprising and successful farmers of Piatt county, and is certainly worthy of representation in this volume.

WILLIAM P. SMITH.

A representative of one of the pioneer families of Piatt county, William P. Smith has spent his entire life in this county and has attained to a position of prominence in business, political and social circles. There is nothing in his life history to attract the reader in search of a sensational chapter, but the student who reads between the lines and recognizes the value of character and the force of enterprise and energy in the world, will find much of interest in his career. Not only has he gained a creditable position in the business world, but he has also won the respect and confidence of his fellow men among whom his lot has been cast. He is now engaged in dealing in real estate, abstracts, loans and insurance in Monticello, where he has spent the greater part of the years of his manhood. He was born in Willow Branch township, Piatt county, on the 12th of September, 1859, about two years after the removal of his parents to central Illinois.

The ancestral line of the Smith family in America can be traced back to a period antedating the Revolutionary war. Jacob Smith, the great-grandfather of our subject,



W. P. SMITH



J. G. W. SMITH



MARY E. SMITH

joined the colonists in their struggle for independence and valiantly fought for liberty through seven long years of the Revolution. His son, Samuel Smith, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, and was of English and German descent. Jacob Smith, the father, was also a native of Dauphin county, born in 1817, and was twice married, his second wife being the mother of our subject. She bore the maiden name of Nancy Shenk, and her birth occurred in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, in 1820. Her father was Michael Shenk, also a native of Pennsylvania and of German descent. The children of the first marriage of Jacob Smith were Henry Augustus, who married Margaret Brightbill; and Catherine, wife of John Diller, a resident of Nebraska. Those of the second were J. G. W., who was a teacher for a number of years and died in 1884; James M.; Mary E. and William P. In the spring of 1857 the father came with his family directly from Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, to Piatt county, Illinois, having acquaintances here. He settled upon a tract of land which he developed into a highly cultivated and improved farm and made his home there until 1882, when he removed to Monticello, where he spent his remaining days in retirement from active labor. He was known as Colonel Smith, having commanded a regiment of state militia and served as a colonel on the staff of Governor Pollock, of Pennsylvania. He was a most pronounced Republican, and kept well informed on the issues of the day, and was thus enabled to support his position by intelligent argument. His life was busy, useful and honorable, and he commanded respect wherever known. He died in 1897, and his second wife is still living in her eighty-second year and is now in fair health.

The boyhood days of William P. Smith were spent in the usual manner of farmer lads. He remained upon the home farm until twenty years of age, and during that time acquired his education in the district school and received ample training at farm labor through the periods of vacation. He early became familiar with the labors of the fields and continued to assist his father through the summer months, until after he had attained his majority, while in the winter seasons he engaged in teaching school for five years, beginning when he was twenty years of age. At the age of twenty-five he entered the office of William E. Lodge, a prominent attorney of Monticello, acting as his bookkeeper and also studying law. He continued with Mr. Lodge for three years, and then embarked in merchandising, handling cigars and tobacco. Having conducted his store for three years he then sold out, and in 1891 opened a real estate office in Monticello, since which time he has engaged in the purchase and sale of lands, negotiating many important real estate transfers. In 1897 he compiled a complete set of abstract books, and thus established a new department to his business. He is also a loan and insurance agent. He has worked earnestly, systematically and along legitimate lines in securing a large clientage in the different departments of his business, and his labors have been crowned with a richly merited degree of success. He is also a member of the Piatt County Loan Association, one of the strong financial institutions of the county, also one of its organizers, directors and principal stockholders.

In 1894 Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Webster, who was

born and reared in Monticello, while her father, Samuel B. Webster, was a native of Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are the parents of three children: Marion, William Webster and Richard A.

Socially, Mr. Smith is connected with Selah Lodge, I. O. O. F., and he is also a member of the Modern Woodmen Camp of Monticello. In his political views he is a stalwart Republican, taking a prominent and helpful part in county and state politics. He served for four years as city clerk of Monticello, and on the 1st of April, 1901, was appointed by Governor Richard Yates a member of the live stock commission of Illinois, and was elected chairman by the board. He was for four years secretary of the Republican county central committee, and his active connection with the political work here has been a desirable factor in Republican successes. His genial manner, unfailing courtesy and deference for the opinions of others, which, however, never interferes with his stalwart support of his own honest convictions, are elements in his life which have won him the friendship and respect of his fellow men.

JAMES L. ALLMAN.

One of the most extensive landowners of western Illinois is James L. Allman, whose landed possessions aggregate one thousand acres. His home is on section 23, Monticello township. An analyzation of his life work shows that he owes his success not to any fortunate combination of circumstances or to inheritance or the assistance of influential friends, but to the capable control of his own business affairs, to the utilization of opportunity and to strong purpose guided by sound judgment.

Mr. Allman was born in Ireland, in August, 1838, and his father was John Allman, who remained a resident of the Emerald Isle until his death. At the usual age the subject of this review entered the common schools of that country, and he continued to make his home in his native land until 1854, when he crossed the Atlantic to the New World, establishing his home in Piatt county, Illinois. It was necessary that he secure employment in order to provide for his support, and he soon obtained a position as a farm hand, working in that way until 1862, when, believing his business experience and judgment justified his engaging in business on his own account, he rented a tract of land belonging to John Piatt, and situated near Monticello. On this he lived for three or four years, and successfully operated the property. In 1865 he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land on section 35, Monticello township, and continued its cultivation. Later he purchased four hundred and forty acres more. From time to time he added to his property, until he is to-day one of the most extensive landowners in the county. When he took up his abode on his present farm it was all wild prairie, and the water covered nearly the entire surface. It required much draining in order to make it cultivable, but Mr. Allman possessed resolute spirit and strong perseverance necessary to the successful prosecution of a work so arduous as the development of a farm. He endured all the hardships of pioneer life, broke the soil, placed it under the plow and tiled the entire farm. Year by year other improvements have been made, until he is to-day the owner of some of the most valuable farm property

to be found in this state. He has planted orchards, has erected a good residence and substantial barns and outbuildings, and has set out beautiful shade trees. In connection with the cultivation of cereals best adapted to the soil and climate he annually feeds many cattle for market, making a specialty of shorthorn, black polled cattle and Herefords. He also raises hogs for the market, selling about four hundred Poland China hogs each year. His has been an extremely prosperous career, and the most envious cannot grudge him his success, so honorable has it been won. He is likewise a member of the board of directors of the First National Bank of Monticello, which is one of the strong financial institutions in central Illinois.

In April, 1877, Mr. Allman was united in marriage to Miss Anna McCheffey, at Champaign, Illinois. She was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They now have seven children: Mary, Agnes, Margaret, Edmond, Anna, James and Joseph, all of whom are still under the parental roof. The parents hold membership in the Catholic church, and Mr. Allman votes with the Democracy. In seeking for the causes which have contributed to his success he finds them not so much in their rarity as in their harmonious union. It is no very rare thing for a poor boy in our country to become a prosperous man, occupying a commanding position in the business world, but many who have fought their way from poverty to wealth, from obscurity to prominence, retains some marks and scars of the conflict. They are apt to be narrow and grasping, even if not sordid and unscrupulous. Mr. Allman, however, is an instance of a man who has achieved success without paying the price at which it is often bought for his prosperity has not removed him farther from his fellow men, but has brought him into nearer and more intimate relations with them. His life history stands in exemplification of what can be accomplished in this free land, where opportunity is open to all, and to-day he is numbered among the most prominent as well as the most successful citizens of Piatt county.

BALTIS ORR.

In the history of the residents of Piatt county who have been prominent in public affairs or have been worthy representatives of business enterprises mention should be made of Baltis Orr, who for many years followed farming in Piatt county. He was one of the early settlers here, and was well known in Monticello and throughout this section of the state. He resided in the country from 1866 up to the time of his death, and through the faithful discharge of his duties of citizenship he aided in the promotion of public progress and improvement.

Mr. Orr was born in Licking county, Ohio, November 4, 1835, a son of John and Lavina Orr, both of whom were natives of Virginia. On leaving the Old Dominion they settled in Licking county, Ohio, where they engaged in farming throughout their remaining days, both the father and mother passing away in that locialty. Mr. Orr of this review was the only one of the family that came to Piatt county. He obtained his early education in the common schools of Licking county, Ohio, and was trained to farm work upon the old homestead. He lived in the Buckeye

state until March, 1865, carrying on farming there, and on severing his business connections in Ohio he removed to the Mississippi valley, settling first in LaSalle county, Illinois. There he engaged in farming for a year, and on the expiration of that period he removed to Piatt county and purchased a tract of land in Unity township. Here he at once began its development and improvement and successfully carried on general farming until 1897. Each year saw good crops raised upon his place, and as modern machinery was introduced he secured such accessories as would facilitate his farm work and add to the value of his crops. Everything about his place indicated his progressive supervision, and he continued actively in farming until 1897, when he removed to the village of Hammond, where he lived retired until his death.

While still a resident of Ohio Mr. Orr was united in marriage to Miss Hannah L. Boring, also a native of Licking county, born on the 21st of September, 1837. She is a daughter of George Boring, who was born in Virginia, but removed to Ohio at an early day, and there spent the remainder of his life upon a farm. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Orr was born one daughter, Addie, whose birth occurred on the 31st of October, 1865, and who died in 1888. She was the wife of H. W. Leavitt, and had one child, Elmer, who now resides with his grandmother, Mrs. Orr.

Mr. Orr voted with the Democracy and believed firmly in its principles, but was never an active politician in the sense of office-seeking. He held some minor township offices, but always preferred to give his attention to his business affairs, in which he prospered so that he left his widow in very comfortable circumstances. He died August 1, 1901, respected by all who knew him, for throughout his life he had been honorable in all his relations with his fellow men, and he thus gained uniform confidence and regard. Mrs. Orr is a consistent and valued member of the Baptist church of Hammond. She now owns three hundred and twenty acres of the best farming land in Unity township, which she rents, and in addition to this she has a beautiful residence in Hammond, where she is now living with her grandson. She also owns several building lots in Hammond, and she is well known in the county where for thirty-seven years she has made her home. Mr. Orr lived to see many changes wrought here by time and man as the county emerged from its primitive condition to take its place with the leading counties of this great commonwealth. Because of its broad and rich prairies agriculture has been the chief occupation of its people, and of this business Mr. Orr was also a worthy representative. So productive is the soil and so enterprising the farmers that Piatt county has become one of the garden spots of the world.

CHARLES M. DAUBERMAN.

Charles M. Dauberman, who is engaged in business in Mansfield as a grain merchant, was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, on the 5th of February, 1856, and is a son of Jacob and Esther (Yarger) Dauberman, who are still living. Both were natives of Snyder county, Pennsylvania, which adjoins Union county, and throughout his business career the father carried on the occupation of farming. On the old homestead in the Keystone state

Charles M. Dauberman was reared, and at the usual age he entered the public schools of Union county, therein pursuing his studies until he had largely mastered the common branches of English learning. His training at farm work was not meager, for at an early age he began assisting in the work of plowing, planting and harvesting. He continued upon his father's farm until twenty-one years of age, when he began working in a machine shop in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, where he was employed for a year. At the end of that time he began working as an engineer in a flouring mill, and afterward he came to the west, where he secured a position as a farm hand in the employ of W. D. Fairbanks, a well-known agriculturist of Piatt county. He acted as assistant manager and engineer upon the farm for some time, and in 1881 he took up his abode in Mansfield. Here he managed a grain office for W. D. Fairbanks through a period of six years, after which he leased an elevator and engaged in the grain trade on his own account. He had followed that business for himself for six years in Mansfield, when he ceased renting and built an elevator of his own, worth about nine thousand dollars. He is one of the wide-awake and progressive grain merchants of this place, and his business furnishes an excellent market for the grain-raisers of this locality, while his own sales are attended with profit and are bringing to him a very creditable prosperity.

In 1891 occurred the marriage of Charles M. Dauberman and Miss Sarah M. Osborne. They now have one child, Lucile, who is attending school in Mansfield and is now nine years of age. Mr. Dauberman holds membership relations with the Modern Woodmen of America, and he exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party. Almost every year he is solicited to become a candidate for office, but has always steadily refused, preferring to devote his energies to his business affairs. While a member of no church there is probably no resident of Mansfield whose career more clearly illustrates the power of honesty and integrity in active business affairs than does that of Charles M. Dauberman. He started out in life empty-handed, but resolved that he would win success if it could be done by persistent, earnest effort. Brooking no obstacles that could be overcome by diligence and perseverance, he has steadily advanced to the goal of prosperity, and as a grain merchant is now well known as a successful and enterprising business man of Mansfield.

REV. MOSES PREDMORE.

Rev. Moses Predmore has for the past twenty-eight years devoted his life to the ministry of the United Brethren church. Who can measure the influence of such a career or can tell of what shall be the harvest of the seeds of good sown? It is a well-known fact, however, that Mr. Predmore has taken a very active and helpful part in the moral redemption of the people of this locality, and long after he shall have passed away his influence will be held as a blessed benediction by those who know him.

Rev. Predmore is a native of Licking county, Ohio, his birth having there occurred on the 9th of April, 1833. His father, Benjamin Predmore, was a native

of Scotland, a man of powerful frame and well fitted to cope with the hardships and difficulties of pioneer life. He became an early settler of Licking county, Ohio, and aided in the arduous task of reclaiming that region for the purposes of civilization. He wedded Miss Mercy Ann Evans, a native of that county and a daughter of Lewis Evans, who was also born in Ohio. It was of this marriage that Rev. Moses Predmore was born. He was reared as a farmer boy and early became familiar with hard work. His father was a well-educated man and a successful teacher in early life, but he died when his son, Moses, was only two years of age, and the mother passed away ten years later, so that the boy was left an orphan at the tender age of twelve years. After that he made his home among strangers, fighting life's battles as best he could without any one to advise him or to guide him. He was ambitious and energetic, however, and desirous of obtaining an education. He attended the district schools as he had opportunity until his sixteenth year. He then left Ohio and made his way to Fulton county, Illinois. As his means were limited he traveled on foot part of the way, and during other portions of the journey proceeded by stage. He stopped first at Otto, Fulton county, where he found employment with a farmer who resided on the bank of Otter creek. Rev. Predmore remained in his service for three years, and on the expiration of that period he returned to Ohio. Soon afterward, however, he went to Arkansas for the purpose of chopping wood during the winter months. Being large and strong, he proved himself especially capable as a chopper, and had no difficulty in securing employment in that way. Returning to the north, he located in Springfield, Illinois, and there rented land for four years.

Seeking a companion and helpmate for life's journey, on the 10th of March, 1861, Rev. Predmore led to the marriage altar Miss Sarah Fairbanks, of Springfield, Illinois, a daughter of Samuel Fairbanks. They continued to reside upon the farm near the capital city for four years, and during that time Mr. Predmore prospered so that he was enabled to purchase a larger tract of land, buying one hundred and sixty acres of land in DeWitt county, Illinois, and there resided until 1875. During that time he had resolved to devote at least a portion of his time to the holy calling of redeeming men from sin, and while there he began studying for the ministry and became a local preacher of the United Brethren church. In 1875 he commenced work on the circuit, which embraced two or three counties. Later selling his DeWitt county farm, he came to Monticello and continued in the work of the ministry here, giving his labors to the United Brethren church in this city until 1902, when, on account of failing health, he was obliged to retire from active connection with the ministry. His deep interest in the church and its work, however, has never abated in the slightest degree, and he does everything in his power to promote the cause of Christianity in this locality.

In 1896 Mr. Predmore was called upon to mourn the loss of the faithful and loving wife with whom he had traveled life's journey for thirty-five years. He has since married again, his second union being with Mrs. Martha Martin, the widow of John Martin. By her first marriage she had three children: William, a mechanic

of Springfield; Allen, who engages in farming; and Bertha, who is at home with her mother. Like her husband, Mrs. Predmore is much interested in church work, and has long been active in behalf of the cause of Christianity. Mr. Predmore in former years made judicious investments in real estate, and now owns considerable property in Monticello, including a number of dwellings, the rental from which brings to him a good income and enables him to enjoy the rest which he greatly deserves. Through his reading, research and observation he has become a man of scholarly attainments, and has ever put forth his utmost power in behalf of his church. In his discourses he is earnest, forceful and logical, and many have heard him with attention and deep interest, resulting in a change in the course of their lives.

THOMAS MORRIS.

Thomas Morris is one of the self-made men and successful farmers of Piatt county, his home being on section 4, Unity township. The possibilities that America offers to her citizens he has utilized, and though he came to this country in limited circumstances he has steadily and perseveringly worked his way upward, leaving the ranks of the many to stand among the successful few.

A native of Ireland, Mr. Morris was born in County Galway in 1833, and is a son of Michael and Mary (Shaughnessy) Morris, who spent their entire lives in that country. In their family were nine children. Our subject grew to manhood in his native land and was twenty years of age when, in 1853, he emigrated to the United States. He landed in New York city and from there proceeded to Pennsylvania, where he remained until the fall of 1854, which witnessed his arrival in Piatt county, Illinois. Here he hired out as a farm hand and continued to work by the month for about nine years, receiving from sixteen to twenty dollars per month. In this way he gained a start in the business world and for five years rented land in Unity township. At the end of that time he was able to purchase eighty acres of land on section 4, the same township, and subsequently bought eighty acres on section 9, another eighty acres on section 4, and eighty acres on section 5, all in Unity township. He also purchased two one hundred and sixty acre tracts in Bement township and a similar amount in Monticello township, making four hundred and eighty acres in all. For his first land he paid eleven dollars per acre and the second tract nine dollars, but it is now very valuable property owing to the rise in value and its present improved condition. When he located on section 4, Unity township, his place was all wild, but he has tiled and drained the land, made many improvements thereon, and is to-day the owner of some of the best farming property in this section of the state. Since 1861 he has been a resident of Unity township and has been actively and prominently identified with its development and prosperity, but at present is practically living retired while his sons cultivate the land.

Mr. Morris married Miss Mary Conners, who was born in County Kerry, Ireland, and came to America when a child. By this union six children have been born namely: Michael, who lives on one of his

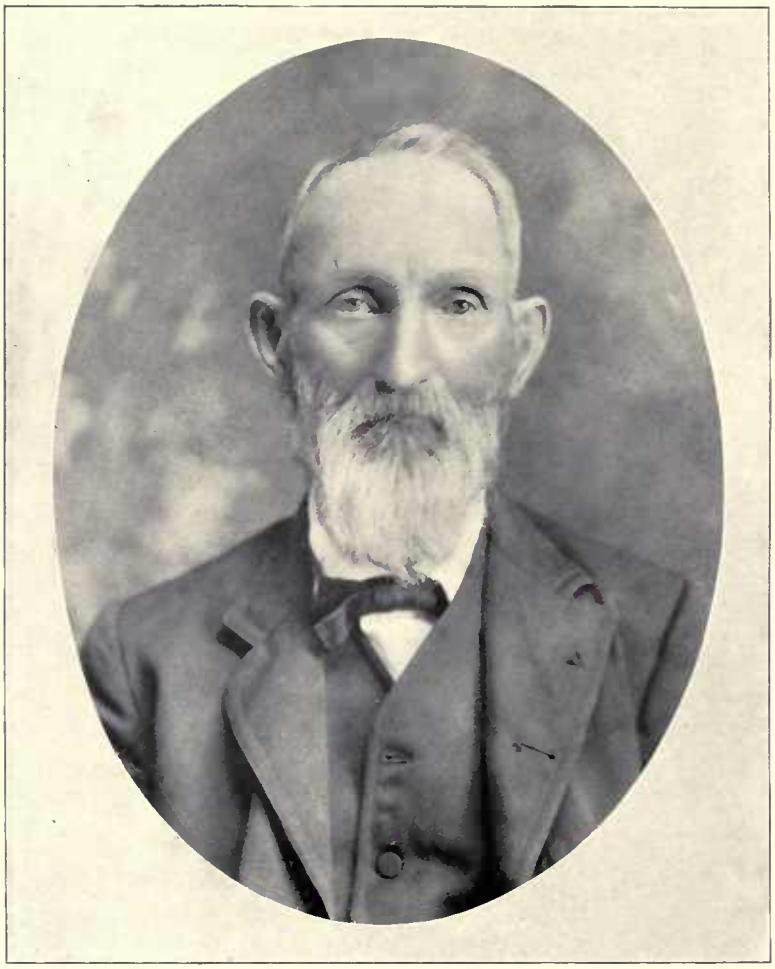
father's farms in Bement township, married Sarah Dooley and has three children; David, who also lives on a farm belonging to his father in Bement township, wedded Mary Brown and has one child; James married Jane Dooley and makes his home in Monticello township; Thomas, Mary and Henry are still with their parents upon the home farm.

Mr. Morris and his family are communicants of St. Michael's Catholic church of Bement and he assisted in building both the old and new churches at that place, as well as the school houses in his section of the county. In his political views he is a stalwart Democrat, taking an active interest in public affairs. When he first came to this county the Illinois Central Railroad only extended as far as Champaign and he has been a witness of the greater part of the growth and development of this section of the state. He has broken many an acre of prairie sod with oxen and some with horses and has materially aided in transforming this region into a productive agricultural district. In early days he was fond of hunting wild game of all kinds, including ducks, prairie chickens and cranes which were found in abundance. Much of the land was under water and fever and ague were the prevailing diseases among the pioneers, but all of these conditions have gradually changed and Piatt county now ranks among the best in this great commonwealth.

E. S. ROOT.

E. S. Root is numbered among the honored veterans of the Civil war, and is also one of the early settlers and highly esteemed citizens of Piatt county. He is now leading a retired life in the village of Bement and well does he merit the rest, for he has himself earned the competence which now enables him to put aside further business cares. He was born in Athens, Athens county, Ohio, on the 30th of January, 1831, and is a son of Levi and Polly (Stewart) Root. The father was born in Vermont, but at an early day in the history of Ohio he took up his residence in the latter state, becoming identified with its farming interests. Throughout his business career he carried on agricultural pursuits, and at length he died in Missouri at the advanced age of eighty-one years. His life record shows that industry and integrity were salient features in his career and formed the basis of his prosperity. He voted with the Republican party and was a member of the Methodist church, his life being in consistent harmony with its teachings and principles. His wife was born and reared in Athens county, Ohio, and always lived there until called to the home beyond. She, too, was a member of the Methodist church and into the minds of her children she instilled lessons of honesty and morality which have borne fruit in honorable lives. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Root were born twelve children, all of whom are natives of Athens county, Ohio, and of this family E. S. Root is the eldest. Eleven of the children are still living, but none are residents of Piatt county with the exception of our subject. The mother was born in 1809, and passed away in 1857, at the age of forty-eight years.

Ezra S. Root began his education in Ohio at an early day. His advantages in that direction were somewhat limited, owing to the primitive condition of the schools and to the need of his services upon the home farm, but he made good use of his opportunities, and in later life has added large-



E. S. ROOT



MRS. EZRA S. ROOT

ly to his knowledge through reading, observation and experience. In 1857 he came to this state, locating first in Douglas county, Illinois, where he engaged in general farming until after the outbreak of the Civil war. Prompted by a spirit of patriotism he offered his aid to the government, enlisting in Douglas county in 1862 as a member of Company E, Seventy-ninth Illinois Infantry, with which he served for three years. He was in a number of very important battles and skirmishes, including the engagements at Stone River, Tullahoma, Chickamauga and Mission Ridge, and when the war was over he received an honorable discharge at Springfield, Illinois. He was always found at his post of duty, whether it led him into the thickest of the fight or called him to the lonely picket line. He never failed in his allegiance to the old flag and his military record is one which he has every reason to be proud of.

Mr. Root had five brothers in the Civil war, and all retured home save one, William Henry, who was killed in the battle of Perryville. The others were D. O., Charles, John Wesley and Lawrence Eugene, the last being but fifteen years of age when he enlisted. The grandfather of our subject on his mother's side, served in the Revolutionary war, while his grandfather on his father's side was in the war of 1812. An uncle served in the Black Hawk war.

After receiving his discharge Mr. Root returned to Douglas county, where he resumed farming, carrying on the work of tilling the soil there until 1874. In that year he removed to Iowa, but after three years returned to this state, making his way to Piatt county. Locating in Bement township he engaged in farming and followed that pursuit throughout the remainder of his active business career. In 1898 he retired from agricultural life and is now living in Bement, resting in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former labor. His life record stands in exemplification of the truth that success is the outcome of energy guided by practical judgment and by laudable ambition guided by common sense.

In 1850, in Athens county, Ohio, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Root and Miss Margaret McCreary, who was born in the Buckeye state, and who proved to her husband a faithful companion and helpmate on life's journey for about fifty-one years. At length she was called to her final rest, passing away at her home in Bement in 1901, at the age of sixty-nine years. She held membership in the Methodist church, and was a woman who was greatly loved by all who knew her, because she was most faithful to her friends and was a devoted wife and mother. In her life she displayed many excellent traits of character, and her death was thus the occasion of deep regret among those in whose midst she had lived. Mr. and Mrs. Root were the parents of nine children, four of whom survive. Emily, who died at the age of forty years, was the wife of William Cravatt, of Iowa, and had three children, Guy and Levi, who are living, and Grace, deceased. Mary Jane died at the age of eleven months. Elizabeth became the wife of James Gill, and at her death left seven children. Harriet is the wife of Cornelius Hopkins, of Bement, who is employed as a section hand on the Wabash Railroad, and they had four children, Myrtle, Arthur, Jerry and one that died in infancy. Levi F., who resides in Bement and works at the coal shaft of the Wabash Railroad, married Victoria Snyder. Ezra N., the next in the family, died at the age of one

year. Wesley Bement married Bessie Davis and has four children. Theodore G. died at the age of nine months. William Sherman is a farmer and resides with his father. He married Laura Martindale, and they have two children, Rosetta and Raymond. All of the children were born in Illinois with the exception of the three oldest.

Mr. Root has seen many improvements made in Piatt county and has assisted materially in the substantial development and permanent upbuilding of this section of the state. He owns the dwelling in which he lives and three village lots in Bement, in addition to two lots and dwellings which he leases. For his services in the Civil war he draws a pension. In times of peace he has been as loyal to his country as he was when he followed the old flag on the battle-fields of the south, and his public career is indeed honorable and upright. In his business relations he has ever been straightforward. He holds membership in the Grand Army Post and thus maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades. In politics he has long been a stalwart Republican and feels it the duty as well as the privilege of American citizens to exert his right of franchise in support of the measures he believes will prove of greatest benefit to his country and its government.

JOHN H. GARVER.

There is an old German saying that a man may have three things in this world —the gains he accumulates, the hearts he loves and his good works. The wealth is the first to leave him when death lays its hand upon his form; the loved ones go to the tomb, turn from it and pass to their homes; but the good works followed through all the years, praising his name and make hallowed his memory. Mr. Garver won creditable and honorable success in his business career, but it was not this that made him so loved by the people who knew him and caused him to be accounted one of the most prominent and best liked citizens of Piatt county. He lived a life that at all times commanded respect and honor and his kindness of nature, his genial disposition and his honorable principles gained for him the warm friendship of all with whom he came in contact.

Mr. Garver was born November 3, 1825, in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, a son of Jacob and Susan (Hisey) Garver, both of whom were natives of the Keystone state, where they lived until 1839, when they came with their family to Illinois, settling in Macon county. There the father engaged in farming for several years, but afterward removed to Kansas, where both he and his wife died. Of the children born unto them seven are now living as follows: David, who is engaged in the poultry business in Cerro Gordo; Mrs. Susan Johnson, a resident of Kansas; Mrs. Mary Wallace, who is living in Humbolt, Kansas; Samuel, a carpenter residing in Louisiana; Barbara, the wife of Sanford Rogers, also a resident of Kansas; Daniel, who is clerking in a store in Decatur, Illinois; and Abram, who conducts a meat market in Westfield, this state.

John H. Garver was a youth of only fourteen years when he became a resident of Illinois and throughout his remaining days he resided in this part of the state. After coming to Cerro Gordo he engaged in the grain business, buying and shipping

grain of all kinds. He conducted operations along that line for several years and then, disposing of his enterprise, he turned his attention to the grocery business, conducting a store here until his life's labors were ended in death. His business methods were very honorable and would bear the closest investigation. In all of his work he was systematic, progressive, industrious and thoroughly reliable and his word was as good as any bond that was ever solemnized by signature or seal.

On the 16th of December, 1848, Mr. Garver was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Jane Hudson, the wedding taking place in Cerro Gordo. The lady is a native of Newcastle, Maryland, born in 1830, and is a daughter of Asa and Phoebe (Jester) Hudson, who were also natives of Maryland, but in 1832 they removed to Ohio, where they resided for a number of years. In 1841 they came to Illinois, and settled in Oakley township, Macon county, near the village of Cerro Gordo. Subsequently they took up their abode within the borders of Piatt county and the father engaged in farming until his death. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Carver were born nine children, but five of the number are now deceased, namely: Albert, Addie, Willie, Chester and Minnie. Of those living Benjamin F. is the eldest. He married Docia Neblock, of Cerro Gordo, and follows the painter's trade here. Samuel D., who married Emma Hummell, is a plasterer who follows his chosen occupation in Cerro Gordo. May is the widow of H. E. McKinney, a son of Andrew and Mary (Rogers) McKinney. Andrew McKinney was a prominent dry goods merchant of Cerro Gordo who removed from Illinois to Kansas, where he became an extensive landowner and both he and his wife died in the Sunflower state in 1898. Their son, H. E. McKinney, acted as a salesman in the stores of Cerro Gordo during the greater part of his life and was a prominent young business man here, popular with a large circle of friends. He belonged to the Masonic fraternity and was a worthy exemplar of the craft. His death occurred August 7, 1888, and his widow now resides with her mother, Mrs. Garver. Charles A., the youngest of the family, is a farmer and resides in Oklahoma. Mrs. Garver and Mrs. McKinney occupy a pleasant home in the southwestern part of Cerro Gordo and each own other valuable property in the village.

In early days Mr. Garver was a Republican, but in later life gave his political support to the Prohibition party for he was a stanch advocate of the cause of temperance and believed it to be one of the paramount issues before the people. For a half century he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church to which his wife also belongs and was one of its most earnest and consistent workers. Perhaps no better estimate of his character can be given than to quote from the funeral sermon which was delivered at his death by his pastor, Rev. J. H. Waterbury, on the 15th of November, 1898, and who said: "We bury from our sight this day one of God's saints. For three score years and ten he has been engaged in the conflict which all men must wage in this world. His pathway has not been one of roses entirely. He knew what it meant to be an overcomer. In the contest for material prizes he has been fairly successful. By the economic use of his energies, he has gained for himself a competency. His declining years were spent in the peaceful possession and benefits of accumulation

wrested from the soil. That kind of overcoming is full of hardships, yet his victory in the realm of the moral and spiritual is more significant.

"First, I desire to direct attention to our brother's relation to secular life. He enjoyed the confidence of men. His agreements were kept to the letter. One thing that came to the surface in conversation with Brother Garver was his keen discrimination between right and wrong. In business transactions, any injury he may have done his neighbor was a mistake of the head and not of the heart. He was conscientious. This alone is a record of which men may well be proud, but with him there was no suspicion that he had done anything unusual in doing right. It was a life acting in harmony with a high purpose.

"In social life he sustains the position he gained in secular affairs. It is a grief to lose the example of a good man. Consciously or unconsciously he becomes a center of moral power, restraining the bad and encouraging the good. Such was his example. He was universally kind. While he was not able to mingle in society toward the close of his life, he was in touch with all that was going, and contact with him revealed his interest in men. A trait worthy of emulation was the invariable disposition to hang the mantle of charity over the faults of others. This was not due to a desire to palliate wrong doing, but rather a knowledge of the weaknesses of humanity. The influence of such a life cannot be measured this side of eternity. It is educational. It is the good of this world which preserves society from corruption, and the Savior's language 'the salt of the earth' applies to him.

"As an overcomer in spiritual matters he reaches the highest place in our confidence and esteem. Mr. Garver was a believer in eternal verities. Christ was at once his Leader, Master, Friend. It is with pleasure I emphasize his belief in God. You bear me out in this statement who knew him best. He sought out the footsteps of Christ and followed Him. With a child-like faith he placed his hand in that of his Savior and was led through life's changing scenes, ending with the 'valley and the shadow of death.' He bowed in humble submission to divine mandates, believing that God does all things well.

"If loyalty to the church is a test of spiritual life, the deceased does not disappoint. In early life he was a regular attendant upon the services of God's house. Few men have a higher regard for the mission of Christianity than did our brother, and when he was too feeble to leave his home he prayed for the success of Zion, and gave wings to his prayers by paying promptly of his money to the extent of his ability. A test of this loyalty was his attitude toward his pastor. As a minister I am competent to speak here. I visited him often, and in each instance he fixed himself more securely in my affections. He was a friend, a brother, an adviser and a confidant. He was not expecting absolute perfection, and yet encouraged me to do my best. I revere his memory. He was sympathetic and true. There are some in glory to-day and others on the way, whose lives had an impetus toward heaven through contact with this man of blessed memory.

"Finally I will speak of his domestic life. How true a heart has ceased to beat no one knows as well as his family. As

a husband he was all that the term implies. He was a lover of home and did his share to make it a refuge from the storms of life. He walked by the side of her who is widowed to-day for fifty years and in that period of a half century fulfilled the vows taken at the marriage altar. The home cannot be again what it has been because he is not. As a father he tried to do his duty. He was very tender toward his loved ones, and their joys and sorrows were his joys and sorrows. He repeatedly expressed the hope that God would save them an unbroken family.

"It is not my intention to assume that Mr. Garver was without fault. Doubtless he had the weaknesses to which flesh is heir. But the trend of his life was right. His motives were pure, his positions clearly defined. He favored no compromises with evil and believed in the ultimate triumph of the right. We reluctantly give him up, but we confidently believe that the influence of his life in the business and social world, and in his home, is a permanent blessing. May God, who was the inspiration and joy of this life, lead us as he was led, that when it is ours to depart it can be said of us 'he has fought a good fight, finished his course and kept the faith.' "

AMOS STOLLARD.

One of the beautiful country seats of Piatt county is the property of Amos Stollard, a commodious and attractive residence standing in the midst of a well-kept lawn shaded by magnificent trees and in the rear are all the outbuildings needed for the shelter of grain and stock. These in turn are surrounded by richly cultivated fields and the farm is complete in all of its appointments. It is situated in section 16, Monticello township, and Mr. Stollard carefully superintends the cultivation of this place with the result that it returns to him a good annual income.

A native of Ohio, he was born in Pickaway county, upon a farm near Circleville, February 2, 1847, his parents being William and Margaret (Vinson) Stollard. His father was born in Maryland, April 6, 1814, and was educated there in the common schools, after which he assisted his father at the blacksmith's trade until they removed to Ohio. In the latter state they turned their attention to farming in Pickaway county and William Stollard remained upon the home place with his father until he was twenty-one years of age, when he began farming on his own account upon rented land. Soon afterward he was married to Miss Margaret Vinson and he continued to engage in the operation of a rented farm in Pickaway county until 1867, when he came to Piatt county, Illinois, settling in Monticello township. He here rented the Marquiss farm, upon which he lived for two years, after which he leased the McReynolds farm for seven years. At the end of that time he retired from active business life, his son, Amos, taking charge of the farm and the father living with him until his death. Unto the parents of our subject were born six children: Martin L., who married Malinda Kuiser and is now living in Tarlton, Ohio; Louis P., a retired farmer of Bement who married Jane Russell and after her death, which occurred in less than a year following their marriage, he wedded Tamson Sullivan; Malinda, who is the widow of Philip

Baum, who died about 1869; Amos, who is the fourth in the family; Mary Janes, deceased; and Minerva, who is the wife of Benjamin F. Hood, now living on a farm on section 18, Monticello township.

At the usual age Amos Stollard began mastering the branches of learning taught in the common schools of Pickaway county, Ohio. He continued his studies through the winter months, while in the summer seasons he worked in the fields and meadows, early becoming familiar with agricultural life in all of its departments. With his father he removed to Piatt county, Illinois, and he continued to assist his father in farm work until after his marriage, which important event in his life occurred in September, 1877. He wedded Miss Sarah C. Jones and then began farming on his own account. After renting land for two years he purchased the farm upon which he is now located on section 16, Monticello township, and has developed this into one of the finest properties in this section of the state. He erected a beautiful residence containing eight rooms, has built two barns and two double granaries, together with other outbuildings needed for the shelter of grain and stock and for the protection of his farm implements from the inclement weather. A driveway winds up to the house, around which is a well-kept lawn shaded by beautiful trees. So numerous are the trees that at a distance the place appears to be a small grove. Everything about the farm is kept in first-class condition. Mr. Stollard has laid a large amount of tiling and has enclosed his land by a new wire fence and has also thus divided it into fields of convenient size. He has set out two new orchards, has a deep well upon the place and, in fact, there is no equipment of the model farm that is lacking. His landed possessions comprise one hundred and twenty acres, of which eighty acres is situated on section 17 and forty acres on section 16, Monticello township. Annually he produces large crops of corn and oats, also raises considerable clover and has rich pasture lands. He yearly sells many head of cattle and hogs and in all of these departments his farm work is bringing to him a good profit.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Stollard have been born seven children: Amos Elmer, who is attending school in Dixon, Illinois; Wilbur Earl, who is at home with his father; Maggie May, who is also attending school in Dixon; Hattie, deceased; Minnie Ethel, who is at home; one who died unnamed in infancy; and Irene, deceased.

Mr. Stollard votes with the Republican party, believing firmly in its principles and its platform. For more than ten years he has served as school director and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend. At the present time he is filling the position of road commissioner. His wife is a member of the First Methodist Episcopal church and both Mr. and Mrs. Stollard are well known in Piatt county. His life record should serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others, for he started out on his own account without capital or the aid of influential friends. With him success has been ambition's answer. He has labored perseveringly, using discrimination in the conduct of his business affairs and as the years have passed his financial resources have increased until he is to-day classed among the substantial residents of his adopted county.

NELS B. LARSON.

Nels B. Larson, one of the most enterprising and practical farmers of Unity township, was born in Sweden, February 18, 1861, and is the oldest of the nine children of Bonde and Bessie Larson. His parents are still living in that county, where the father is engaged in farming. He visited his sons in America in the summer of 1902. Six of his children are now living in the United States, these being Nels B., of this review; S. B., who lives on his Uncle Nels Larson's place on section 7, Unity township; John, also a resident of that township; Hannah Hanson, a resident of Macon county, Illinois; Segrie Pierson, who makes her home in the same county; and Emma Pierson, of Argenta, Macon county. Those living in Sweden are Annie, Larson and Sophie.

Nels B. Larson spent his boyhood and youth upon a farm in his native land and is indebted to the public schools of that country for the educational privileges he enjoyed. Deciding to try his fortune on this side of the Atlantic, he emigrated to America in 1881 and has since been identified with the interests of central Illinois. He was entirely unfamiliar with the English language on his arrival in this country, but could speak it quite fluently before two years had passed. His first work here was tiling, and he afterward worked by the month as a farm hand for three years.

At the end of that time Mr. Larson rented the Ruby farm in Unity township, which he operated for nine years, and next had charge of the Daniel Dawson place in Bement township three years. The following two years were passed on the Edmund Davis farm in Bement township, and from there he removed to Moultrie county, Illinois, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved land, for which he paid sixty dollars per acre, and he at once began to drain, break and cultivate the land, which to-day is worth one hundred and fifteen dollars per acre owing to the improvements he has made thereon. It is well tilled and a substantial house, barn and other outbuildings stand as monuments to his labor. After residing here for four years Mr. Larson rented the place, which is now occupied by a tenant, and removed to the E. P. Thompson farm on section 6, Unity township. On this place he has made his home since 1901, operating the land on the shares, and in connection with general farming he carries on stock-raising to a considerable extent, making a specialty of a high grade of horses. He has sold some fine stallions at good prices and also has some good roadsters.

An important event in the life of Mr. Larson was his marriage on the 30th of April, 1883, to Miss Emma Ericks, the ceremony being performed at Marinette, Wisconsin. She is a daughter of Erick Swanson, who is now living in Michigan, and is a most hospitable woman, well liked by all who know her. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Larson have been born eight children, namely: Bessie, who is now the wife of Oscar Swanson and a resident of Michigan; Mamie; Lillie; Albert; Annie; John; Russell and Stella. Our subject is giving his children the best educational advantages possible, desiring that their training shall fit them for any position in life that they may be called upon to fill. His eldest daughter has studied music.

On coming to Illinois Mr. Larson

found much of Piatt county covered with sloughs and ponds, and he has done his share in the work of improvement, for he is a public spirited and progressive citizen who takes a deep interest in the welfare of his adopted country. While living in Moultrie county he acceptably served as a member of the school board and as path master. Socially, he is an honored member of the Odd Fellows Lodge of Bement, and he and his family hold membership in the Presbyterian church at that place.

W. D. FAIRBANKS.

Business conditions in America have revolutionized the commercial history of the world. No other country has made as rapid advance or as splendid progress as our own republic, where every man is equal before the law and finds his opportunity if he will but diligently seek it. Every community has its leaders—men capable of controlling important and extensive business interests and whose carefully earned success awakens the admiration and respect of the public. Such a one is W. D. Fairbanks, who has risen to a prominent position among the most extensive land-owners of central Illinois, and his business record is such as any man might be proud to possess, not alone because of his brilliant prosperity, but also because of the honorable manner in which it has been achieved. Judicious investment, careful management and strict conformity to commercial ethics stand as salient features in his career and make his name an honored as well as a powerful one in financial circles.

Mr. Fairbanks, whose landed holdings exceed those of the majority of citizens in this locality, and who is the president of the First National Bank of Mansfield, Illinois. was born in Union county, Ohio, on the 16th of June, 1857, and traces his ancestry back through many generations to England. The first of the name of whom we have record was Jonathan Fairebanke, who was born in England before the year 1600, and came with his family to the new world, landing in Boston in 1633. After a residence there of three years he went to Dedham, Massachusetts, becoming one of its founders, and there he built the celebrated "Old Fairbanks House" in 1836. It is still standing in a good state of preservation, and has never been out of the possession of those who bear the family name. Jonas Fairbank, the second in line of direct descent to our subject, was born in England and accompanied his parents to the new world in 1833, becoming a resident of Dedham, Massachusetts, after three years. He was killed in an Indian massacre, February 10, 1676. Captain Jabez Fairbank, his son, was born August 11, 1670, in Lancaster, Massachusetts, was a valiant officer in the Indian wars, became famous as a scout and stood very high in the confidence of Governor Drummer. Deacon Joshua Fairbank, a son of Captain Jabez Fairbank, was born in Lancaster, Massachusetts, March 28, 1714, and was a soldier of the French and Indiana war. The next in the line of direct decent was Captain Luther Fairbank, the great-grandfather of our subject, who was born in Lancaster, Massachusetts, August 15, 1755, and was a brave and well-known officer of the Continental army. He was one of those who were taken prisoner while in the act of scaling the walls of the fortifications of Quebec, under General Montgomery, in December, 1775. Luther Fairbank, his son, and the grandfather of our subject, was born

in Swanzey, New Hampshire, September 10, 1780, became a farmer of Vermont and afterward removed to Ohio, where his remaining days were passed.

Loriston Monroe Fairbanks, the father of our subject, was born in Barnard, Vermont, May 4, 1824, and was the first of the name to add the final "s." When a young man he removed to Ohio, locating in Union county, upon a farm near Unionville. He was among the pioneer settlers of the locality and took an active interest in the early development of that part of the state. He there met and married Mary Elizabeth Smith, a native of New York, who went with her parents to Union county, Ohio. In early life Loriston M. Fairbanks was a mechanic and engaged in the manufacture of wagons and buggies at Homer, Union county, being in partnership with his father-in-law, William DeForrest Smith. He resided at Homer for many years, and ultimately began farming on account of his health. He followed that pursuit throughout his remaining days with the exception of a brief period of three or four years, which were spent in Delaware, Ohio, to which place he removed, that his children might attend the Ohio Wesleyan University there. The last eight years of his life were passed in retirement at his home in Springfield, Ohio, though he and his wife spent their winters at Pasadena, California, where he died January 30, 1900, when seventy-four years of age. His remains were brought back and interred in the beautiful cemetery at Springfield, Ohio. His widow now resides in Springfield, with her daughter, Mrs. Milligan. They were the parents of ten children, of whom five are still living: Charles W., who is United States senator from Indiana and one of the distinguished statesmen of the country; Luther M., who resides in Chicago and in Mansfield, and is engaged in the grain trade in the former city; W. D., of this review; Newton H., an attorney-at-law of Springfield, Ohio; and Jennie, the wife of Melvin Milligan, of Springfield, Ohio, of which city he was formerly mayor. Those that have passed away are Mary, the eldest child, who died at the age of two and a half years; the second one who bore the name of her deceased sister, Mary, and died at about the same age; Adolphus, who died at the age of four years; Nellie, at the age of twenty; and Harry, who died at the age of twenty-two years.

In the county of his nativity W. D. Fairbanks pursued his preliminary education, which was supplemented by study in the Ohio Wesleyan University, in which he pursued the scientific course. He then took up the study of law, but his health prevented his continuance in that task, and hoping that he might be benefited by the outdoor life which is required in the supervision of farming interests, he came to Illinois, settling in Mansfield. Here he engaged in the grain business and also became identified with farming. His first purchase of land consisted of eighty acres, two miles west of Mansfield, which he bought in connection with his brother, L. M., with whom he was also associated in the grain trade. As the years have advanced the brothers have made extensive investments in real estate and have carried on their farming and grain business on a mammoth scale. All of this, however, represents much hard labor, keen discrimination, careful watchfulness of the markets and of everything bearing upon their business, and unfaltering perseverance in their undertakings. Mr. Fairbanks of this review is now the owner of seven hundred acres of valuable land in Piatt county and has

one thousand seven hundred acres of valuable land in other parts of the state. He has nine hundred and sixty acres in South Dakota and jointly with his brother owns ten thousand acres in Greene county, Illinois, and seventeen hundred acres in Dickey county, North Dakota. He likewise has full control of five thousand acres in Piatt and McLean counties, owned by his brother, Senator Fairbanks, of Indiana. He conducts an extensive grain business at Blue Ridge, Illinois, and in 1902 he founded the First National Bank of Mansfield, of which he is the president.

On the 23d of December, 1880, Mr. Fairbanks married Miss Flora A. Kroell, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of L. H. Kroell, who removed from the Buckeye state to Piatt county and is now deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Fairbanks have been born four children—Lulu May, Jennie, William DeForrest and Bernice. Mrs. Fairbanks belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Fairbanks holds membership in Mansfield Lodge, No. 589, I. O. O. F., of which he is a past grand. He also belongs to Monticello Encampment and to the Modern Woodman Camp. In politics he is a firm believer in Republican principles and has served continuously as justice of the peace for fifteen years. The locality in which he has long made his home has found in him a benefactor by reason of the generous and prompt assistance he has given to many measures for the public good. He has never sought to figure prominently before the public in any relation save that of a business man and yet his co-operation is never sought in vain in behalf of measures for the general welfare. In his business life, however, he has achieved a brilliant success along legitimate lines, which are open to all. It is his adaptability his quick recognition of opportunity, his persistency of purpose and his discriminating judgment which have been the basis of his wealth, and no business man of Piatt county occupies a higher position in the esteem of his fellow men.

JOHN H. FRENCH.

John H. French, a well-known citizen of DeLand and proprietor of a meat market at that place, was born on the 18th of October, 1861, in Farmington, Fulton county, Illinois, a son of Edward and Anna Jane (Jamison) French. The father was born near Manchester, England, in 1803, and was reared and educated in that country, where he was employed as a shepherd for some time prior to his emigration to America. It was in 1823 that he crossed the broad Atlantic and took up his residence in New York, where he had a milk route for a few years, and then came to Illinois, settled near Farmington. He made his home there until his death, which occurred in August, 1900, and he was laid to rest there. His wife survived him only three months, passing away in November of the same year. In early life he successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits and became the owner of a good eighty-acre farm, but during the last fifteen years of his life he lived retired from active labor. He purchased a lot in Farmington and erected thereon a good modern residence, where he and his wife passed their remaining days in ease and quiet. He was a man of good business ability and met with fair success in his undertakings. His family consisted of three children: Edward, who

died in infancy; James Edward, who died in California in December, 1897; and John H.

The subject of this review was educated in the Farmington high school and remained at home with his parents until twenty-two years of age, when he went to California and was with his brother on a fruit ranch for two years. He was then called home by the illness of his father and continued under the parental roof until his marriage in 1887, the lady of his choice being Miss Essie Maud Blakeslee, a daughter of S. S. and Addie (Egan) Blakeslee, who lived about eight miles from Farmington. Three children grace this union, namely: Boyd Edward, born in 1891; Bert Carlton, born in 1893; and Oneita Mae, born in 1898.

Mr. French spent the years 1888 and 1889 in learning the butcher's business and in the latter year opened a market of his own at Waverly, Nebraska, where he spent four years. He met with success at that place and was much pleased with the location, but on account of his father's failing health he returned to Farmington at the end of that time and accepted a position with E. Clark & Brother, butchers of that place. Four years later he removed to DeLand, where he has since conducted a meat market and engaged in the butchering business with good success, having the only establishment of the kind in the town. He enjoys a good trade and has made many friends since coming to this place by his fair dealing and strict attention to his business affairs.

In religious faith both Mr. and Mrs. French are Methodists and they also hold membership in the Court of Honor. He is connected with the Fraternal Army and the Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 740, at DeLand, and in his political affiliations is a stalwart Republican. For one year he has served as village treasurer, being elected on the Citizen's ticket, and for three years he has been a school director, now serving his second term. He takes a commendable interest in public affairs and does all in his power to advance the welfare of the community along social, educational and moral lines.

HAAGEN SCHWARTZ.

Haagen Schwartz is a well-known merchant of Monticello, where for a number of years he has been engaged in the jewelry business. He is a native of Norway, which country has furnished to the United States many bright, enterprising young men who have left the land of the midnight sun to enter the business circles of this country with its more progressive methods, livelier competition and advancement more quickly secured. His birth occurred in 1859 and in his sixth year he became a student in the public schools of his native land, where he continued to master the branches of learning therein taught until he reached his fourteenth year. At that time he entered upon his business career as an apprentice to the trade of a jeweler in the city of Drammen, Norway. His term of service covered six years, during which time he acquired a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of the trade in all of its departments and was thus well equipped to enter upon business life.

Having heard favorable reports of the

new world and its opportunities he resolved to cross the Atlantic in order that he might enjoy the advanages offered by America. In 1878 he crossed the water and for a time was detained at Castle Garden. From New York city he went to Elgin, Illinois, where he secured a situation in the Elgin watch factory, and his capable service and fidelity to duty led to his retention in the factory as one of its most trusted employes for four years, and in the Illinois watch factory at Springfield for nine years. He then severed his connection with the company, wishing to engage in business on his own account. Removing to Monticello, he has here resided for eleven years. Opening a store he secured a good stock of watches, clocks, silverware and jewelry, and now he has a well appointed establishment and is classed among the honorable and reliable merchants of Piatt county, having the patronage of the best citizens of Monticello and the surrounding districts. He is a practical and skilled workman in the line of watchmaking and he carries a large and carefully selected stock of diamonds and jewelry, silverware and chinaware, purchasing his goods from the most reliable manufacturers.

In 1882 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Schwartz and Miss Mary Lauretson, of Elgin, Illinois. She was born in Christiana, Norway, and by her marriage she has become the mother of six children: Minnie, Inga, Henry, Lillie, Andrew and Lina, who is the baby of the household.

Mr. Schwartz is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, also of the Tribe of Ben Hur. He owns six acres of valuable land in the southern part of Monticello, upon which he has erected a comfortable residence and good outbuildings. He is an enterprising citizen here deeply interested in the progress and improvement of Monticello and his active cooperation has been given to many lines for the general good. The hope that led him to leave his native land and seek a home in America has been more than realized. He found the opportunities he sought, which, by the way, are always open to the ambitious, energetic man, and making the best of these he has steadily worked his way upward. He possesses the resolution, perseverance and reliability so characteristic of people of his nation, and his name is now enrolled among the best citizens of Piatt county.

ALVIN T. SMOTHERS.

Alvin T. Smothers, a retired farmer now living in Mansfield, was born on the 20th of May, 1867, in Franklin county, Ohio, and is a son of Emery and Lida (Sherbourne) Smothers. The father was a farmer by occupation and at the time of the Civil war he responded to the country's call for troops, serving for two years. He started with Sherman on the memorable march to the sea, but was wounded while on the way and was unable to reach the sea coast. For six months he lay in the hospital and afterward received an honorable discharge. In April, 1880, his life's labors were ended in death. His widow, however, still survives him and is now living in Licking county, Ohio.

Alvin T. Smothers obtained his preliminary education in Harlem, Ohio, and afterward entered the university at Wester-

ville, Ohio, where he pursued advanced studies and became well equipped for the practical and responsible duties of life. On leaving school he enlisted in the regular army of the United States, serving for four years. At the expiration of his military service he came to Piatt county, Illinois, where he began working by the month as a farm hand for Isaac Hilligoss, receiving as a compensation for his services twenty dollars per month. Later he was married and returned to Ohio where he remained for twenty-one months, but he thought that he preferred Illinois as a place of residence and again came to Piatt county, this time settling upon a farm which he rented from W. D. Fairbanks. For four years he resided there and harvested good crops as the result of his persistent labors. He also spent four years upon a farm which he rented of E. P. Barnhart and then purchased a part of the farm which he was cultivating, becoming the owner of a tract of eighty acres. For a number of years he successfully carried on agricultural pursuits in this county and in December, 1901, he removed to Mansfield, where he has since made his home. Here he purchased a house and lot and has lived retired from farm life, but to some extent carries on carpentering.

Mr. Smothers was united in marriage on the 7th of November, 1889, the lady of his choice being Miss Jennie Bateman, a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Brown) Bateman, who were natives of Ireland and Canada, respectively. The father left the Emerald Isle in 1848 and crossed the Atlantic with his parents. There he was reared to manhood and after his marriage he came with his wife and children to Piatt county, Illinois, in 1871. Here he has since resided and is now one of the wealthy, prominent and influential farmers of this portion of the state. He has taken an active part in improving and developing this locality and his business career proves the value of energy and activity in agricultural circles. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bateman have been born eleven children: Thomas, Mrs. Jennie Smothers, Mrs. Mary Ann Chase, Samuel, Charles F., John R., Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, Etta, Nellie, Mrs. Edna Warren and Harry. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Smothers has been blessed with one child, Edith Lisle, who was born on the 27th of August, 1890, and is now attending school in Mansfield.

The parents hold membership in the Methodist church and Mr. Smothers is a Republican, doing all in his power to promote the growth and insure the success of the party, yet never seeking office as the reward for party fealty. The cause of education finds in him a warm friend and he is now serving as a school director. He is also a co-operant factor in the moral development of the community and in many measures for the general welfare. His business career has been honorable and active and through his capable management he has gained the competence that now enables him to live retired in Mansfield, enjoying all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

WILLIAM D. COFFIN.

The deserved reward of a well-spent life is an honored retirement from business in which to enjoy the fruits of former toil.

To-day, after a useful and beneficial career, Mr. Coffin is quietly living at his pleasant home in Bement, surrounded by the comfort that earnest labor has brought him. He is a native of Indiana, born in Vermilion county, January 22, 1842, and is a son of Berkley and Narcissus (Davidson) Coffin. The Coffin family is of English origin and was founded in America by Christian Coffin, who was one of the first settlers of Massachusetts and from whom all bearing the name in this country are descended. The early family was known as the Nantucket clan. Our subject's paternal grandfather, William Coffin, was captain of the first company from Wabash, Indiana, that crossed the plains to California during the gold excitement, and he died in Sacramento, his being the first death recorded by the secretary of the cemetery. His death-bed was in a wagon. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Eunice Worth, was also a representative of an old eastern family of English extraction.

Berkley Coffin, the father of our subject, was born in North Carolina and about 1832, when still a boy, removed to Indiana with his brother, Dr. Coffin, who is now a retired physician of Monticello, Illinois. In early life Berkley Coffin learned the blacksmith's trade, but in later years turned his attention to farming, which he followed in Parke and Vermilion counties, Indiana, for some years, and in the spring of 1858 came to Piatt county, Illinois, where he pursued the same occupation until called to his final rest in 1861. His wife died in 1852 at Fort Laramie while on her way to California. They had but two children, the older of whom is our subject. His sister Ann is the wife of I. S. Matthews, a resident of Fort Jones, California, and is the mother of nine children, seven sons and two daughters, though one daughter died April 15, 1903.

William D. Coffin was principally reared and educated in Vermilion county, Indiana, though he attended school to a limited extent after the removal of the family to Piatt county, Illinois, in the spring of 1858. As soon as old enough to be of any assistance he began to aid in the labors of the farm and throughout his active business life continued to engage in agricultural pursuits with marked success. He accumulated much valuable property and is to-day the owner of land to the amount of four hundred and eighty acres in Bement township, which he rents. In 1895 he retired from active labor and removed to the village of Bement, where he now makes his home. He has traded quite extensively in farm property and has met with uniform success in his operations. His first purchase of land consisted of eighty acres of raw prairie, which he broke and improved, and he later bought forty acres in the edge of the timber, a part of which he cleared. There he made his home in a log cabin for one year and then removed to his prairie farm. Everything was new and wild and there was plenty of game of all kinds, including deer, while the prairie wolves were also numerous.

At the age of twenty years Mr. Coffin laid aside all personal interests to enter the service of his country during the dark days of the Rebellion, enlisting at Bement, August 7, 1862, as a private in Company D, Seventy-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Colonel James F. Jaquess and Captain Thomas Motherspaw, who

was afterward appointed major and led the charge in the battle of Franklin, Tennessee. This was known as the "Preachers Regiment" as many of its officers were ministers, and it was the first regiment to be called from the state of Illinois in 1862. For two years Mr. Coffin was under the command of General Phil Sheridan and he remained in the service for three years, being mustered out at Nashville, Tennessee, June 12, 1865, at the close of the war. The principal engagements in which he participated were the battles of Perryville; Stone River, where he was slighty wounded; Chickamauga, September 20, 1863, where he was wounded in the hip by a spent ball; and Missionary Ridge, where he was wounded in the left arm near the shoulder, nearly losing the member. He was all through the Georgia campaign until after the fall of Atlanta, when his regiment returned to Tennessee to meet Hood and took part in the severe engagement at Franklin, where Major Motherspaw and Adjutant Davis were both killed in leading charges. This was followed by the battle of Nashville where they routed General Hood's army. Dr. Coffin was at Blue Springs when the news came of General Lee's surrender and the assassination of President Lincoln, having been sent there with his regiment to fill up a gap.

At the close of the war our subject returned to Vermilion county, Indiana, and was married September 13, 1866, to Miss Mary Holtz, a daughter of John and Lovinia (Whipple) Holtz, both deceased. The following October they came to Piatt county, Illinois, where they have since made their home. Of the eight children born to them the following are still living: Eva, the wife of A. H. Harshbarger, who is engaged in the implement business in Bement; Harry M., who married Della Nation and lives in Bement; Bessie and Frederick, both at home. Those deceased are Homer, a twin brother of Harry, who was accidentally killed by a gunshot; Emma, who married John Crawford and died of appendicitis; Eddy, a bright little boy, who died of scarlet fever at the age of three years; and William, who died in infancy. The children have all received liberal educations and the family is one of prominence in the community where they reside. They attend the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Coffin affiliates with the Republican party and at one time took quite an active and influential part in local politics. For two terms he acceptably served as township supervisor in Bement township and was school director of the Coffin school, located on his land, for about twenty-nine years. He was also a member of the board of education in the village of Bement one term and never withholds his support from any enterprise which he believes will prove of public benefit. He is well known in the county of his adoption and by those qualities which in every land and clime command respect he has won many friends. The early career of Mr. Coffin was one of unfaltering industry and through strong purpose and diligence he worked his way upward to the plane of affluence.

POPE HISER.

Pope Hiser, who carries on farming and stock-raising on section 32, Cerro Gordo township, was born on the 8th of August,

1862, just west of the village of Cerro Gordo, in Macon county, and is a representative of an old and honored family of this section of the state. His father, Solomon Hiser, was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, November 19, 1826, and in 1855 wedded Miss Mary E. Page, a native of New York, born in 1833. In 1850 he came to Illinois and, settling in Macon county, aided in its pioneer development. He broke many an acre of wild prairie land, and for nearly forty years engaged in farming there. Most hospitable in manner, he was a model pioneer and although not a member of any church he was always found on the side of right and order and gave liberally, though unostentatiously, to all worthy objects. He believed firmly in the principles of Christianity and died as he had lived, with a hope of a just reward, not fearing death, but ready to meet his God. He passed away at Cerro Gordo, September 28, 1889, at the age of sixty-two years, ten months and nine days, and his wife died at the same place, at the age of sixty-two years and two months, from the effects of a cancer, after long and patient suffering. Her funeral was from the Methodist Episcopal church, Rev. Poe officiating, and her remains were interred in the Frantz cemetery.

In the family of this worthy couple were eight children: Mrs. J. J. Garver, a resident of Decatur, Illinois; Pope, whose name introduces this sketch; Samuel; Mattie, the wife of Henry Berry, of Salem, Illinois; Alma, wife of John Eiler, a mail-carrier of Cerro Gordo; and three deceased.

Pope Hiser was educated in the district schools near his boyhood home, and early acquired an excellent knowledge of every department of farm work. At the age of twenty-two he began farming on his own account in Macon county, and remained there until, coming to Piatt county, in 1893, when he settled on his present farm, having purchased the place two years previously. It was then in bad repair, but he has remodeled the house, tiled and drained the land and made many other useful improvements, spending about eighteen hundred dollars in this way. He is a progressive farmer and is meeting with well-deserved success in his chosen occupation.

In 1887 Mr. Hiser was united in marriage to Miss Della Wheeler, by whom he had two children, but both are deceased. Mrs. Hiser is also a native of Macon county, and is a daughter of John O. K. and Nancy (Hudgeon) Wheeler, both deceased. She is one of a family of eight children, five of whom are still living, two of the number being residents of Macon county: Grant, of Seattle, Wash; and John K., of Macon county. Isaiah resides in Cerro Gordo, Piatt county. Melissa is the wife of John Huff, a farmer of Oakley township.

LEWIS M. UHL.

One of the best-known and most honored citizens of Cerro Gordo township is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch, his home being on section 32, where he successfully carries on operations as a farmer and stock-raiser. He is a native of Ohio, born in Ross county, January 12, 1854, and is a son of Peter and Anna Elizabeth (Luthwick) Uhl, natives of Germany. On the 3d of July, 1847, they left the fatherland on a sailing vessel which weighed anchor at Hessedamstat, and after a voyage of forty



L. M. UHL

days landed in New York city, whence they proceeded to Ross county, Ohio. They made their home there until the fall of 1856, and then came to Piatt county, Illinois, first settling in Monticello township, where two years were passed. They next removed to Bement township, and on the 3d of March, 1865, located on the farm in Cerro Gordo township, where our subject now resides. The father broke and improved this place, erecting the present residence in 1872. He was one of a family of five children, all now deceased, and his death occurred on the 3d of June, 1889, when in his eighty-third year. His wife, who was one of a family of three children, all now deceased, passed away January 16, 1887, at the age of seventy-two. She was a devout member of the German Lutheran church and a most estimable lady, while her husband was an active and earnest worker in the Christian church, to which he belonged.

This worthy couple were the parents of nine children, who in order of birth were as follows: Peter, now a resident of Oklahoma Territory; John, a traveling salesman living in Pana, Illinois; Jeanette, who married George Erler and died leaving two children, Lizzie and Louis; L. C., an attorney of Smith county, Kansas; Henry, an attorney of Colorado; Jane, who died in infancy; Lewis M., of this review; Charles, who is engaged in the abstract business in Smith county, Kansas; and William, who died in infancy.

Lewis M. Uhl attended the district schools near his boyhood home and early became familiar with all the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist. His entire life has been devoted to farming with exception of the time spent as postmaster at Kensington, Smith county, Kansas. For several years he worked by the month for others, and in this way gained a start in life. He now lives on the old homestead of eighty acres, where the family located in 1865, and he materially assisted in breaking and improving the place. It is now well drained and tiled, is under a high state of cultivation and is well improved with good building, a new barn having been erected by our subject in 1896. It is one of the choice farms of the locality and is pleasantly located on the main road to Cerro Gordo, being three and a quarter miles east of that village. Mr. Uhl handles a good grade of stock, including horses, cattle and hogs, and finds this branch of his business quite profitable. He has borne his share in the development and improvement of this section, transforming the wild lands into well-cultivated farms. When the family first located in this region much of the land was unbroken and wild game was quite plentiful.

Mr. Uhl was reared in the Lutheran church and still holds to that belief. Politically, he is a Democrat, and on his party ticket was once the candidate for township assessor, but was defeated by twenty-three votes, the township being strongly Republican. He has served as postmaster and takes an active interest in promoting the welfare of his township and county. Fraternally, he is a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 346, of Cerro Gordo; Cerro Gordo Lodge, No. 600, F. & A. M.; and Bement Chapter, R. A. M. He is also connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, and is a man highly respected and esteemed by all who know him.

EPHRAIM DRESBACH.

Illinois ranks among the first states of the Union in agriculture, as well as along many other lines, and its rich lands have

been reclaimed for farm purposes by such enterprising and progressive citizens as Ephraim Dresbach. Upon a farm on section 16, Monticello township, Mr. Dresbach makes his home, and he has a splendidly improved property, its neat and thrifty appearance and excellent equipment indicating his careful supervision and progressive methods. Mr. Dresbach was born in Ross county, Ohio, on the 5th of August, 1848. His father was John Dresbach, whose birth occurred in Ohio, October 13, 1810. In the common schools he was educated, attending the subscription schools such as were common at the time. He not only spent the summer months in aiding in the work of clearing and developing the land, but also much of the winter was thus passed, and thus his educational privileges were quite meager. He lived in Ohio until 1855, when he came to Illinois, establishing his home in Piatt county. He also carried on farming here, purchasing what is known as the Brady farm two and a half miles east of Monticello. There he carried on agricultural pursuits for twenty years, breaking most of that land and developing it into rich fields, which returned to him excellent harvests. When two decades had passed he removed to the farm now occupied by our subject, and made it his place of residence until his death, which occurred in 1884. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Mary Vinston, was a daughter of Thomas and Margaret Vinston, of Maryland. Eight children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Dresbach, of whom the following are living: Mary, now the wife of George Brady, of Monticello; Ephraim; and Edward, who is now engaged in dealing in coal and wood in Chicago.

In the common schools of Piatt county Ephraim Dresbach was educated, pursuing his studies in the first frame schoolhouse ever built in Ridge school district. For the building of this the lumber was hauled from Urbana with teams. During his youth Mr. Dresbach also became thoroughly familiar with farm work in all of its departments, assisting in the clearing and cultivation of the land and the harvesting of crops. He continued to attend school mostly during the winter seasons, until twenty years of age.

On the 14th of May, 1868, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Dresbach and Miss Samantha Brady, a daughter of John and Sarah (Buesy) Brady, of Piatt county. They lived with his father for about six months, and then rented a house, moving by themselves. Mr. Dresbach, however, continued to engage in farming operations in connection with his father for about five years, at the end of which time he began farming on his own account, buying forty acres of land and renting about forty acres more of the farm which he yet owns or one adjoining this place. In his work he has been very successful, and he has carried on farming operations along progressive lines that have proven of value in bringing to him a comfortable competence. He has tiled the place, thus draining the fields and making them very productive. He has also divided his farm into fields of convenient size by well-kept fences, and has planted an orchard, erected a new residence and built a substantial barn and other outbuildings. At the present time he is engaged in further improving his home. There is upon his place an old brick house which was probably built here in 1853, and was the first home occupied by his father on removing to this locality. The brick with which it was constructed was made by Gabriel Dresbach, an uncle of our subject, on Camp creek.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Dresbach have been born eleven children: William, who mar-

ried Jennie Ashleman, and is a farmer residing about a mile east of Monticello; Cora, who is the wife of Edwin E. Fuller, a resident farmer of Humboldt county, Iowa; Charles, who married Elsie Saint, and is now residing in Humboldt county, Iowa; Jennie, who is the wife of Louis Nisson, a farmer living about four miles southeast of Monticello; Frank, who married Ottie Honselman and resides on a farm two miles east of Monticello; Mary, who is at home with her parents; John, who is working on his brother's farm near Monticello; Emery, who assists his father in the operation of the home farm; Nellie, who is yet under the parental roof; George, who died when about a year old; and Letha, who is now eleven years of age and is attending school. Mr. Dresbach belongs to the Court of Honor, No. 118, of Monticello, with which he has been connected for four years. In politics he is a stalwart Republican, and has held the office of school director for nine or ten years, the cause of education finding in him a warm friend. He is a representative of one of the old pioneer families of this portion of the state, and is to-day classed among the most successful, energetic and reliable agriculturists of the community.

RICHARD S. MINER.

In taking up the personal history of Richard S. Miner, we present to our readers the life record of one who has a wide acquaintance in Piatt county, having resided here since pioneer times. He is now living a retired life after many years of connection with agricultural interests. He was born in Ross county, Ohio, in 1847, a son of J. G. and Emeline Miner. The father was born on the 3d of October, 1812, and learned the tailor's trade. He also became a farmer, and for many years engaged in the tilling of the soil. He died in 1901, his death resulting from an accident. While walking home one day he slipped on a slab and broke his angle, and the injury terminated his life. His wife, who was born on the 5th of May, 1818, passed away in 1892. The subject of this review has three brothers and two sisters yet living in Piatt county.

Richard S. Miner was educated near Monticello, in an old log schoolhouse furnished with slab seats, a writing desk around the wall and an immense fireplace in one end of the room. The methods of instruction were somewhat limited, but reading and observation have greatly added to his knowledge as the years have gone by. He accompanied his parents to the west and can well remember the journey. They started on the 2d of November, 1856, driving across the country, and on the 16th of November reached Piatt county. On the way they encountered a severe snowstorm and the trip was thus fraught with hardships. The country was all prairie, wild and unimproved, and the district abounded in game. The town of Mansfield was not established at that time, nor were any railroads built, Mr. Miner well remembering when the first roads were laid for steam traffic. He remained with his father upon the old homestead, which was known as the Collins farm. The father, on making the purchase, secured an old buckskin deed, such as were used at that time. He bought a farm of two hundred and forty-two acres, and then drove to Decatur in order to purchase tables and chairs. On the return trip he became lost in a fog, and drove

all day before he could arrive at his home. Many were the hardships and trials endured by the pioneers as they attempted to establish homes on the frontier and perform the arduous task of reclaiming the wild regions for the uses of civilization. Mr. Miner assisted his father in the development and cultivation of the home farm and continued to reside there until the time of his marriage, which occurred when he was twenty-five years of age.

It was in 1872 that Richard S. Miner was joined in wedlock to Miss Hannah F. Stewart, a daughter of Levi and Mary J. Stewart. Unto them were born two children: Etta, who is now the wife of Isaac Wilson and has three children; and Stewart A., who at the age of eleven years is living with his parents.

After his marriage Richard S. Miner engaged in the cultivation and operation of his wife's farm, comprising one hundred and forty acres. He paid special attention to the raising of stock, having large numbers of cattle and hogs upon his place. He also engaged in the raising of grain and fed much of his crops to his stock. He tiled the farm and improved it from year to year, making it a valuable property. There he continuously carried on agricultural pursuits until about four years ago, when he removed to Mansfield and erected a residence, in which he is now spending his days in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. His wife's farm is rented to their son-in-law, while Mr. Miner has rented his own farm to his brother. He owns thirty acres of land in Goose Creek township.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Miner belong to the United Brethren church, and in his political affiliations he is a Democrat, while socially he is connected with the Odd Fellows' Society of Mansfield, being a popular and valued member of that lodge. For five years he served as school director of the county, and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend, interested in its welfare and doing all he can to promote the standard of the schools. His mind bears the impress of the early historic annals of the county. Few men have longer resided within the borders of Piatt county than has Mr. Miner, who from the age of nine years to the present time has lived here. He herded cattle on the prairies when no towns could be seen, none of the small towns which now dot the county here and there having been built. There was only one mill in Piatt county at that time, and it was operated by water power. Corn could be purchased for ten cents per bushel, and prices for other farm products were equally low. The courthouse was an old plank storeroom, and court was only held for one day at a time. Marvelous changes have since occurred as this county has emerged from pioneer conditions to take its place in the leading counties of the commonwealth. Mr. Miner has ever borne his part in the work of progress and improvement, and is known as a highly respected citizen, who in all life's relations has been honorable, and who in his business career has been active and energetic, thus gaining a comfortable competence.

JAMES A. VENT.

James A. Vent is the popular and well known cashier of the State Bank of Hammond and is recognized as one of the leading and influential citizens of this town in which he has made his home since 1898.

He was born in Willow Branch township, Piatt county, on the 23d of May, 1874, and is a son of James T. Vent, who is now living a retired life in Monticello. To the common schools of his native township he is indebted for the early educational privileges which he enjoyed. Subsequently he attended Brown's Business College at Decatur for one term and obtained a good business education, graduating in February, 1894. At the end of that time he returned to the old homestead and for a short period he engaged in farming in Willow Branch township, but not desiring to follow the plow as a life work he removed to Monticello in the fall of 1894, where he was connected with an implement business for one year. He then entered the employ of the firm of E. G. Knight & Son, with which he remained for three years, during which time he became familiar with business methods and was thus well qualified for the position when called upon to take charge of the jewelry house in Monticelo owned by Mr. Knight. He acted as its manager most capably controlling its affairs until 1895. He also held other positions in business circles in Monticello, remaining there until the 1st of November, 1898, when he came to Hammond and accepted the position of cashier in the bank owned by Dighton & Thompson. It was then a private banking institution. Mr. Vent was the youngest bank cashier in Piatt county, being only twenty-four years of age at the time he accepted the position. This bank was organized as a state bank on the 23d of September, 1901, and Mr. Vent has since been cashier, his efforts being an important factor in making this one of the reliable financial institutions of this part of the county.

In Monticello January 12, 1899, was celebrated the marriage of James A. Vent and Miss Jessica Stafford, a native of Grafton, Illinois, and a daughter of Charles Stafford. She was reared, however, by Dr. and Mrs. Tidball, of Monticello. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Vent have been born two children: Louise, born December 31, 1899; and Vivienne, born October 17, 1901. Mrs. Vent is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and both our subject and his wife occupy an enviable position in social circles. He belongs to Lovington Lodge, No. 228, F. & A. M., of Lovington, Illinois, and he gives his political support to the Republican party. He is now serving as a member of the village board and also as school treasurer of 16-5. He occupies a very fine residence in Hammond and is a prominent, well-to-do and popular young business man. He spends the greater part of his time at the bank between the hours of nine in the morning and four in the afternoon, and he is also interested in real estate, dealing largely in that line. He is likewise a representative of the insurance business, being agent for the Hartford Company, the Insurance Company of North America and the Security Insurance Company. Whatever he undertakes he carries forward to a successful completion and has found that success is ambition's answer.

EDWARD S. STOUT.

Edward S. Stout is one of Illinois' native sons, his birth having occurred in Moultrie county, on the 18th of February, 1867. He is a son of Amos and Catherine (Allman) Stout, and only the first years of his life were passed in the county of his nativity, his parents then removing to

Champaign county. The father was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, and there lived until he had attained his majority. Deciding that he might find better business opportunities in the west he came at that time to Illinois, first settling in Monticello township, Piatt county. This was about 1855. There he engaged in farming for some years and afterward was employed in the village of Monticello, where he spent a number of years. At the end of that time he removed to Moultrie county, where he carried on farming for a year, after which he followed the same pursuit in Champaign county for a year. Returning then to Piatt county, he located in Bement township, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 3. Here the family settled and still reside. He placed excellent improvements upon his land, remodeled the house and continued to cultivate the fields with success until his death. He also carried on stockraising in connection with general farming and both branches of his business proved profitable. In all his work he was enterprising and was thoroughly in touch with the progress that characterized agriculture in the nineteenth century. In matters of citizenship he was public spirited and was deeply interested in everything pertaining to the general welfare. At the time of the Civil war Mr. Stout espoused the cause of the Union and in 1862 feeling that he wished to aid in the defense of the old flag and the cause it represented, he donned the blue uniform and went to the front, serving for three years as a member of Company E, One Hundred and Seventh Regiment of Illinois Volunteers. He participated in the battles of Franklin, Nashville, Kenesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek, Resaca and the Georgia campaign and in the engagement at Kenesaw Mountain he was wounded by a bullet in the head, but he never received a pension. Prior to the Civil war he gave his support to the Republican party for a time and afterward became a Democrat, voting with that organization until his demise. He served as road commissioner, but was never an active politician in the sense of office-seeking, content to do his duty as a private citizen.

Amos Stout was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Allman, who was born in County Kerry, Ireland, and who was brought to America when a little maiden of eleven years. She was reared in Ohio and came to Illinois when a young lady. Both of her parents died on the Emerald Isle. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Stout were born five children, of whom three are still living, the subject of this review being the eldest. The others of the family are: John, who died when about thirty years of age; James C., who is a bank clerk at Ivesdale, and married Miss Annie Crinigan; Mary, who is the wife of Malachi Loftus, a farmer of Ivesdale, Illinois, by whom she has two children. The father of this family passed away in 1888 and his remains were interred in the cemetery at Ivesdale. His widow still survives him and is now residing on the home place in Bement township at the age of sixty-one years. Mr. Stout was a leading and influential resident of his community and an honored veteran of the Civil war and his many excellent traits of character gained for him the high regard of all with whom he came in contact.

Under the parental roof Edward S. Stout spent his boyhood days, most of his time being passed in Piatt county. At the

usual age he entered the public schools and therein mastered the branches of learning usually taught in such institutions. He assisted in the work of the home farm when not engaged in the duties of the schoolroom and on the old home place he has always resided, devoting his energies to general farming and stockraising. As a companion and helpmate for the journey of life Mr. Stout chose Miss Bridget Grady, the wedding being celebrated in Ivesdale. The lady is a daughter of John and Bridget (Lynch) Grady, and her father is a farmer of Ivesdale, where both he and his wife are living. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Stout has been blessed with three interesting children: Catherine, who is four years of age; Mary, two years old; and Edward, who is the baby of the household. All of the children were born in Bement township.

Mr. Stout exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Democracy and socially he is connected with the Independent Order of Foresters, while both he and his wife are members of the Catholic church. Having resided in Piatt county throughout his entire life with the exception of a brief period of two years he is to-day widely and favorably known and among those with whom he has been acquainted from boyhood are numbered many of his stanchest friends.

F. BALES, D. V. S.

Dr. F. Bales, who is engaged in the practice of veterinary surgery in Monticello, is a native of Indiana, his birth having occurred in Vermilion county, that state, upon the home farm, June 12, 1865. His father, William F. Bales, was a prosperous agriculturist and stockraiser of that county, carrying on business in a way that brought to him a good financial return for his labor. He continued to reside in Vermilion county until his demise. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Nancy Merriweather, was likewise a native of Vermilion county, Indiana, and a daughter of Josiah Merriweather, a prominent and influencial gentleman of high standing in the community and of considerable wealth.

Dr. Bales of this review was educated in the schools of his native county, attending the district school near his home. During periods of vacation he worked upon a farm and early became familiar with the best methods of caring for the fields and for the stock. His father was especially active as a stockraiser and Dr. Bales learned much concerning horses and cattle, their needs and requirements. His early educational privileges were supplemented by one year's study in the Agricultural University at Lafayette, Indiana. He afterward read medicine and, deciding to devote his life to the practice of veterinary surgery, he became a student in a veterinary college at Toronto, Canada, which is considered the best institution of the kind in the new world. There he studied until he had mastered the branches which constituted the curriculum and was graduated in the spring of 1890.

Dr. Bales then returned to Indiana and entered upon the practice of his chosen calling. In December, 1890, he removed to Monticello, Illinois, where he opened an office and now devotes his en-

tire time to his professional duties. He is well established in practice, his business extending all over Piatt county. His treatment of horses has been particularly successful. He has made a very close study of his work and his knowledge is broad, comprehensive and accurate.

The Doctor is a Democrat in his political affiliations and during the administration of Governor Altgeld he was appointed assistant state veterinary surgeon. This brought to his care a number of important cases. The Doctor is also a breeder of standard bred trotting horses and is the owner of the celebrated stud Vincent DePaul. He is likewise the owner of the noted stallion Pluton, weighing two thousand pounds and imported by John Ulrich of Decatur, Illinois. Another stallion, which is the property of Dr. Bales, is Albrook, sixteen and a half hands high and weighing twelve hundred and fifty pounds. As a breeder as well as a veterinary the Doctor has become well known and is conducting a successful business in both lines. He has attained a high position in Piatt county and has done much to improve the grade of stock raised in this locality and thus to advance prices whereby the general agricultural population is benefited.

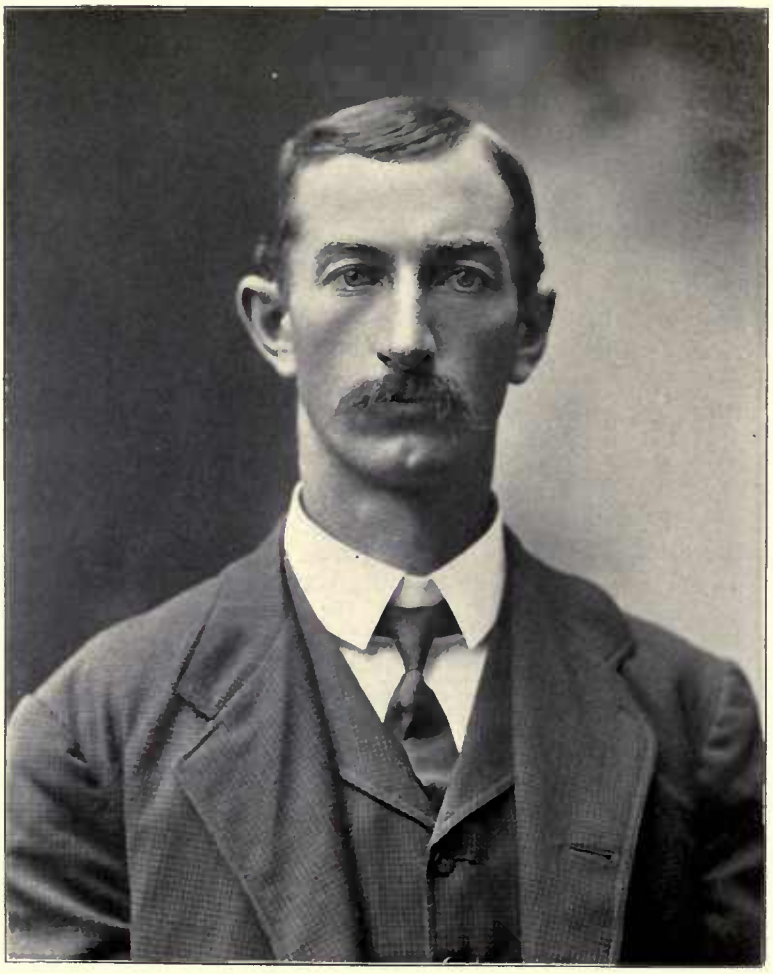
In 1895 Dr. Bales was united in marriage to Miss Louise Jones, of Monticello, and this union has been blessed with three children: Harold, Carl and Frederick.

MARTIN E. MILLER.

Martin E. Miller, a well-known and highly esteemed citizen of DeLand, is largely interested in agricultural pursuits here and elsewhere, but has practically retired from active labor, leaving the operation of his lands to others while he gives his entire time and attention to the supervision of his business affairs and the management of his property.

A native of Illinois, Mr. Miller was born in Fulton county, this state, March 27, 1865, and is a son of Jacob F. and Anna (Nicewander) Miller, both natives of Franklin county, Pennsylvania, which was their home until after their marriage. The father was born in 1834, and in early life followed the blacksmith's trade, but after his removal to Fulton county, Illinois, in 1863, he turned his attention to farming. He rented land until 1870, when he removed to Piatt county and purchased a farm of eighty acres in Goose Creek township, near DeLand, to which he afterward added an adjoining eighty acres though just across the line in DeWitt county. Here he continued to engage in farming until his death, and so successful was he that he was able to add to his property until he had two hundred and eleven acres under a high state of cultivation and well improved. He also fed stock for market and both branches of his business proved quite profitable. After a useful and well-spent life he passed away in the fall of 1890. In his family were eight children: Louisa, the wife of Henry Reeser, a retired stock-buyer of Farmer City, Illinois; Martin E., whose name introduces this sketch; Dessie, wife of Newton Troxell, of Huntsville, Alabama; Oliver, a liveryman and farmer of South Dakota; Cora, a resident of Farmer City; Clarence, a farmer of that place; Belle, deceased wife of Frank McBride; and Tishia, who died in infancy.

Martin E. Miller was only five years old when he accompanied his parents on their re-



MARTIN E. MILLER



MRS MARTIN E. MILLER

moval to Piatt county, and here he acquired a good practical education in the public schools, at the same time gaining an excellent knowledge of every department of farm work while aiding in the operation of the home farm. He remained with his father until his marriage, which was celebrated February 4, 1891, the lady of his choice being Miss Catherine McBride, a daughter of Philip and Mary (Johnson) McBride, of Piatt county. Her ancestors were originally from Maryland and Pennsylvania. To our subject and his wife have been born two children: Corda Opal and Cecil Dale, now in school.

After his marriage Mr. Miller located on his father-in-law's farm of one hundred and sixty-six acres in DeWitt county, and on the death of Mr. McBride the property came into possession of Mrs. Miller. Our subject continued to operate that farm until 1901, when he removed to DeLand, but Mrs. Miller still owns the place. In the meantime he had purchased a farm of one hundred and two acres south of Farmer City, which he sold in the fall of 1901, and also bought three hundred and eight acres in Carroll county, Missouri, which is still in his possession. Besides this property he has sixteen and a quarter acres at the edge of DeLand, which is a well-improved place, he having remodeled the residence, built a barn, and in other ways enhanced its appearance. Here he raises some stock, and he still continues to operate his wife's farm, one hundred and sixty-six acres of which is in DeWitt county, and the remaining forty, which they have added, being just across the line in Piatt county. He is a practical and progressive farmer, who thoroughly understands the vocation and is meeting with well-deserved success. He is also a stockholder and director in the First National Bank of DeLand, and is a man of excellent business and executive ability.

Religiously, both Mr. and Mrs. Miller are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and fraternally, he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and De Land Camp, No. 2178, M. W. A. His political support is given the men and measures of the Democracy, and he takes a deep interest in public affairs. Pleasant and genial in manner he makes many friends, and is held in high regard by all who know him.

ALBERT HISER.

As the world has progressed in civilization history is no longer a record of wars and conquests or the tale of a powerful nation conquering a weaker one, but has become the record of an enlightened people whose energies are devoted to business activity and a steady culture. There is no country on the face of the globe that has made such rapid advances along business lines as has America, and every community has its leading and progressive men who are the promoters of the prosperity of the towns which they represent. To this class Albert Hiser belongs and he is now largely engaged in dealing in grain in La Place, where his operations having assumed extensive proportions are bringing to him very gratifying success. He has resided in the village for six years and for eighteen years has made his home in Piatt county. He is, moreover, a native son of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Macon county, this state, on the 5th of January, 1864. His parents were John and Sarah (Hess) Hiser and the father throughout his business career carried on agricultural pursuits in Macon county, but at length when he had ac-

quired a comfortable competence he removed to the village of Cerro Gordo, where he is now living retired, enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves.

Upon the old homestead and in the usual manner of farmer lads of the period Albert Hiser spent the days of his boyhood and youth. When a little lad of six years he was supplied with the necessary text books and made his way to the country school near his home. Therein as the years passed he mastered the branches of learning usually taught in such institutions and during the summer months he assisted his father in the work of field and meadow. He continued upon his father's farm until the time of his marriage, which was celebrated in 1883, the lady of his choice being Miss Martha Veagh, also a native of Macon county and a daughter of John Veagh, who died in Macon county. Mr. and Mrs. Hiser now have two very interesting children, Bessie and Firman.

After his marriage Mr. Hiser entered upon an independent business career, removing to Piatt county, where he purchased a farm located in Cerro Gordo township. With characteristic energy he began its further development and improvement and he cultivated his land with excellent results, producing good crops annually and to the personal supervision of his land he devoted his energies until 1897, when he removed to the village of La Place. Here he became a factor in the commercial pursuits, opening a general mercantile store which he conducted for three years. He then sold out in that line and turned his attention to the grain business, in which he has since continued. He owns a large grain elevator at the west end of the village and handles many hundreds of bushels of grain annually, his business forming an excellent market for the producers in this section. He is also a dealer in coal and his annual sales of both commodities have reached a large figure. While carefully conducting his business affairs Mr. Hiser has also faithfully performed his duties of citizenship and is public spirited. He has held several minor offices in his township and for the past six years he has been a member of the school board, doing all in his power to further the interests of education along practical lines. His political support is given the Democracy. Socially he is connected with La Place Lodge No. 787, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of La Place and both he and his wife are members of the M. E. church here. He is a man of distinctive ability and his character is one which is above a shadow of reproach. He has been faithful in the positions in which he has been called to serve and is widely known and respected by all who have been at all familiar with his honorable and useful career.

JOSEPH P. CARTER.

From the age of nine years Joseph P. Carter has resided in Piatt county and now owns and occupies a farm of eighty acres on section 35, Bement township. His long association with agricultural interests and his excellent reputation in business circles have made him widely known and gained for him the unqualified regard of those with whom he has been brought in contact. Kentucky is the state of his nativity, his birth

having occurred in Grant county in 1854, his parents being Landon S. and Sally Carter, who were also natives of Grant county. The father followed farming throughout his entire life, and about 1863 he left his native state and came with his family to Illinois, settling in Piatt county, where he cultivated a farm for a number of years. He next removed to Kansas, where he lived for eight or ten years, and on the expiration of that period he took up his abode in Missouri, where his remaining days were passed. He lived to the ripe old age of seventy-three years. In politics he was a Democrat, but took no active part in political work, preferring to devote his time and energies to his business affairs. His wife died in Missouri about a year prior to the demise of her husband. They were the parents of eleven children, six sons and five daughters, and with one exception all are yet living. Mr. Carter of this review, however, is the only one who resides in Piatt county, the others being residents of Missouri.

Joseph P. Carter obtained his education in the public schools of Cisco, Willow Branch township, living at that time on the Allegan farm. Five years ago he purchased his present place on section 35, Bement township, and here he has since engaged in general farming and stockraising. Before buying his present home, however, he was manager of the Allerton farm in Unity township and continued with Mr. Allerton for twenty-four years as supervisor of his place. He is most thorough and systematic in his work, and everything about his home is indicative of his careful supervision and advanced ideas concerning farming.

In 1901 Mr. Carter was united in marriage to Miss Nancy M. Carter, the widow of O. T. Carter, a deceased brother of our subject, and a daughter of Frank Nelson, of Argenta, Illinois, who was an early settler of that portion of the state, and died at an advanced age. By her first marriage Mrs. Carter had four children: Jesse O., who is now in the employ of Samuel W. Allerton, of Chicago; Willis L., who married Miss Laura Trigg, by whom he has two children and who resides in Bement, devoting his time and attention to the operation of a threshing machine; Edgar, who resides with his mother; and Nellie, the wife of Walter Wells, who is living two miles west of Bement. They have one child.

In his political views Mr. Carter is a Democrat, his study of the questions and issues of the day leading him to the belief that the Democracy contains the best elements of good government, and has served as school director of Unity township and is deeply interested in the advancement of education, realizing that it is one of the bulwarks of the nation. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist church, and at all times he is known as a man of strong and upright character, unfaltering in his fidelity to duty and to his principles. Through a long residence in Piatt county he has witnessed many of its changes and has seen the work of improvement carried forward until the district today bears little resemblance to that in which the family arrived forty years ago. During his remembrance the wild prairie has been transformed into productive farms which have been made to bloom and blossom as the rose, and along other lines of work improvement has kept pace with the general progress of the world. Mr. Carter takes a just pride in what has been accomplished here, and he certainly deserves great credit for his personal success, for all that he has

has been won through his untiring labor, guided by sound business judgment and prompted by laudable ambition.

REV. RICHARD B. HUBBART.

Rev. Richard B. Hubbart is now devoting his time and attention to general farming on section 1, Monticello township, Piatt county, but he has devoted much of his life to the work of the ministry, and it is a hardship to him that his entire time and energies cannot be directed for the betterment of mankind and the advancement of moral growth among his fellow men. His health, however, prevents this, and, finding it impossible to longer continue in the active work of the ministry, he retired to his father's farm, which is situated just eight miles from his birthplace. His natal day was July 28, 1868.

His father, Hon. William C. Hubbart, a distinguished and prominent citizen of Piatt county, now living retired, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, October 26, 1835. The ancestry of the family, however, can be traced farther back than this. The great-grandfather of our subject was Thomas Hubbart, a native of Maryland, and his son, Richard Hubbart, the grandfather, was born in Pennsylvania. He became a well-to-do and enterprising farmer, and after reaching years of maturity he wedded Nancy Down, who was born in Ohio in 1806, a daughter of William Down. Richard Hubbart's birth occurred in 1807, and the marriage was celebrated in the Buckeye state. In 1856 he removed with his family to Piatt county, Illinois, settling in what was then Goose Creek township, where he purchased a tract of land from the government, paying the usual price of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. His farm comprised one hundred and sixty acres, to which he added from time to time until it was an extensive property. There he engaged in general farming and stockraising until his death, which occurred in the year 1859. He was for several years swamp land commissioner in Piatt county, and was well known as a leading and influential citizen. From the early days of his residence here he was deeply interested in whatever pertained to the progress and welfare of the county, and his efforts proved a patent factor in the substantial upbuilding of this section of the state.

William C. Hubbart, the father of our subject, was reared to farm life. He pursued his education in the common schools, his teacher being Samuel Morain. Upon his father's farm he continued until his twentieth year, and in 1862, putting aside all business and personal considerations, he responded to his country's call for aid, enlisting in defense of the Union as a member of Company E, One Hundred and Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Colonel Snell, of Clinton, Illinois, commanding the regiment. Mr. Hubbart took part in a number of skirmishes and battles, but escaped without wounds, nor was he taken prisoner. He served his country faithfully until June, 1865, for some time acting as division mail-carrier, and after the close of the war was honorably discharged, returning then to his home in Goose Creek township. He was twice married, the first union being with Miss Clarinda Marquis, their wedding being celebrated November 19, 1857, and in 1858 Mrs. Hubbart was called from this life, leaving a little daughter, Florence, who is now the wife of Wylie M. DeWess, of DeLand, Illinois.

In 1862 Mr. Hubbart was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Lucinda Coon, a daughter Mr. and Mrs. Bartholomew Ham, who lived on the Ezra Marquis place in a little pioneer cabin. The second marriage of Mr. Hubbart resulted in the following children: Willie, who died in infancy; Edith P., who is a teacher; Richard B., a farmer; Jennie M., the wife of Dr. F. P. Stedem, of Saybrook, Illinois; Oliver S., who is a student in the State University at Champaign; Della S., who is the wife of Dr. A. F. Conard and resides in Homer, Illinois; and Dwight C., who is a student in the Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois.

Throughout his business career Hon. William C. Hubbart followed agricultural pursuits, and became one of the prosperous farmers of Piatt county. His landed possessions are extensive and he still owns a fine farm of five hundred acres in Goose Creek township, together with a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in Moultrie county, Illinois, eighty acres in Champaign county and a farm in Sangamon county. He is classed among the largest landowners of this section of the state, and as one of the most prosperous representatives of the agricultural class. His success is well-merited, and has been so worthily won that the most envious cannot grudge him his prosperity. He sustains an unassailable reputation as a business man, and his industry, perseverance and sound discriminating judgment have formed the basic elements of his career. He now occupies a nice home in Monticello, tastefully furnished with attractive surroundings, and there he is enjoying a well-earned rest. Well fitted for leadership, he has left the impress of his individuality upon public thought and action. He served in the legislature in the year 1874 and again in 1895, elected on the Republican ticket. While a member of the house he gave careful considration to every question which came up for settlement, and his official career has been characterized by conscientious fidelity to duty and patriotic devotion to the welfare of the state. Fraternally he is connected with Franklin Post, No. 256, G. A. R., and in this organization, as in other walks of life, he enjoys the highest regard and good will of those with whom he is brought in contact.

Richard B. Hubbart, whose name introduces this review, obtained his early education in the common schools near his home, and later attended the Wesleyan University at Bloomington, Illinois, but had been there only one year when his health failed him, and he was obliged to discontinue his studies. Prior to this, in 1888, 1889 and 1890, he taught school in Piatt county. A year before going to the university he entered upon the work of the ministry in connection with the Methodist Episcopal church, and for one year he was the pastor of the church of his denomination at Weedman, Illinois, and for two years at Thomasboro. He was then appointed to the church at Ogden, and while acting as pastor for the second year his health again failed and he was forced to resign. For some time he was very ill, and in March, 1890, he removed to his father's farm, where he is now located for the benefit of his health. He is gaining in strength and health and feels happy in that he has a country home to which he can retire when his strength will not permit him to engage in ministerial labors—that being his chosen life work. He expects when he has sufficiently recovered to gain the doctor's consent to again enter into active rela-

tions with the ministry. He was very successful in his labors in behalf of the moral advancement of mankind and while he was preaching he had between four and five hundred conversions in his church.

On the 9th of May, 1894, Rev. Hubbart was united in marriage to Miss Iris Porter, and it was in the same year that he entered into conference relations. The lady is a daughter of Austin and Emma (Jones) Porter and was born in Parnell, DeWitt county, near Farmer City. Her father was a grain merchant at Parnell and owns a farm adjoining the town. He is now living retired, having gained a comfortable competence, sufficient to supply him with all the necessities and many of the comforts of life. Mrs. Hubbart taught schools in Piatt coun-county for ten years prior to her marriage. She has a brother, Clarence Porter, who is now in Oklahoma, and a sister, Della, who is teaching school in Champaign county, Illinois. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hubbart have been born three children, who are yet living, and they lost one, Harold Evan, the youngest, who was born on 5th of September, 1902, and died on the 13th of November of the same year. The other children of the family are Faith Iris, who was born April 19, 1895, at Weedman, and is now attending school; Ruth Frances, born at Ogden City, this state, February 21, 1899; and Paul Richard, born on the home farm October 23, 1901.

Mr. Hubbart is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, having joined Poplar Camp, No. 253, on the 6th of June, 1895, at Farmer City. His wife has been an able assistant to him in his work, both upon the farm and in the ministry, carefully superintending the household and encouraging him by her sympathy and deep interest in whatever he undertakes. At the present time Mr. Hubbart is engaged in the raising of corn, oats and clover. He also has upon his farm twenty-six head of cattle and fifty sheep, together with a number of hogs. In the past year he had a drove of seventy hogs, but thirty-five were killed by cholera. The farm is a well improved place with good buildings and modern equipments, and in its control Mr. Hubbart shows excellent business ability. It would be almost tautological in this connection to enter into any series of statements as showing him to be a man of genuine public spirit and broad human sympathy for this has been shadowed forth between the lines of this review. His deepest interests lie in the welfare of his fellow men, in the line of character development and his efforts in this direction have been far-reaching and of marked benefit.

JOHN ETNOYER.

Since 1893 John Etnoyer has lived retired in the village of Cerro Gordo, but for a number of years he was extensively and successfully engaged in farming, and is still the owner of valuable land. He has resided in Piatt county since 1880, and no agriculturist of this section of the state occupies a higher position in the esteem of his fellow-townsmen. Mr. Etnoyer is a native of Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, born on the first of February, 1834, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Stupher) Etnoyer, both of whom were natives of the Keystone state. There they spent their entire lives, both having now passed away and the father devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits in order to provide for his family.

At the usual age John Etnoyer entered the public schools, to prepare for life's practical and responsible duties. He continued his studies during the winter months and during the summer seasons remained at home, assisting his father in the work of the farm. The sun shone down on many a field which he plowed and planted and ripened the grain which sprung from the seed that he sowed. He became familiar with farm work in all its departments and was thus well equipped to carry on similar work when he started out in life independently. He chose as a companion and helpmate for life's journey Miss Mary Holinger, who was born in Dauphin county, where their wedding was celebrated. Her parents, Christian and Nancy (Kinzie) Holinger, were also natives of Dauphin county, and the father carried on farming there in his early life, while later he operated a woolen mill. Both he and his wife died in the county of their nativity. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Etnoyer has been blessed with four children: Emma, who is now the wife of Michael Stookey, who is a farmer of Bement township, Piatt county; Anna, now the wife of Samuel Diehl, a farmer living in Cerro Gordo township; Frank, who married Lizzie Shively, and is an agriculturist of Cerro Gordo township; and Ida, the deceased wife of Samuel Landis, who now resides in the village of Cerro Gordo.

After his marriage Mr, Etnoyer engaged in the burning of lime in Dauphin county, and later turned his attention to farming, which he followed in his native state for six years. He then came to the west, settling first in Edgar county, Illinois, where he purchased a tract of land and engaged in general farming until 1880. That year witnessed his arrival in Piatt county. He settled in Cerro Gordo township, where he secured a tract of land, and for thirteen years he devoted his energies to its cultivation and improvement until 1893, when he determined to put aside further business cares and spend his remaining days in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. He then took up his abode in Cerro Gordo, where he has since lived. He yet owns a farm of one hundred and twenty acres north of town and another tract of land southeast of Cerro Gordo. In addition to this he has a nice residence in the west part of the village which he and his wife now occupy.

Mr. Etnoyer served as a school director in Edgar county for some time and took a deep interest in everything pertaining to the welfare and improvement of the schools. In politics he has ever been a stalwart Republican, giving his support to the party since he attained his majority and never faltering in his allegiance to its principles. Both he and his wife are members of the German Baptist church. His life history is another instance of what can be accomplished in this land where opportunity is not hampered by caste or class, but where energy and strong purpose form the basis of success. Not to any fortunate combination of circumstances or to the aid of influential friends does Mr. Etnoyer owe his prosperity. It may all be attributed to his own efforts and his business career is such as any man might be proud to possess, for it has ever been characterized by industry and unswerving integrity. He possesses in full measure the ennobling qualities which command respect, and his honesty and fairness have gained for him the confidence and good will of all with whom he has been associated.

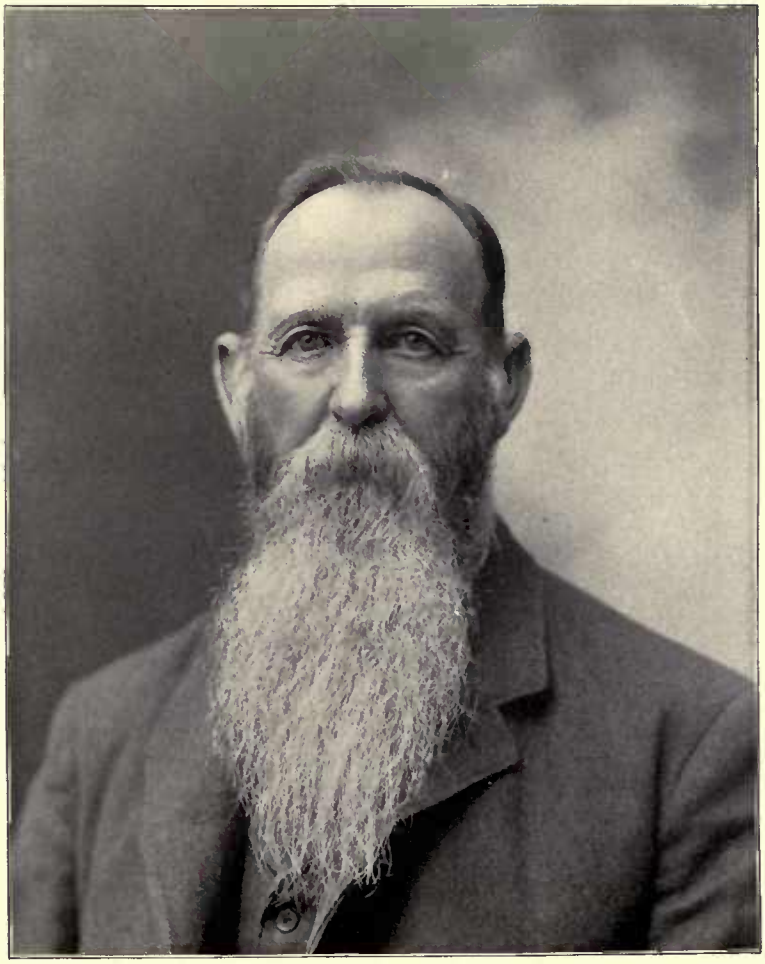
HIRAM DILLIN.

It is with pleasure that we present to our readers the life record of Hiram Dillin, for through the conduct of business affairs, which have been capably managed and well directed by sound judgment and energy, he has acquired a competence that now enables him to live retired and enjoy the fruits of his former toil. For many years he was connected with agricultural interests in Piatt county, and now he occupies a fine residence in Monticello, where he has lived continuously since 1895. His residence in the county dates from an early day, and he is therefore familiar with much of its history, while his own labors have been of particular benefit in the line of agricultural development.

A native of Virginia, Mr. Dillin was born upon a farm in Taylor county in the Old Dominion, his natal day being July 11, 1837. His parents were Thomas and Mary (McDonald) Dillin, both of whom were natives of Virginia, and during the early boyhood of their son, Hiram, they left that state, removing to Hocking county, Ohio, in the year 1845. There the parents settled permanently and the father devoted his attention to farming and stock-raising. For about eighteen years he carried on his work there, and in 1863 he was called to his final rest, while his wife passed away the following year. They were the parents of eleven children, four daughters and seven sons, all of whom reached adult age, while five of the number are still living, two being residents of Wisconsin, one of northwestern Indiana and two of Minnesota.

Hiram Dillin, whose name introduces this record, began his education in the district schools of Ohio, near his boyhood home. He remained upon the farm until he attained his twentieth year, and during that time he spent the summer months in the work of the fields. In early spring he assisted in the plowing and planting and in late autumn he aided in harvesting the crops. When in his twentieth year, however, he left home to earn his own livelihood, working as a farm hand during the summer months. In the year 1857 Mr. Dillin came west to Piatt county, and as he had no capital with which to purchase land and engage in farming on his own account, he continued to work as a farm hand, being employed in this way for about five years, most of the time in the service of William Bryden.

In 1863 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Dillin and Miss Mary G. Bryden, of Goose Creek township, a daughter of his employer, William Bryden and the latter's wife, Mrs. Catherine (Batie) Bryden. After his marriage Mr. Dillin spent one year in Monticello, where he followed various business pursuits. On the expiration of that period he returned to Goose Creek township, and engaged in the operation of his father-in-law's farm, making his home thereon for five years. At the end of that ime, with the money he had acquired, he purchased eighty acres of land, and also receiving a part of Mr. Bryden's old homestead, he became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres. With characteristic energy and unremitting zeal he took up farm work on his own account, and in connection with the raising of cereals best adapted to the soil and climate he engaged in feeding hogs and cattle, thus readily turning the products of his farm into money. In all of his business career he displayed marked energy and determination and, overcoming all obstacles that could be met by persistent, earnest effort, he worked his way upward to the goal of prosperity. He made excellent



HIRAM DILLIN

improvements upon his property, including the erection of a good dwelling, a barn, outbuildings and sheds. All modern equipments and accessories were added to the place, and the farm was developed into a splendid property, which is now occupied by his son, Robert, the only child of his first marriage.

In 1881 Mr. Dillin was called upon to mourn the loss of his first wife, and later he wedded Mrs. S. J. Welch, an estimable lady, who was educated in the schools of Monticello and is widely and favorably known in Piatt county. She lost her mother when only five years of age, and was reared by James A. Piatt, who sent her to the schools of Monticello. Her father died in 1866. He was a prominent old citizen of Piatt county, coming here in 1855, and was the owner of a valuable farm of four hundred acres known as the Thomas Reed property. By her former marriage Mrs. Dillin had one son, James Piatt Welch, now a street car conductor of St. Louis.

It was in November, 1895, that Mr. Dillin removed from his farm to the city, putting aside the more arduous cares of business life in order to enjoy a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. In 1894 he had purchased his land in Monticello and had erected thereon his present fine residence. This is an attractive home, modern in all of its appointments and equipments, is tastefully furnished and is surrounded by a broad veranda eight feet in width, which adds much to the beauty as well as the comfort of the dwelling. The lawn is well-kept and decorated with beautiful flowers and trees, and altogether the home is one of the most pleasing in Monticello. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dillin hold membership in the First Presbyterian church and Mrs. Dillin takes a very active part in church work.

Forty-six years have passed since Hiram Dillin arrived in Piatt county, and thus from early pioneer days he has watched the progress and development of this portion of the state. In matters of improvement he has been deeply interested, and to such has often given his co-operation. He certainly deserves great credit for what he has accomplished, for he started out in life empty-handed. He had no influential friends or inheritance to assist him, and he had to learn the value of persistent industry, close economy and careful management. Upon this safe and sure foundation, however, he has reared the superstructure of success, and as the architect of his own fortunes has builded wisely and well. Such a record is of greater value than the possession of material wealth, for it indicates a personality strong, efficient and reliable. Tried in the battle of life he has not failed. Wherever known he is held in high regard and as an honored pioneer and highly respected citizen he is certainly deserving of prominent mention in the history of his adopted county.

NATHAN HANELINE.

No history of Piatt county would present a faithful picture of the locality and its upbuilding without prominent and extended mention of Nathan Haneline who passed away in 1903 after long years of residence in this county dating from its early pioneer days. At the time of his death he was the oldest living pioneer in this section of Illinois. A native of Ohio his birth occurred in Greene county on the 22d of November, 1815, his parents

being Abram and Alsey (Moslander) Haneline. The father was a native of North Carolina, where he spent the first eighteen years of his life, removing thence to Kentucky with his mother. In the latter state he was married and afterward went to Champaign county, Ohio, where he lived for some years. In 1822 he came from Ohio to Illinois and for two years was a resident of Sangamon county. It was there that the mother of our subject died in the spring of 1823, and in the spring of the following year the father came with his children to Piatt county, locating within the present limits of Sangamon township, where he spent his remaining days. He belonged to that class of representative early citizens to whom the present generation owes a debt of gratitude, for what they accomplished in the work of preparing the way for advancement and improvement at a later date. He assisted in the arduous task of developing new land and gave his influence in behalf of every measure for the general welfare, so that when he was called to his final rest the community mourned the loss of one whose value was great and who had come to be widely known and honored in this section of the state.

Nathan Haneline was the last surviving member of the family of ten children. He was reared amid the wild scenes of frontier life, sharing with the family in all the hardships and trials which fall to the lot of the pioneer. Around the home for long distances stretched the unbroken prairie, while along the stream the native timber grew and the work of development lay in the future. The Indians were still numerous in the neighborhood and Mr. Haneline had the little sons of the forest as his playmates. They belonged to the Pottawatomie, Kickapoo and Delaware tribes. Mr. Haneline shared in their sports, went hunting with them and often slept in their wigwams. He acquired a knowledge of their languages and greatly enjoyed with them the pleasures which they indulged, the Indian always proving friendly to him. He had in his possession up to the time of his death a number of interesting relics as mementoes of his early associations with the tribes. However, his early youth was not all a period of pleasure, indeed, the greater part of his time was devoted to farm work and as soon as old enough to handle the plow he began work in the fields. Throughout his entire business career he carried on farming and stock-raising and for more than a half century he resided upon the farm which was his place of residence at the time of his demise, taking up his abode there in 1850. The farm is situated on section 14, Monticello township, and comprises two hundred and forty acres of very rich land. When he settled on this place there were but three families living in the entire district. At first he did his farming after the primitive manner of the times, but as improved agricultural implements were introduced he kept apace with the general progress and had better facilities to aid him in his farm work. He practiced the strictest economy and the most unfaltering industry in his early days and thus as the years passed he added to his financial resources, ultimately becoming one of the substantial residents of his community.

There is a period of romance in the

early history of Mr. Haneline, for he was but eighteen years of age when he sought in marriage the hand of Miss Sarah Souder, who was then but fifteen years of age. Her parents were Peter and Mary Souder, who were residents of Champaign county, Illinois. Piatt county then formed a part of Macon county and her parents resided on the Champaign county line. The course of true love did not run smoothly, however, for the young couple. Their marriage was opposed by the parents because of their youth and because of the impecunious condition of the young lover. However, they were not to be deterred by parental objection and finally the parents reluctantly consented to the marriage and arrangements were made for the wedding. The trousseau of the bride was not very elaborate, the wedding dress of white costing but seventy-five cents a yard. The groom went to Pekin to purchase his wedding suit and the shoes for the occasion were the third pair he had ever owned. They were married on the 12th day of November, 1833, and Abe Haneline, a brother of the groom, went to Urbana to secure a justice of the peace to perform the ceremony. They were delayed on the return trip and did not reach their destination until eleven o'clock at night. When everything was ready it was discovered that the license was issued in Champaign county and that if the wedding was legal it must take place in that county. Fortunately the parents lived on the county line, so the party proceeded across the line and under a giant oak the marriage ceremony was solemnized. This was the beginning of a long and happy married life, in which they shared together the joys and sorrows, the adversity and prosperity which come to all. They became the parents of eight children, of whom the living are James, now a resident of Piatt county; Mary Jane, the wife of Jacob M. Freeman of Jasper county, Missouri; Peter, who lives in Piatt county; Elizabeth, the wife of David Shipman; Columbus Thomas of Stafford county, Kansas. Those deceased are Sarah H., John and one that died in infancy. After traveling life's journey side by side as man and wife for fifty-six years Mr. and Mrs. Haneline were separated in death, the wife being called to her final rest. Mr. Haneline afterward made his home during the greater part of the time with his son James. He is survived by his five children, twenty-six grandchildren and thirty great-grandchildren.

In his political views Mr. Haneline was always a stanch Democrat and did everything in his power to promote the growth and insure the success of his party. He served as township school treasurer and did what he could to promote education in this section of the state. In 1855 he aided in organizing lodge No. 58 F. & A. M., becoming one of its charter members and throughout the remainder of his life he was identified with the organization. His history is unique in that he lived in four counties without moving out of the neighborhood. He was first a resident of Sangamon, then of Macon, later of DeWitt and lastly of Piatt county. In matters pertaining to the general good he was deeply interested and his interest was often that of active co-operation. He desired to see the substantial development of the county and his assistance was of a practical nature that leaves lasting results. Death came

to him at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. The vital forces slowly ebbed and at last rest came, but he went about the house up to within a short time prior to his demise. It was comparatively only a few hours in which he had not the use of his faculties. His friends and neighbors had learned to respect and honor him because of his genuine worth, his freedom from ostentation and his life of integrity and honor and because of the important part which he performed in the improvement of Piatt county and because he was so long a representative of its business interests we take the greatest pleasure in presenting his record to our readers.

JACOB GROSS.

No better illustration of the characteristic energy and enterprise of the typical German-American citizen can be found than that afforded by the career of this gentleman, who is successfully engaged in farming and stockraising on section 36, Unity township. Coming to this country with no capital except his abilities he has made his way to success through wisely directed effort and he can now look back with satisfaction upon past struggles.

Mr. Gross was born in Waldshut county, Baden, Germany, on the 23d of October, 1845, and is a son of Casper and Rachel (Gross) Gross, also natives of that country, where his father followed the trade of wagonmaking until his immigration to America in 1863. In the family were seven children, five of whom are now living: Casper, a furniture dealer of Atwood, Illinois; Henry, a general merchant of the same place; Theodore, who is living retired in Atwood; Rachel, wife of William Bercher, of Atwood; and Jacob, our subject. Those deceased are Salina and Mary. The first of the family to come to the new world was Henry, who settled in Chicago in 1857, and there followed the carpenter's trade for a time. Theodore and Salina also came in 1857; Casper in 1861, and the remainder of the family in 1864. The father was accidently killed while walking on the railroad track August 3, 1883, at the age of eighty-one years.

Jacob Gross was reared and educated in his native land and although his home was in a village, he worked on a farm during his boyhood and youth, and has always followed agricultural pursuits. In 1864 he accompanied his parents on their immigration to America, and coming direct to Illinois, settled on section 36, Unity township, Piatt county. He purchased the Ned Shunkwieler farm, which was a partially improved place of one hundred and sixty-five acres, and also bought forty-seven acres of land where he low lives. He has since made many improvements upon his farm which to-day is well tiled and fenced, and he is successfuly engaged in general farming and stock-raising, making a specialty of draft horses. He also keeps a good grade of cattle and has prospered in all his undertakings.

On the 26th of December, 1872, Mr. Gross was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Scheffer, a daughter of Henry and Katherine Scheffer, both of whom are now deceased. Mrs. Gross was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, and became the mother of nine children, those still living being Casper, Mary, Arthur, Annie, Mollie and Malinda. The wife and mother died August 29, 1892, when in the prime of life, and

two childden died when about seventeen years of age. For his second wife Mr. Gross married Christina Peterson, who was born in Holstein, Germany, and by whom he has two children, Robert and William. The children have all been given good educational advantages and are well fitted for life's responsible duties.

In 1879 he became identified with James A. Hawkins in the manufacture of brick and tile at Atwood, a business which they carried on quite successfully under the firm name of Hawkes & Gross until 1893, since which time our subject has given his attention principally to his farming interests. In his political views he is a stalwart Republican and is one of the standard bearers of his party in Piatt county. He has served as a member of the board of education in Atwood, as trustee of the Mutual Telephone Company of the place, and trustee of the cemetery there. He has also been vice president of the Farmer's Institute of Unity township, and is a man of prominence and influence in the community where he resides. He is a member of the County Fair Association and in this connection has done much to advance the interests of this section of the state. Religiously, Mr. Gross is a member of the German Evangelical church at Garrett, Douglas county, and he is a man who commands the respect and confidence of all with whom he is brought in contact either in business or social life.

STEPHEN SHIVELY.

Piatt county is very rich in its agricultural opportunities. Throughout the length and breadth of this land there can be found no district of soil more productive or which is better adapted to the production of grain which is the basis of all business prosperity. More than a century ago George Washington said "Agriculture is the most useful as well as the most honorable occupation of man," and the truth of this statement has been verified throughout the ages. It is to this work that Stephen Shively has devoted his energies through an active and honorable business career, and now he is living a retired life. He has made his home in this section of Illinois for over forty-five years, having settled in Oakley township, Macon county, Illinois, near Cerro Gordo, in 1858.

A native of Ohio, Mr. Shively was born in Montgomery county on the 28th of December, 1828, and is a son of Jacob and Susannah (Metzger) Shively, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Pennsylvania. The father was reared in Ohio and there lived until 1836, at which time he removed to Clinton county, Indiana, where he carried on farming until his life's labors were ended in death. His wife also passed away in that county. They were the parents of three children: Stephen; Andrew, who married Barbara Metzger and is living in California; and Mary, who is the widow of John W. Metzger, and makes her home with her children.

Stephen Shively was quite young when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Clinton county, Indiana, and there he obtained his education in the public schools. He also assisted his father in the work of the home farm until his marriage, which important event in his life occurred in the year 1850, the lady of his choice being Miss Catherine Metzger. She, too, was born in Ohio, her birth occurring on the 4th of No-

vember, 1832, near the place of the nativity of our subject. She is a daughter of John and Hanna (Ullery) Metzger, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. Her father was an agriculturist, following that pursuit in the east until 1859, when he came to Piatt county, Illinois, and settled on a farm in Cerro Gordo township. Later he went to California, but soon returned to Illinois and lived retired in Cerro Gordo until his death, which occurred in 1896. His wife passed away in 1887.

After his marriage Mr. Shively began farming in Clinton county, Indiana, where he carried on agricultural pursuits for eight years. On the expiration of that period he came to Illinois, establishing his home in Oakley township, Macon county, where he purchased a tract of land and at once began its development and improvement. There he carried on general farming with creditable and gratifying success from 1858 until 1881, when he removed to the village of Cerro Gordo, where he has since lived a retired life. In his farm work he was progressive and enterprising, steadily advancing along all lines which have proven of value in the work of cultivating the fields and producing excellent crops.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Shively has been blessed with five children: John J., who married Miss L. Blickenstaff and is now a resident farmer of Cerro Gordo township; Solomon, who married Mary Yont, and is engaged in carpentering in Ramsey, Illinois; Susannah, who is the wife of Amos Ratsman, and resides on the old homestead in Oakley township, Macon county; Hannah, who is the wife of John Cripe, a farmer of Macon county, Illinois; and Jacob, who died in 1862, at the age of two years. The parents are members of the German Baptist Brethren church of Cerro Gordo, and have lived earnest Christian lives in harmony with their professions. In political views Mr. Shively has always been a Republican and has held a number of minor offices. During his long residence in this section of the state he has witnessed almost its entire development and improvement, and his interest in its welfare has been indicated by the co-operation which he has given to movements for the general good. He is thoroughly genuine, there being not the slightest suggestion of anything hypocritical about him. With him friendship is inviolable, his word is as good as his bond, and he clings with unyielding firmness to a position which careful consideration and mature judgment has convinced him to be right.

ALONZO T. PIPHER.

The profession of law when clothed with its true dignity, purity and strength must rank first among the callings of men, for law rules the universe. The work of the legal profession is to formulate, to harmonize, to regulate, to adjust, to administer those rules and principles that underlie and permeate all government and society and control the varied relations of men. As thus viewed there is attached to the profession nobleness that cannot but be reflected in the life of the true lawyer, who, rising to the responsibilities of the profession, and honest in the pursuit of his purpose, embraces the richness of learning, the firmness of integrity and the purity of morals, together with the graces

and modesty and the general amenities of life. Of such a type Alonzo T. Pipher is a representative. His connection with the Piatt county bar covers a longer period than that of any other resident of this section of the state.

A native of New York Alonzo T. Pipher was born in Jefferson county on the 13th of May, 1831, and is a son of Lewis and Sophronia (Gardner) Pipher. It is thought that the father of our subject was a native of France and he followed carpentering in Jefferson county, New York, until August, 1854, when he came to Illinois, settling near Blackberry, Kane county. There he continued to work at his trade for a number of years and afterward removed to Miami county, Kansas, where he spent his remaining days, dying at the home of a son there. His wife was a daughter of Hiram Gardner, who was of English descent and was a native of Connecticut, whence he removed to New York at an early period in the development of the Empire state. He became one of the pioneers of Alexandria, Jefferson county, and it was during his residence there that Mrs. Pipher was born. The tract of timber land which he purchased he developed into a rich and productive farm and continued to make his home thereon until his removal to Illinois, where he cast in his lot with the pioneer settlers of Kane county. There he entered land from the government, securing a tract of prairie about four and a half miles west of Aurora and to its cultivation and improvement he at once directed his energies. He made his home on that farm until 1847, when he died at about the age of eighty years. His daughter, Mrs. Pipher continued to survive her husband for some time and died in Miami county, Kansas, in 1884.

Alonzo Pipher of this review was one of a family of ten children. He acquired his preliminary education in the common schools of Jefferson county, New York, and when he had mastered the branches of learning therein taught he became a student in Aurora Academy at Aurora, Cayuga county, New York, being then nineteen years of age. For two years he was enrolled among its pupils and then entered Blackriver Institute at Watertown, New York, where he prepared for admission to Hamilton College. In 1852 he matriculated in that college and completed the work of two years, but failing health obliged him to abandon his hope of graduating there and he had to put aside his text books. In September, 1854, Mr. Pipher arrived in the west, reaching Chicago on the 28th of that month. After spending a few weeks in visiting friends in Bloomington, Illinois, he went to Springfield, afterward to St. Louis, Missouri, and then to Kane county, Illinois. He had relatives living in this place and after renewing his acquaintance with them he entered upon his business career in this state, accepting a position as teacher at Ross Grove, DeKalb county, where during a six month's term he received a salary of twenty dollars per month as compensation for his services and "boarded around" among the pupils. In August, 1855, Mr. Pipher met with an accident that incapacitated him for any work for eighteen months and during that period he remained at his father's home in Blackberry. In the fall of 1856 Mr. Pipher began active preparation for the profession which was his life work, becoming a law student in the office and under the direction of John Stephens at Dixon, Lee county. He remained under that preceptor for a year and then accepted a position as a teacher

in Winthrop, Kane county, thus replenishing his somewhat exhausted exchequer. On the expiration of that period he located in Bloomington, where he engaged in teaching school, devoting all of his leisure hours to the study of law. In 1857 he was admitted to the bar and on the 13th of April, 1858, he came to Monticello, where he has since practiced. He stands to-day as the nestor of the Piatt county bar and has easily maintained a leading position in the ranks of the legal fraternity. Nature bountifully endowed him with the peculiar qualifications that combine to make a successful lawyer. Patiently persevering, possessed of an analytical mind, and one that is readily receptive and retentive of the fundamental principles and intricacies of the law; gifted with a spirit of devotion to wearisome details; quick to comprehend the most subtle problems and logical in his conclusions; fearless in the advocacy of any cause he may espouse, and the soul of honor and integrity, few men have been more richly gifted for the achievement of success in the arduous difficult profession of the law.

Mr. Pipher was married July 1, 1850, to Sophia Singer, a native of Hummelstown, Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Jacob Singer. They became the parents of the following children: Ella Lillian, who is now the wife of Elijah Hedrick; Albertina; Florence, the wife of Frederick Bostwick; May; Alonzo S.; and Sophia. In 1872 Mr. Pipher was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife who died on the 28th of April, of that year. He was again married May 5, 1880, his second union being with Mrs. Caroline H. Mentz, a daughter of John H. and Mary Mona. Mrs. Pipher was born in Ross county, Ohio, and first became the wife of William Mentz, who died in Monticello in 1869. By her first marriage she had three children: Sarah B., now the wife of Frederick Haines; Nancy Maria and William.

Mr. Pipher has served as police magistrate for a number of years and was also for a long period master in chancery and in the discharge of his official duties he has ever been found prompt, faithful and reliable. His political support is given to the Republican party and he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church while his wife is a member of the Presbyterian church. Faultless in honor, fearless in conduct and stainless in reputation, such has been his life record. His scholarly attainments, his excellent judgment and his charming powers of conversation would have enabled him to fill and grace any position however exalted, but he has desired rather to give attention to his professional labors. He is honored in public life and loved by his friends and close associates, and his prominent position at the bar well entitles him to representation among the leading citizens of his county.

BENJAMIN F. LODGE.

Only those lives are worthy of record that have been potential factors in the public progress in promoting the general welfare or advancing the educational or moral interests of the community. Mr. Lodge was a man of noble character, much of whose life was devoted to the betterment of his fellow men, and the world is certainly better for his having lived.

A native of Ohio, he was born in Reading, that state, December 26, 1832, and was



B. F. LODGE



MRS. F. E. LODGE

a son of Benjamin F. and Julia A. (Brooks) Lodge. His father was born in New Jersey, and at an early day came to Illinois, taking up his residence in Paris, where he and his wife both died. For many years he served as county surveyor of Edgar county, and took an active part in public affairs. In his family were seven children.

Mr. Lodge, of this review, was only about five years old when the family removed to this state, and his early education was acquired in the schools near Paris. In 1856 he united with the Methodist church in that city, and determining to enter the ministry he afterward took a theological course and joined the Illinois conference in 1858. Coming to Piatt county he entered upon his ministerial labors, and for a time was junior preacher on the Monticello circuit. Among his charges were Bement, Cerro Gordo, Monticello, Baker schoolhouse, Ridge school, Camp Creek and several other places in the counties of Sangamon, Shelby, Cole, Edgar, Douglas, Champaign, Piatt and Menard, but at the end of nine years he was obliged to giving up preaching on account of ill health, and in 1866 located on a farm near Paris, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits for some years. He then came to Piatt county and made his home on the farm now occupied by his widow until called to his final rest.

On the 21st of April, 1862, Mr. Lodge was married by Rev. Peter Cartwright to Mrs. Frances E. Lyon, a daughter F. Ewing and Eliza (Foster) Berry. Her maternal grandfather was Constantine Foster, who was born in Cape May county, New Jersey, October 18, 1792, and was married in Cumberland county, that state, to Miss Margaret Sayre, who was born in the same county, February 25, 1800. They had five children born in Cape May county, New Jersey, who accompanied their parents on their removal to Dayton, Ohio, in 1832, and thence came to Sangamon county, Illinois, in the autumn of 1833. The family first settled in what is now Cartwright township, and two years later removed to what is now gardner township. One child was added to the family in Sangamon county. Eliza, L., the oldest, was born in New Jersey, May 13, 1820, and on the 22d of June, 1837, in Sangamon county, gave her hand in marriage to F. Ewing Berry, who died four months later. A daughter, Frances E. Berry, was born of this union in Sangamon county, June 4, 1838, and was married August 27, 1857, to Henry F. Lyon. His death occurred April 25, 1858, and their only child, Ida, born September 14, 1858, died in infancy. Mr. Lyon was engaged in the shipping of stock at Mechanicsburg, Illinois, and was only twenty-nine years of age at the time of his death. Constantine Foster died in Sangamon county, September 29, 1865, his wife April 9, 1867, and both were laid to rest in the Pleasant Plains cemetery. Their other children besides Mrs. Berry were Catherine, who married John C. Bone, and both are now deceased; John S.; Jacob; Joseph R.; and Mary J.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Lodge were born nine children, of whom Benjamin F., Julia, William and Elmer are all now deceased. Those living are as follows: Charles Albert, now a contractor and builder of Lincoln, Nebraska, married Miss Emma Hyder, of Bement, Illinois, a daughter of Mrs. Martha Flynn, and to them were born five children: Clarence, who died in Oklahoma at the age of eleven years; Ethel, who died near Monticello, Illinois, at the age of two; Harold V., now ten years of age; Hazel Marie, aged eight; and Charles Norman, aged six. Frank, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Lodge, is a rail-

road man and resides at home with his mother. Fannie May is the wife of H. C. Body, of Bement, and has three children: Alta May, William Neville and Harriet L. Howard F. manages the farm for his mother, and Daisy K. is also at home. All were born in Piatt county with exception of Benjamin F., whose birth occurred at Windsor, Illinois; and William, whose birth occurred in Edgar county. The family reside on the old home place on section 1, Bement township, and are people of prominence in that community.

Mr. Lodge departed this life July 6, 1902, and in life's span of almost seventy years he accomplished much, leaving behind him an honorable record well worthy of perpetuation. He was devoted to the work of the church even after leaving the ministry, and always took a deep interest in religious affairs. Domestic in his tastes he displayed a great fondness for his home, and was a most exemplary husband and father. He was also much attached to children, and was especially the young man's friend, aiding him by his wise counsel and advance as well as by more material assistance. His death occasioned the deepest regret throughout the community, and Piatt county thereby lost one of its most valued citizens and an earnest Christian gentleman. His remains were interred in the Monticello cemetery.

JAMES P. RAY.

James P. Ray, deceased, through the years of his identification with Piatt county, enjoyed the highest respect of his fellow citizens by reason of his strict integrity and sterling worth. Almost his entire life was passed in Illinois, for he was born in Marion county, this state, on the 1st of May, 1848, and lived at the place of his birth until twenty-six years of age. His parents were Alfred and Mary (Morgan) Ray, the former of whom was born and reared in North Carolina and the latter in Tennessee. At an early day they came to Illinois and settled in the southern part of the state. By occupation the father was a merchant and farmer and in religious belief was a Methodist, while his wife held membership in the Christian church. Both died in Marion county at an advanced age.

Reared in the county of his nativity, James P. Ray was indebted to its public schools for his early educational advantages. When a young man he assisted in the work of the home farm and on leaving the parental roof went to Kansas, where he engaged in farming for three years. On his return to Illinois, he took up his residence in Unity township, Piatt county, where he continued to follow the same pursuit for some years. He next removed to Bement township, where he continued to engage in farming and stock-raising until his death. He operated three hundred and twenty acres of well improved and valuable land here and also had a good farm of ninety acres in Marion county, Illinois. His life was one of thrift and industry and the success that came to him was due to his well directed efforts, keen discrimination and sound judgment.

On the 19th of March, 1874, Mr. Ray was united in marriage to Miss Electa B. Wooters, also a native of Marion county and a daughter of E. J. and Elizabeth (Richardson) Wooters, both of whom are now deceased. Her father was born in North Carolina and her mother in Ten-

nessee. Both were faithful members of the Methodist church and people of the highest respectability. During his active business life Mr. Wooters engaged in merchandising and for some time served as postmaster of Raccoon, Marion county. Mrs. Ray now makes her home upon a farm in Bement township and with her reside three children of her sister, the boys having charge of the farm.

In politics Mr. Ray was a Democrat and for a time he held the office of school director. He was a member of the Masonic Order and his life was in harmony with its teachings. He died in Bement township, March 31, 1896, honored and respected by all who knew him. Like her husband Mrs. Ray is also held in the highest esteem and has a host of warm friends in the community where she has long made her home.

JAMES FISHER.

One of the most energetic and successful agriculturists of Piatt county is James Fisher, who now resides on section 14, Bement township, where he is operating a half section of rich farming land. He was born upon that place September 9, 1860, and is a son of Elihu Fisher, who was also a native of Illinois, born in one of the pioneer homes in Greene county, at Roodhouse, November 29, 1825. Elihu Fisher was left fatherless at the age of ten years, but his mother lived to an advanced age and died in Macoupin county, this state. He grew to manhood on a farm in the county of his nativity, and on leaving there in 1857 he came to Piatt county, taking up his residence in Bement township, where for many years he was actively engaged in farming. In course of time he accumulated a valuable property and was enabled to retire, passing his declining years free from the care and labor that beset his early life. His farm, which was one of the finest in that part of the county, comprised five hundred and sixty acres of well improved land of surpassing fertility and its improvements were of the best. Besides this, he owned other valuable property in the village of Bement. His life record was an honorable one, alike to himself and to the community in which he so long resided, and where he was always held in high esteem of his fellow men. He always displayed a zealous interest in the welfare of adopted township, and aided in carrying on its public affairs in the several township offices that he at various times held. To his zeal while holding the office of highway commissioner his section of the county is greatly indebted for the improvements made in its roads and byways. He was also interested in advancing educational matters and made many improvements in that regard while holding various school offices. He was a man of force, and had decided opinions and a fine appreciation of what was right and what wrong, and was a strong advocate of any measure that he believed would tend to improve the district in which he lived. He served throughout the Mexican war and took part in the battle of Buena Vista and other important engagements. Shortly before his death he united with the Presbyterian church and died in that faith in Bement township at the age of seventy-one years. He was a member of the Masonic order for many years. At the time of his death he owned five hundred and twenty acres of land in Piatt county, be-

sides his village property and a valuable farm in Lee county, Illinois.

In Greene county, Illinois, Elihu Fisher married Miss Lydia J. Rawlins, who was a native of that county and survived him until a year ago, when she died on the home farm at the age of seventy years, She was also a member of the Presbyterian church and was a most estimable lady. In their family were ten children, namely: Sarah E., wife of Robert Lamb; Cordelia A., wife of Joseph Zorger; William Burgess; James; Effie, wife of Daniel Hall; Charles; Kate; Mary and Fred.

James Fisher received his early education in the district schools near his boyhood home, and for one year attended the university at Bloomington. After completing his education he assisted his father upon the home farm and also operated a farm near the village of Cerro Gordo, which he then owned. Throughout his active business life he has engaged in farming and stock-raising and to-day has one of the model farms of the county. In addition to his interest in his father's estate he has recently purchased thirteen hundred and sixty acres of bottom land in Missouri. He is quite extensively engaged in the raising of high grade road horses and in all his undertakings has met with well-deserved success for he is energetic, enterprising and progressive and thoroughly understands the vocation which he follows.

In July, 1895, Mr. Fisher was united in marriage to Miss Sarah N. Creighton, a daughter of Matthew and Maria (Groves) Creighton. Her father was a native of Delaware, and from that state removed to Ohio in 1840, and in 1852 came to Illinois, locating in Cerro Gordo township, Piatt county, where he became the owner of a fine farm of five hundred and sixty acres on which he made all the improvements. His residence was built in 1860. In 1849 he married Maria Groves, and to them were born eight children. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher have six children: Grover F., Mamie Etta, Ollie May, Orville, Ralph and Lydia J., all born in Bement township with the exception of Grover, who was born in Cerro Gordo township.

Mr. Fisher is a member of the Presbyterian church and for many years has been connected with the Masonic fraternity. Politically, he is identified with the Democratic party and takes a deep interest in public affairs. He is widely and favorably known in the community where he resides, and those who know him best are numbered among his warmest friends, a fact which plainly indicates an upright and honorable career.

JOHN N. DARST.

John N. Darst is a well-known contractor and builder residing in Mansfield. He stands to-day prominent in business circles, and his life record proves what can be accomplished through the force of energy, determination and honorable dealing. He was born in Circleville, Pickaway county, Ohio, on the 14th of October, 1855, and is a son of George W. and Elizabeth (Evans) Darst. The father was a shoemaker by trade and followed that pursuit for thirty years, but later in life, however, engaged in farming. In 1861 he removed from Ohio to Marshall, Clark county, Illinois, and after a few years residence in that locality came to Piatt county. He died June 4, 1896, and the mother of our subject passed away September 4, 1871.

John N. Darst pursued his studies in the

Argo schoolhouse in Sangamon township, Piatt county, but in early youth he started out upon his business career. When about thirteen years of age he began to earn his own living, working as a farm hand at eight dollars per month. At the age of eighteen years he began farming for himself and was thus engaged during the years of 1873-4-5. He then commenced to learn the builder's art, and in 1876 he took up his abode in Mansfield, where he has since resided. Becoming an expert workman in the line of building he turned his attention to contracting, and has erected the majority of the best buildings in Mansfield during the past twenty-five years, including the Sisson department store, First National Bank building, the State Bank building, Hotel Monroe, the high school building, a fine structure erected in 1895, and many others of a public and private character. In the first part of the year 1903 he erected eight buildings. He employs his own masons, painters and workmen of all kinds, and he takes contracts all over this part of the state, also doing work in Chicago. He thoroughly understands the builder's art in every particular, and his labors have brought to him very gratifying success as the years have gone by. Mr. Darst is also one of the directors and was one of the organizers of the First National Bank in Mansfield. He owns five houses and lots in this city, and his property interests are the visible evidence of his life of industry and thrift.

On the 21st of February, 1881, occurred the marriage of Mr. Darst and Miss Jennie Bateman, a daughter of Thomas Bateman, of whom more extended mention is made elsewhere in this volume. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Darst has been blessed with three children: Mabel Elizabeth, who was born December 8, 1888; Nellie Bernice, born on the 29th of May, 1890; and Mary Isabel, born February 6, 1900. They have an attractive home in Mansfield and Mr. and Mrs. Darst occupy an enviable position in social circles. In politics he is a Republican and while he gives a firm support to the principles of the party, he has never sought or desired office, desiring rather that his time and energies shall be devoted to his business affairs which have already brought him creditable success. A life of unswerving integrity and honor, of unfaltering diligence and of straightforward dealing has gained and retained for him the confidence and respect of his fellow men and he is distinctively one of the leading citizens of the thriving town of Mansfield, with whose interests he has been identified for a quarter of a century.

JOHN R. HOWELL.

Prominent among the energetic, far-seeing and successful business men of Piatt county is the subject of this sketch, who is interested in a number of different enterprises and is also serving as postmaster of the village of Burrowsville. Energy, close application, perseverance and good management, these are the elements which have entered into his business career and crowned his efforts with prosperity.

Mr. Howell was born in Moultrie county, Illinois, October 28, 1865, his parents being John T. and Susan (Harris) Howell, both natives of Shelby county, Kentucky, and early settlers of Moultrie

county, where they located in 1864. At that time there was only one house between his place and Bement and most of the land was wild and covered with sloughs and ponds. His farm had previously been improved though he subsequently broke many acres of prairie with oxen and materially assisted in the development and improvement of this section of the state. He continued to live in Lovington township, Moultrie county, for some years, his time being devoted to agricultural pursuits, but he is now living retired in Decatur, Illinois. Although seventy-two years of age he is still hale and hearty and his wife is in her sixty-eighth year. The children born to them are as follows: H. T., now a resident of Missouri; S. W., of Holly, Colorado; John R., of this review; Molly, wife of Rev. B. C. Dewey, a Methodist Episcopal minister now located at Pana, Illinois; James, who is living in Denver; and three deceased.

In the district schools of his native county John R. Howell obtained a good practical education and on laying aside his text books took up farming, to which occupation he still gives considerable attention in the supervision of his fine farm of two hundred and forty acres on sections 33 and 34, Cerro Gordo township. In the fall of 1890 he embarked in the grain business and in general merchandising at Burrowsville and on the 1st of the following year was appointed postmaster at that place, which office he has since filled to the satisfaction of all concerned. His elevator has a capacity of thirty thousand bushels and he handles on an average one hundred and fifty thousand bushels annually and also deals quite extensively in stock. Although he buys and sells sheep and cattle, he makes a specialty of horses and is very much interested in the same. In addition to his other duties he also acts as station agent for the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad at Burrowsville.

In 1894 Mr. Howell married Miss Grace Toney, of La Place, who was born in Indiana on the 1st of January, 1877, but was reared and educated in Macon county, Illinois, whither she removed with her parents, J. W. and Marie (Nesbott) Toney, when about five years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Toney came originally from Bedford, Indiana, and are now residents of La Place, Illinois. Mrs. Howell is the youngest in a family of six children and is the mother of a little son, Roland J., now seven years old. She had two other children: Virgil, who died at the age of fourteen months; and Marie, who died at the age of twenty-two months.

Politically Mr. Howell affiliates with the Democracy and has served as a delegate to the conventions of his party. Within his remembrance land in this section of the state has risen in value from twenty to one hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre and he has seen much of the upbuilding and development of this region. He is one of the most energetic and progressive citizens of his locality and gives an earnest support to all enterprises which he believes will prove of public benefit. Fraternally he is a member of Ben Hur Lodge, and religiously both he and his wife are members of the Christian church. His genial, pleasant manner has made him quite popular in business and social circles and as a public-spirited, enterprising man he is recognized as a valued citizen of Piatt county.

DR. J. H. WOOD.

Dr. J. H. Wood, who is engaged in the drug business in De Land, was born in Fulton county, Illinois, on the 15th of April, 1843, and is a son of Thomas and Mary (Dyckes) Wood, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Maryland. Both the Dyckes and Wood families were of English extraction. William Dyckes, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was a soldier in the war of 1812 and was wounded in the battle of Fort McHenry. The parents of the Doctor were married in Cleveland, Ohio, where the father was engaged in blacksmithing. In the year 1837 he and his wife came to the west, crossing the lakes to Chicago, which was then a frontier village, giving little promise of the marvelous development which was soon to make it the metropolitan city of the west. They proceeded by stage to LaSalle, Illinois, and thence by boat to Havana. Mr. Wood took up his abode in Farmers township, Fulton county, where he erected a blacksmith shop upon a tract of land which he secured from the government. This he improved, carrying on agricultural pursuits in connection with the blacksmithing which he did for the early settlers. He was one of the pioneer residents of this part of the state and took an active and helpful part in the early development of the county and was widely known among the pioneer settlers who esteemed him highly for his genuine worth. He died at the age of sixty-nine years and his widow is now living in Denver, Colorado, at the age of eighty-five years with her son J. D. Wood. They became the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this review was the third in order of birth. Those still living are the daughter Alice, who is the widow of James Sperry, and resides with his brother; and J. D., who is with his mother in Denver, Colorado.

Dr. Wood obtained his early education in the public schools of Farmers township and for several years he engaged in teaching school. Desirous to become a member of the medical profession he began studying privately and when he had earned enough money to meet the expenses of a college course he matriculated in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Keokuk, Iowa, in which he was graduated with the class of 1878. Immediately upon his graduation he came to DeLand and here began practice. In his work he met with creditable and gratifying success and remained an active practitioner here until 1894, when he removed to Champaign. For six years he was a member of the medical fraternity at that place and in 1900 he removed to Hammond, Louisiana, where he was located for a year and a half. He then returned to De Land and purchased the drug store of William Downey, since which time he has been conducting the business, having now a liberal patronage which is accorded him in recognition of the good stock which he carries, his reasonable prices and his honorable and courteous treatment of his patrons.

In December, 1875, was celebrated the marriage of Dr. Wood and Miss Sarah Peirsol, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Sampson Peirsol, of Lee township, Fulton county, Illinois. Her parents died during her early girlhood and she made her home with her uncle Dr. Peirsol. She is a member of the Presbyterian church

and is a most estimable lady. Fraternally the Doctor is connected with De Land Lodge, No. 812, F. & A. M., with Monticello Chapter, No. 48, R. A. M., and with Champaign Commandery, K. T. In his political views he is a stalwart Democrat and for a number of terms served as supervisor of his township. He has also been town clerk and in public office he has been found most loyal and faithful to his duties. In 1864 he enlisted in Company I. Sixth Regular Cavalry under Captain, now General A. R. Chaffee and served three years, being mustered out as first sergeant. He was stationed on the Texas frontier after the close of hostility, Fort Belknap being their headquarters the greater part of the time. During a long residence in this section of the state Dr. Wood has become widely and favorably known and well deserves mention in this volume as one of the representative men of Piatt county.

JOHN HENRY WARREN.

John Henry Warren, who carries on general farming in Piatt county, his home being on section 17, Blue Ridge township, was born on the 7th of July, 1859, in the city of New York, and is a son of Edward and Elizabeth (Clary) Warren, both natives of Sussex county, England. The father was born January 2, 1824, and is still living, but the mother, whose birth occurred February 14, 1828, died on the 30th of May, 1897. It was in 1855 that they came to the United States, and during the first six years of their residence in this country lived near Albany, New York, where the father worked on a farm for one man all of that time. They then came to Piatt county, Illinois, and for eight years Mr. Warren operated a rented farm near his present place, and then purchased the latter. Since becoming a naturalized citizen he has always supported the Republican party. His children are William Howard, now a farmer of Iowa; Alfred, a carpenter of Champaign, Illinois; John Henry, of this review; and Arthur, also a resident of Blue Ridge township. The first two were born in England, the third in New York, and the youngest in Piatt county.

John H. Warren spent the days of his boyhood and youth in his parents' home, and in the public schools acquired his education. When twenty-one years of age he began working for himself, and for two years was employed by the month as a farm hand. He afterward took up his abode on his father's farm in Blue Ridge township, Piatt county, where he is now living. He pays his father six hundred and forty dollars per year as rent for the farm, and he also takes care of this aged parent. As an agriculturist Mr. Warren is practical and progressive and everything he undertakes he carries forward to successful completion. His place is neat and thrifty in appearance, indicating his careful supervision and annually his labors return to him a good income.

On the 30th of May, 1879, Mr. Warren was united in marriage to Miss Flora Trusler, who was born in Indiana, October 1, 1860, and is a daughter of James and Nancy Jane Trusler. Her parents were farming people and made their home in Blue Ridge township, this county, for about twenty years after coming from Indiana. The father died February 2, 1899, and the mother passed away August 13, 1901. Their other children were Daniel, a resident of Ford county, Illi-



J. H. WARREN



MRS. J. H. WARREN

nois; Mrs. Martha Bishop, of Ohio; William, a farmer of Ford county; Elijah, a painter of Indiana; Charles, a resident of Ford county, Illinois; and Emma, of Blue Ridge township, Piatt county. Mr. and Mrs. Warren have eight children: Golda Belle, Frances Paulina, Grace Alma, Sarah Hazel, James Henry Edward, Susie May, Laddie Elizabeth and Rufus George Franklin, all of whom are still under the parental roof.

Mr. Warren exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party, and is deeply interested in its success, for he believes that the party platform contains the best elements of good government. He has been a school director for five terms and the cause of education has in him a warm friend. Socially, he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, and carries two thousand dollars' insurance in that order.

JACOB H. CLINE.

In viewing the mass of mankind in the varied occupations of life the conclusion is forced upon the observer that in the vast majority of cases men have sought employment not in line of their peculiar fitness, but in those where caprice or circumstances have placed them, thus explaining the reason of the failure of ninety-five per cent of those who enter commercial and professional circles. In a few cases it seems that men with a peculiar fitness—genius it may be called, for a certain line have taken it up and marked success has followed. Such is the fact in the case of the subject of this biography, who is now engaged in general merchandising in White Heath.

A native of Piatt county, he was born in Sangamon township, August 25, 1851, and is a son of John and Letitia Cline. His parents were natives of Ohio, coming from Pickaway county, that state, to Illinois at an early day. They entered a claim from the government, thereby becoming the owner of a tract of land in Piatt county, and in the course of years the father improved about eight hundred acres. He certainly, in this way, aided largely in the development and progress of the county and this section of the state acknowledges its indebtedness to him for the work which he performed in advancing civilization here. His death occurred on the 25th of March, 1860, when he was living upon his farm two miles northeast of White Heath. His wife, who was born in Pickaway county, April 7, 1817, died in White Heath on the 4th of March, 1891. They were people of the highest respectability, and during the long years of their residence here they gained many friends for their sterling traits of character awakened the respect and admiration of those with whom they were associated.

Jacob H. Cline when small became a student in a little schoolhouse where the White schoolhouse now stands about three and a half miles north of White Heath. Later he attended the Hazeldell school, but his education was somewhat limited for the schools of that day had not reached their present advanced standard. It was also necessary that he should assist his mother. The father died when the son was only nine years of age, leaving a large family of six children to the care of his widow. Jacob H. was the fifth in order of birth. He remained upon the old home with his mother until nineteen years of age, when he was married and started out in life for himself. It was on the 13th of February, 1870, that he wedded Miss Josephine Knott. His

share of his father's estate was then under the control of the second guardian, S. R. Reed, of Monticello. Mr. Cline took his bride to his farm and continued its cultivation for two or three years. He then traded the property with his younger brother, Ezra Cline, and in the second or third transfer he came into possession of the home farm, which he cultivated for two years. He then traded that property with John A. Flanagan, and he became the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land near White Heath. Removing to this place he there erected a new house, built a barn, planted an orchard and made other improvements, which added to the value and attractive appearance of his home. After remaining there about three years he made a deal with Charles Smith, of White Heath, whereby he came into possession of a store, house and lot, formerly owned by Mr. Smith in the village. Mr. Cline is now one of the oldest as well as one of the most reliable merchants of White Heath. He carries a large stock of general merchandise and receives a gratifying share of the public patronage. His diligent attention to business has won him a constantly growing trade among the best families of White Heath and the surrounding district. He is always courteous to his customers, is progressive in his business methods and is always fair and just in his dealings. In addition to supervising his store he has also served as postmaster, being appointed during President Arthur's administration, and holding the office continually since, with the exception of the period of President Cleveland's second administration. A rural route was established from this office on the 1st of March, 1902, and at that time the old star route from White Heath to Centerville was discontinued.

Mr. Cline owns a fine home adjoining his store, and it stands in the midst of a beautiful and well-kept lawn, adorned with shade trees. He also has many other trees upon his place, including apples, cherries, peaches and plums. The home occupies an excellent location in the center of the business district in the pretty village of White Heath and there is no more attractive place than that of Mr. Cline. He likewise owns twenty acres of rich land, adjoining the village and another desirable residence situated on Washington street in Monticello, Illinois. His business affairs have been carefully conducted, resulting in the acquirement of a desirable capital, which he has judiciously invested in real estate.

In this connection it will be interesting to note something of the family history of Mrs. Cline who is a daughter of Dr. A. B. and Mary (Law) Knott. Mrs. Cline was born in Washington Court House, Ohio, January 22, 1853, and in the year 1856 was brought by her parents to Illinois, the family locating in Centerville, where the Doctor practiced his profession continuously for twenty-five years, being one of the leading and successful physicians of that part of the state. Mrs. Cline pursued her education in the schools of Centerville and of Ottawa, Illinois, and by her marriage she has become the mother of five children: Anna B., who is the wife of Edward Gale, and is a nurse, making her home with her parents; Minnie M., the wife of Jerry Purcell, of White Heath; Cora O., who is a doctor of osteopathy in Monticello; Ona L., who is deputy circuit clerk of Piatt county; and Roy R., who attends school and assists his father is the store during the periods of vacation.

In his political views Mr. Cline is a stalwart Republican, active in the party and in-

fluential in its councils. For several years he has served as chairman of the township central committee. He has held the office of supervisor for fifteen years and has also been commissioner of highways. Fraternally he is connected with Monticello Lodge, No. 58, F. & A. M., and also with the Modern Woodmen of America. His wife is a member of the Royal Neighbors and with the Court of Honor and has long been a prominent and influential member and worker in the Universalist church of White Heath. He is truly a representative American citizen and a worthy representative of that type of American character which promotes public good in advancing individual prosperity. Prosperity has come to him as a natural consequence of industry and application, and his splendid success bears testimony to his rare judgment in business affairs.

WILLIAM H. FIRKE.

Among the representative business men of Mansfield who have done much toward its upbuilding and development probably none are better known than the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. As an extensive landowner and banker he has been prominently identified with the business interests of the county for many years and is a recognized leader in agricultural and financial circles.

Mr. Firke is a native of Indiana, his birth having occurred in a log cabin in Wiesburg, on the 17th of January, 1852. His parents were Conrad and Anna (Aufencamp) Firke. The father was a carpenter by trade and followed that pursuit throughout his business career. He died in Indiana on the 28th of January, 1852, and is still survived by his widow who is now living in Cass county, Nebraska, near Greenwood. Mr. Firke is one of three living children and two of the family are now deceased.

In the common schools of his native state the subject of this review obtained his early education. He was left an orphan and started out to earn his own living at the age of seventeen years, first working as a farm hand in which capacity he was employed until 1874, when he came to Illinois, settling near Farmer City. There he worked for one year as a farm hand for D. W. and J. C. Smith, after which he rented a tract of land and carried on farming on his own account. During this time he made money and with the capital he had acquired he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Piatt county, of which he became owner in 1876. This he plowed, planted and tiled, thus producing very rich and arable fields and he continued his farm work there until 1883, at which time he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in Champaign county. He has since owned much valuable property. In 1889 he bought what is known as the William Lindsey farm in Piatt county near Blue Ridge. This he tiled and upon the place he erected two good barns, unsurpassed by any in the county. He also built corn cribs and other necessary buildings, planted an orchard and made various improvements which added to the value and attractive appearance of the place. In 1890 he purchased forty acres of land in Champaign county, and in 1895 he bought in Vermilion county four hundred acres of land on Eight Mile Prairie. This he improved and tiled, erected a good residence, substantial barns and new corn cribs, in fact,

he made all the improvements upon the place. In 1902 he became the owner of four hundred and twenty-seven acres of land in Pike county, afterward purchased one hundred and seventy-three acres in Piatt county, this being the old Mansfield home, for which he paid one hundred and seventy and a half dollars per acre. He also owns a half interest in four hundred and thirty acres of land in Pike county, which he purchased in 1893, and one hundred and sixty acres in Champaign county, and also an eighty-acre tract there. Thus from time to time he has continued to make investments in real estate, until he now is one of the extensive landowners in central Illinois, his possessions aggregating altogether nineteen hundred and fifteen acres of well-improved and valuable land. All this is the visible evidence of his life of industry, of his keen foresight and business sagacity. He has also been associated with financial interests of the county, having in 1893 organized the State Bank of Mansfield, which is capitalized for forty thousand dollars. Mr. Firke is its president and holds stock in the institution to the amount of twelve thousand dollars. The other officers are Alvah James, vice president; W. H. Burns, cashier; and Robert Howe, assistant cashier. This was conducted as a private banking institution until 1899, when it became a state bank. He is interested in the Dighton & Dilatush Loan Company of Monticello.

On the 6th of March, 1878, Mr. Firke was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth J. Petry, a daughter of Jacob Petry, a native of Indiana. Her mother died during the infancy of the daughter and the father has also passed away. Six children have been born unto Mr. and Mrs. Firke: Alma Belle, the wife of J. R. Bateman, who resides four miles north of Mansfield upon a farm and by whom she has one son, Russell; C. W., who was graduated in the law department of the State University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in the class of 1902, and is now practicing his profession in Mansfield; Lutie Phebe, who died at the age of five years; Ada Catherine, at home; Ralph W. and Frank J., who are also under the parental roof.

Mr. Firke gives his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Democracy and has served eighteen years as school trustee and two years as supervisor. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Firke is a broad-minded man, who looks at life from a practical and humanitarian standpoint. He is one of the well-known citizens of Piatt county, whose labors have closely touched the interests of the state and have contributed toward the general advancement. He is a man of firm convictions, and it is doubtful if he ever weighed a single act of his life in the scale of policy, his conduct being prompted by the spirit of usefulness and conscientious obligation. While he has won wealth it has been gained so honorably that the most envious cannot grudge him his success. His achievements represent the result of honest endeavor, along lines where mature judgment has pointed the way.

JOHN C. FURNISH.

One of the leading and representative farmers of Sangamon township is John C. Furnish, who was born on his present farm on section 21, near White Heath, March 17, 1851, and has here spent his

entire life, his time and attention being devoted to agricultural pursuits. His father, Samuel Furnish, was one of the oldest settlers of Piatt county. He was born in Kentucky in 1822 and was only two years old when he accompanied his parents on their removal to this locality, making his home here until his death, which occurred in 1869. He cleared and broke a large amount of land which was originally covered with a heavy growth of timber, and became the owner of considerable property though prior to his death he disposed of much of it, though he still retained about one hundred and sixty acres. He was educated in an old log schoolhouse such as is generally found in a pioneer settlement, and in his younger days drove cattle from this county to New York city, where prices were enough better to pay him for so doing. Throughout life he successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits. He married Miss Catherine Coon, a daughter of Henry and Ruth (Clemens) Coon, who were from Ohio. By this union were born six children, as follows: James, who is now operating the Foster farm northwest of White Heath; John, of this review; George and William, both farmers of Missouri; Charles, who is farming one half mile west of White Heath; and Frank, deceased.

John C. Furnish received a common-school education, beginning his studies in what was known as the Hughes schoolhouse, which was a log structure with a puncheon floor, slab seats and a desk made by placing boards on wooden pins driven into the walls. During the early residence of the family in this state deer were known to have eaten salt out of the troughs his father had fixed for the cattle and horses, and all kinds of wild game were then abundant. Like most boys our subject was only able to attend school for a short time during the winter months while through the summer season he aided his father in the cultivation of the farm, remaining with him until the latter's death, after which he worked out one season. He then returned home and had charge of the farm until the estate was settled, when he received his share of the same. In connection with its operation he also cultivates some rented land and raises corn, oats, wheat and melons, making a specialty of the last named product, which he finds quite profitable, planting ten or twelve acres of that crop. He hauls his melons by team to the neighboring towns, where he finds a ready sale for them, owing to their excellence, and he makes more money on them than he could from any other crop raised on a similar amount of land.

On the 30th of April, 1874, Mr. Furnish was united in marriage to Miss Cynthia Blacker, a daughter of Guston and Anna Blacker, of this county. They have become the parents of eleven children: George, now a resident of St. Louis, Missouri; Frank, deceased; Lewis, Oscar, Erria, Ollie, Stella, Lola, Pearl and Wilma, all at home; and one who died in infancy. The younger children are still in school.

By his ballot Mr. Furnish supports the men and measures of the Republican party, and for three years he acceptably filled the office of school director but refused to hold the office any longer. He is a worthy representative of one of the honored pioneer families of this county and can remember when this region was still largely wild and unimproved. He was born in an old log house

which stood on the site of his mother's present residence, it having a puncheon floor, a stick chimney and many other pioneer appliances. Some of the land which his father bought cost him only the government price of one dollar and a quarter per acre, and with the development and improvement of the county the family has been actively identified.

WILLIAM A. WACHS.

One of the prominent German American citizens now residing in Monticello, is William A. Wachs, who was born on a farm bordering the Baltic sea, near Colberg, Germany, September 22, 1836. His father, Christopher Wachs, was a native of the same place, his entire life being passed upon a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Colberg. He married Sophia Kopka, and unto them were born three children: Frank, who is still engaged in farming on the old homestead in Germany; Annie, who married a Mr. Benson, a farmer of that country, and died in 1861; and William A.

Our subject was educated in the public schools of his native land, and on leaving home at the age of fourteen years he went upon the ocean, spending five years as a sailor before the mast. He then returned home on a visit, and while there was drafted into the German army, becoming a member of the Fourth Company, Ninth Regiment with Colbeck. After serving for three years he was discharged in the fall of 1858, and the following year he spent at home with his parents.

In 1859 Mr. Wachs sailed for America, and while on shipboard he met Miss Lizzie Zybell, also a native of Germany and a daughter of John Zybell. They soon became fast friends and journeyed together to Monticello, Illinois, where she had a brother living. It was not long before they were engaged to be married, and Mr. Wachs decided to purchase a farm with the three thousand dollars he had brought with him to this country, so that they might have a home of their own. They went to Iowa in search of a location, but not being pleased with the country, and Miss Zybell wishing to be nearer her brother, they returned to Piatt county and purchased forty acres of land in Goose Creek township near DeLand. They were married at Monticello in the spring of 1860 and at once took up their residence on the land which Mr. Wachs had purchased and lived in a cabin he erected thereon. It was all wild prairie and swamp land, and their nearest neighbor at that time was a mile and a half away, so sparsely was the country settled at that time. Tiling and ditching his land, Mr. Wachs soon made it cultivable and after it was broken good crops were raised, but she who had borne with him all of the hardships and trials of frontier life, died in November, 1863, leaving two children: Frank, who married Katie Lust and is now operating a farm adjoining the old home farm in Goose Creek towship; and Martha, who married Elza Davis, a farmer of Iowa, and died in 1888.

Mr. Wachs was again married, March 29, 1864, his second union being with Miss Dena Hammerschmit, a daughter of Enda and Elizabeth Hammerschmit, of Dena, Province of Hanover, Germany. Her father died in that country and her mother afterward came to the United States to live with Mrs. Wachs. Here she married again, becoming the wife of Thomas Angar, a farm-

er of Washington, Missouri, where she died in 1890. The children by her first marriage were Louis, a furniture dealer of Monticello; Lizzie, wife of August Zybell, a retired shoe merchant of Monticello; Charles, a carpenter of that city; August, who is still living in Germany; and Augusta, wife of Henry Smith, who is engaged in farming near Poplar Bluff, Iowa; and Dena, wife of our subject. By his second marriage Mr. Wachs has four children: Albert, who is engaged in farming on section 35, Sangamon township, and whose sketch appears below; Lillie, widow of Rempt Arends, now residing near Greenup, Illinois; Lizzie, wife of John Nelson, a carpenter of Normal, Illinois; and Rose, wife of Joe Clinton, a farmer of Monticello township. All of the children have been given good educational advantages and have attended high school.

After his second marriage Mr. Wachs sold his farm in Piatt county and went to Missouri with the expectation of locating there, but not liking it there he returned to Illinois and bought a farm of forty-three acres in Piatt county, where he spent one year. He was next engaged in the butchering business in Washington, Missouri, but as this was uncongenial he again came to Piatt county and purchased a farm of eighty acres in Goose Creek township near DeLand. In the operation of this place he met with excellent success and at the end of five years bought an eighty-acre tract adjoining, and still later another eighty acres. Upon his property he built two good houses and a number of barns and other outbuildings, tiled the land and set out orchards, until he had a well-improved and valuable place. Mr. Wachs continued to actively engage in farming until 1893, when he retired and moved to Monticello, where he now owns a nice home. He is a man of sterling worth and many excellent traits of character, and is held in high regard by all who know him.

ALBERT WACHS.

Throughout his active business life the subject of this sketch has been identified with the agricultural interests of Piatt county and is to-day successfully carrying on his chosen occupation on section 35, Sangamon township. He was born on a farm south of DeLand in Goose Creek township, January 8, 1866, and is a son of William and Dena (Hammerschmit) Wachs, whose sketch appears above. During his boyhood and youth he worked on the farm with his father in the summer and for about three months during the winter season attended the neighboring school. He remained under the parental roof until his marriage. It was on the 8th of October, 1889, that he wedded Miss Katie Baker, who had come from Germany in 1885, and to them has been born one child, Lillie, who is now with her grandparents in Monticello attending school.

After his marriage Mr. Wachs commenced farming upon eighty acres of land which he rented from his father, and when the latter retired and removed to Monticello our subject took charge of half of his land, consisting of one hundred and twenty acres, which he farmed quite successfully. At length in the fall of 1902 he was able to purchase one hundred and ten acres of land, known as the R. H. Benson farm and upon this place he has made his home since the 9th of March, 1803. The place is im-

proved with good modern buildings, and the land is under a high state of cultivation, the latest improved machinery being used in its operation. Mr. Wachs' crops are principally corn and oats, and he raises some cattle and hogs for market. He is a very progressive and energetic farmer and well deserves the success that has crowned his efforts thus far in life. In his political views he is a Republican, active in the party, and influential in its councils.

HARMON KUHN GILLESPIE.

Harmon Kuhn Gillespie, who for many years was a representative farmer of Piatt county, but is now deceased, still lives in the memory of his friends because he had endeared himself to them by strong ties. His honorable manhood and his genuine worth won for him the respect and confidence of all and when he was called away his death was deeply deplored.

Mr. Gillespie was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, in September, 1825, a son of Christian and Dorothy Gillespie, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. In 1845 the parents removed to the west, settling in McLean county, Illinois, where they spent their remaining days. The subject of this review was the oldest of the family and in his early life he was employed in the iron works of the east. He acquired a good common-school education in Pennsylvania and when still quite a lad he learned the trade of wagon-making. Ere his removal to the west he was married on the 20th of September, 1845, to Miss Nancy Moore, a native of Bedford county, Pennsylvania, born on the 14th day of April, 1823, and a daughter of James and Anne (Weingardner) Moore. Her people were also from Pennsylvania. Her father followed farming, spending his entire life in the Keystone state, as did his wife. The Moores were of Scotch-Irish descent, and all were of Quaker faith. The Gillespies were also of Scotch-Irish lineage and the grandfather of our subject came from Ireland to America in an early day. The family was represented in the Revolutionary war and also in the war of 1812. Unto our subject and his wife were born nine children, all of whom are yet living: Christian, who resides in Champaign county, Illinois, and is mentioned in connection with the sketch of Fred Gillespie; George Moore, who is living in Champaign county, and who wedded Ollie Crawford, by whom he has two children, Belle Irene and Luella Ida; Ann Dorothy, who is the wife of Philip Wiedman, a resident of DeWitt county, living near Farmer City, by whom she has two children—Frank L. and Lou Ola; Samuel Joseph, a resident of Storm Lake, Iowa, who married Miss Eva Wisegarver and has two children—Nancy Pearl and Clyde C.; John Wesley, who resides in Farmer City and married Miss Emma Cook; Henry Martin, who is living near Farmer City in DeWitt county and married Ida Knight, by whom he has one child, Hazel A.; Lizzie Jane, who is the wife of Henry C. Eakin, a resident of Piatt county; Carl O., who is represented elsewhere in this volume; and Frank Leslie, a resident of Montezuma, Indiana, and married Jennie Bunton and has one child, Cassius M. C.

Mr. Gillespie had been married for but a brief period when with his wife he came to the west, arriving in Illinois in 1847. He settled at Bloomington, and after a residence there of about five years he removed to Piatt

county, where he entered government land, becoming the owner of a tract of one hundred and sixty acres. All of this was wild and unimproved, and with characteristic energy he began its development. In course of time it yielded to him good harvests, and as his financial resources increased he added to this property until he owned some four hundred acres of land. There he carried on agricultural pursuits until 1891, when he removed to Farmer City, and in the latter place he died, June 25, 1901, his remains being interred in Maple Grove cemetery, south of Farmer City. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and a valued member of the Masonic Lodge of Farmer City, also of the local chapter, R. A. M., and Urbana Commandery, K. T. He was always true and faithful to the teachings of the craft, and was buried with Masonic honors. In politics he was a Republican and for many years served as supervisor, while for a long period he also acted as justice of the peace. His faithfulness in public office was most marked, and in the discharge of his duties as justice he was impartial and was strictly fair to all. He was largely instrumental in securing the building of the Big Four Railroad from Urbana to Peoria, thus obtaining railroad facilities in Piatt county, and he was always a very active factor in the development and improvement of this section of the state. He served as superinendent of construction on the road when it was called the Illinois, Bloomington & Western Railroad. Along many lines his helpfulness was shown and he co-operated in many measures for the public good.

BRENT L. BARKER, M. D.

The subject of this biography is a well-known physician and surgeon of White Heath, Illinois. He is a native of Kentucky, his birth having occurred in Somerset, that state, on the 15th of December, 1871. His father, William M. Barker, was also born in Somerset, December 1, 1836, and was a son of James Irby and Canzada (Simpson) Barker. The grandfather was born in Lee county, Virginia, in 1795, and on leaving his native state removed to Somerset, Kentucky. His parents were John and Lucy (Irby) Barker. John Barker was one of the heroes of the Revolutionary war, and by profession was a minister of the gospel. In his family were six children, namely: Asbury Edmond, who married Keziah Gover; Sarah, who became the wife of Thomas Floyd; James Irby, the grandfather of our subject; Elizabeth, who died unmarried; Thomas, who served throughout the war of 1812 and was so nearly starved while in the army that on his way home from New Orleans he purchased a side of meat and died from eating too much of it, the report of his death being made by his comrade, Frederick Tarter, on his return home; and John F., who married Katherine Weaver. The Doctor's grandmother, Mrs. Canzada Barker, was a daughter of James and Sarah (Carson) Simpson. The former died in 1832 and his wife in September, 1840. The latter was of Irish descent on both the paternal and maternal sides, and her parents were quite old at the time of their marriage. Unto James and Sarah Simpson were born twelve children, as follows: William L., who married Susan Buster; Canzada, wife of James Irby Barker; Samuel; Eliza, wife of John Gover; Thomas, who married a Miss Stringer; Greenup; David, who married Nancy Gover; Mary, wife of John Pierce; John R., who married Susan Yager; Sarah Jane, wife of Wesley Gover; Franklin, who married Emeline Richardson; and Qualls. The children of James Irby and

Canzada (Simpson) Barker were John W., who married Polly Molen; James S., who married Dostia Ann Molen; William Mason, the father of our subject; and Sarah G., the wife of Michael Pennington.

William Mason Barker was educated in the common schools of Somerset, Kentucky, and after reaching manhood engaged in farming there throughout life. In 1856 he was united in marriage to Miss Malinda Sievers, who was born in Germany and came to this country when a child of thirteen years. She died in Somerset, in May, 1875, leaving eight children, namely: Walter O., the eldest, died, and his wife has since married James Roberts, a resident of Dunnville, Kentucky. John C. is now a physician of Hustonville, Kentucky, having graduated from the medical department of the University of Louisville in 1893, and also taken a course in medicine and surgery at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1896 and 1897. He was married in 1895 to Annetta Hamon, and they have two children, Anna L. and William Hamon. Sarah J. was married at Somerset, Kentucky, to Rufus Barker, and removed to Texas, where she died in 1901, leaving a husband and six children. James F. was married in Texas to Lula Jones, and is now engaged in farming in Texas. Rosa E. is the wife of Stanton Pierce, who was formerly a resident of Somerset, but is now carrying on farming near Greenville, Texas. Brent L., of this review, is the next in order of birth. Alonzo L. is a merchant of Somerset, Kentucky. Malinda is the wife of Sievers Barker, who follows farming near that place.

Dr. Barker acquired his elementary education in the public schools of Somerset, and later engaged in teaching school for two years. He was next a student at the National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio, where he pursued a general course, and on leaving that institution he resumed teaching, again following that profession for three years. While thus employed at Somerset, he took up the study of medicine, and in 1893 entered the Louisville Medical School, where he was graduated on the 25th of March, 1897, with the degree of M. D. He was also presented with a gold medal by the same institution, which he won in a competitive examination, and was also honored in the same way by the Pulaski County Oratorical Association, being given the first gold medal ever presented by that society.

For one year after leaving medical college Dr. Barker was engaged in the practice of his profession in Kentucky, but in 1898 came to White Heath, Illinois, where he has since made his home. On the 19th of July, 1902, he purchased property here, consisting of two lots on which is a nice house and barn in good repair. Here he has his office. He has many patients throughout the surrounding country, covering a radius of fifteen miles, and in his treatment of cases of all kinds he has been remarkably successful. Although still a young man he is regarded as one of the leading practitioners of his adopted county, and well does he deserve the confidence reposed in him.

Dr. Barker was married on the 17th June, 1903, to Miss Nellie Rankin, of White Heath, who was born near Cisco, September 1, 1882, and is the third in order of birth in a family of six children. Her parents are now living on the road between White Heath and Monticello. Her father was born August 1, 1849, and her mother's birth occurred on the 22d of November, 1854.

Politically Dr. Barker is identified with the Democratic party, but has never

cared for the honors or emoluments of office, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his business affairs. Fraternally, he is an honored member of White Heath Camp, No. 2119, M. W. A., in which he has served as clerk for over two years; and also belongs to Mount Royal Lodge, No. 120, Court of Honor; Fern Leaf Camp, No. 145, Royal Neighbors; and White Heath Council, No. 319, Mutual Protective League, all of White Heath. He is quite popular in social as well as professional and business circles and is well liked by all who know him.

MARION BOSSERMAN.

Marion Bosserman, a well-to-do agriculturist living on section 28, Goose Creek township, is a typical self-made man, and in the following record of his career there is much to arouse respect and esteem. His success in life is largely due to his industry and perseverance, and by making the most of circumstances, however discouraging, he has acquired a comfortable competence.

A native of Ohio, he was born in Franklin county, September 25, 1847, and is a son of Daniel and Rachel (Young) Bosserman, natives of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, respectively. The father was reared and educated in the Keystone state, and in 1860 came to Illinois, settling in DeWitt county, where he was engaged in farming until his death in 1889. He died very suddenly, being seemingly well at noon, but passed away at one o'clock from the effects of an epileptic stroke. His widow is still living at the age of eighty years, but is now in very poor health. In their family were ten children, six of whom are still living, namely: William and Michael, who operate the home farm; Catherine, the wife of Robert Marsh, a farmer living three and a half miles southwest of Weldon, Illinois; Charles, a farm hand; Lucy, at home with her mother; and Marion, of this sketch. Those deceased are John, who died at the age of four years; David, who died at the age of three; and Lincoln, who died in infancy.

From the time he attained a sufficient age until the removal of the family to Illinois, Marion Bosserman attended school in Ohio, and was later a student in the public schools of DeWitt county, where his parents settled. When about twenty years of age he began working as a farm hand in that county, and being careful and economical he was able to save most of his wages, in which way he gained a start in life. He began farming on his own account in De Witt county, two and a half miles north of Weldon, where he purchased eighty acres of low land in a very poor condition, but he improved the same, transforming it into a good farm, which he successfully cultivated for some years, adding greatly to its valuation during that time. In 1888 Mr. Bosserman sold that property and removed to Piatt county, purchasing the John Van Sycle farm of one hundred and eighty acres in Goose Creek township. In its operation he steadily prospered and was able to add to his property until he now owns two hundred and sixty acres of as good land as Piatt county affords. Upon the place is a pleasant residence, good outbuildings, an orchard and various kinds of small fruits, and its neat and thrifty appearance plainly indicates the supervision of a progressive and painstaking owner. He raises the cereals best

adapted to the soil and climate and also feeds for the market cattle and hogs of a fine breed. He also keeps good horses for his own use and raises some nice colts.

Mr. Bosserman was married in 1873, the lady of his choice being Miss Anna Eliza Marsh, a daughter of John and Anna Eliza (Forceman) Marsh, who were well-known and highly respected farming people of De Witt county, Illinois. The children born to this union were Iva, who died in early childhood; Laura, the wife of Frank Marvin, a farmer of Piatt county; John, Robert and Charles, who assist their father in carrying on the home farm; and Frederick, who died at the age of three years. The sons are honest, industrious and reliable young men, who are of great assistance to their father, and who have the respect and esteem of all who know them. Mr. Bosserman owes not a little of his success in life to his estimable wife, who by her help and encouragement has aided him in every possible way. She is a kind mother and loving wife, who takes pride in making her home a cheerful one and in doing everything for the comfort and welfare of her family. By his ballot Mr. Bosserman supports the men and measures of the Republican party, and he is now capably filling the office of school trustee for a second term. He also served as school director while living in DeWitt county, and is a public-spirited and enterprising citizen.

WILLIAM M. DE GROFFT.

William M. DeGrofft is now living a retired life. Nature was bountiful in her gifts to the agriculturist who was wise enough to locate in Piatt county as a place of residence. The rich land of this portion of the state yields abundant harvests and furnishes excellent pasturage for stock, and he who devotes his energies to farming and stock-raising, carefully directing his labors by sound judgment, finds that within a number of years he has acquired capital sufficient to supply him with the necessities and many of the comforts of life without further labor. Such has been the case with Mr. Groffts, who resides on section 34, Blue Ridge township, and who was long actively engaged in farming in Piatt county.

A native of Fayette county, Indiana, he was born in 1842 and is a son of Aaron and Elizabeth DeGrofft, both of whom were natives of Indiana. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, is now deceased, but the mother is still living. It was in the year 1857 that this worthy couple came to Illinois, locating in Champaign county. The subject of this review was at that time fifteen years of age. The three came overland, making the journey with a team and wagon, and were thirteen days in completing the trip. The father secured a tract of land and the son assisted him in its cultivation and improvement. When twenty-one years of age William M. DeGrofft, however, left home and entered upon an independent business career. He rented three hundred and twenty acres of land in Sangamon township, Piatt county, not far from Galesville, and he made his first purchase of land in 1882, becoming the owner of one hundred and seventy-two and a half acres, which constitutes the farm that he now owns and occupies. He has added all of the improvements upon the place and has made it a valuable tract of land substantially equipped with good buildings and modern accessories. He gave his attention to general farming,

carrying on both grain and stock-raising until about five years ago, when he rented his land to his son, Lyman, and is now living retired. His wife owns fifty acres of land near Mansfield, and Mr. DeGrofft has property in the town of Mansfield. He is also one of the directors of the First National Bank, which was founded in 1902. Year after year through a long period he labored in the fields, plowing, planting and harvesting, and as the result of his careful attention and capability he acquired a handsome competence, becoming one of the substantial residents of the community.

On the 16th of March, 1866, Mr. De Grofft was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Macke, a daughter of John Macke, of Warren, New Jersey, who had emigrated to Ohio in early life, and unto them have been born nine children: Almer, who is living in Whiteside county, Illinois; Rachel A., who is the wife of Edmund Quayle, a resident of Champaign county; John W., who makes his home in McLean county, Illinois; Lyman, who resides in Piatt county; Franklin, who died at the age of one year and five months; Delilah, who is the wife of Edmund Van Sycle, a resident of Piatt county; Alice, who is the wife of William Patterson, of South Bend, Indiana; a son that died in infancy; and Ida, who is living at home.

Mr. DeGrofft is both self-educated and a self-made man. In his early life he pursued his studies in an old-fashioned log schoolhouse in Indiana, seated with slab benches, while in one end of the room was an immense fireplace. His attendance there, however, was quite limited, and yet through reading and observation he has gained broad practical knowledge. He possesses an observing eye and retentive memory, and is now well informed concerning the leading questions of the day. His business career has been creditable and by close attention to his work he has advanced steadily on the road to success. Both he and his wife belong to the Methodist church and in politics he is a Republican. For six years he served as road commissioner, but with this exception he has never consented to hold office, preferring to give his time and energies to his agricultural interest, whereby he has won signal success. When he first came to Illinois this county was very wild, being still a frontier region. Wolves were numerous and deer were also to be seen in great numbers. Much of the land was under water and some unfit for cultivation, but tiling has made it very productive and the rich soil annually returns splendid harvests. Mr. DeGrofft has seen the growth of the county, has witnessed its development and has aided in its progress, especially along agricultural lines. As one of the pioneer settlers, therefore, as well as a successful citizen, he deserves mention in this volume.

HENRY GESSFORD.

Among the leading and representative citizens of DeLand probably none have done more for the upbuilding and advancement of the place than the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. For over thirty years he has been prominently identified with its material development and prosperity, and has done all within his power to advance its interests.

Mr. Gessford is proud to claim Illinois as his native state, his birth having occurred in DeWitt, DeWitt county, on the 16th of

December, 1842. His father, Elihu Gessford, was born in North Carolina, in 1802, but as a small boy went to West Virginia, and in his early manhood followed farming there. In 1834 he came to Illinois and entered one hundred and sixty acres of land near DeWitt, in DeWitt county, which he broke and improved, his first home here being a log cabin in which our subject was born. He experienced all the hardships and trials of pioneer life and in those early days he hauled his grain to Chicago by team—a distance of one hundred and forty miles. After selling his wheat at from twelve to fifteen cents per bushel he would return home with a load of salt for the cattle. In 1824 he was united in marriage to Miss Frances Webb, a daughter of Henry and Catherine Webb, of Wythe county, Virginia. Mrs. Gessford was born in that county in 1810 and died at Farmer City, Illinois, in 1871, while her husband passed away on the old homestead farm in 1847. To them were born eleven children, namely: Sarah and Catherine, twins, both now deceased; Malinda and Rebecca, also deceased; Stephen, a farmer residing near Creston, Iowa; Frances, wife of George Walters of Kansas City, Missouri; Columbus, deceased; Henry, of this review; William, who was a member of Company I, Thirty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry during the Civil war, and died after his return home from wounds received in service; James, who was a member of Company I, One Hundred and Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was killed in the siege of Atlanta; and Annie, also deceased.

Henry Gessford was educated in the common schools of DeWitt county near Farmer City, but at the early age of twelve years he started out in life for himself by working as a farm hand at ten dollars per month, being thus employed until the country became involved in civil war. Like his brothers he offered his services to the government to help put down the Rebellion, enlisting in 1861 in Company F, Forty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was assigned to the Seventeenth Army Corps. He participated in a number of hard-fought battles, including the engagements at Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, the siege of Corinth and Vicksburg. He was also in the battle of Hatchie's Run and Jackson, Mississippi. He was wounded at both Fort Donelson and Vicksburg, and after over three years of faithful service he was mustered out and honorably discharged at Springfield, Illinois, August 20, 1864.

On his return from the army Mr. Gessford commenced farming on his own account, operating land near Farmer City until 1873, when he removed to DeLand and embarked in merchandizing under the name of the Henry Gessford Mercantile Company, conducting the store successfully for five years. He then sold out and turned his attention to painting and paper hanging. He has since given more or less attention to the real estate business, buying and selling town property, and he now owns five houses and lots besides his own home and some vacant lots. These houses he keeps in good repair and rents. Soon after coming to DeLand he purchased two lots and in 1884 erected thereon the small house which he now occupies, but in the summer of 1903 it is his intention to erect a fine large residence with eleven rooms and all modern conveniences and improvements. His property is well located and is surrounded by beautiful shade trees which add greatly to the attractive appearance of the place. On his

return from the army Mr. Gessford found DeLand unplatted, in fact a large cornfield, and it is largely due to his efforts that the village to-day enjoys its present prosperity. He has bought and sold a number of lots and erected several buildings, including private residences and stores.

Mr. Gessford was married December 22, 1864, to Miss Mary Jackson, of Farmer City, Illinois, who was born in Stockport, England, in 1846, and came to this country in 1850 with her parents, Joseph and Hannah (Higginbotham) Jackson, also natives of that country. On their arrival in America they first settled in Rochester, New York, but six years later removed to Le Roy, Illinois, and in 1863 took up their residence in Farmer City. Mrs. Jackson is still living at the age of eighty-three years, but has suffered a third stroke of paralysis and is now totally blind. She makes her home with our subject and his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Gessford have four children: James W., a harnessmaker and dealer in harness and saddlery at DeLand; Charles G., who lives with his father and owns and operates a thresher and cornsheller; Maude DeLand, who was the first white child born in the village for which she is named, and now the wife of Edward Johnson, of Monticello; and Bertram E., who is with his brother James in the harness business.

Mr. and Mrs. Gessford are earnest and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is also connected with Lemon Post, G. A. R., of Farmer City. For thirty-three years he was also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, but was obliged to withdraw from that society on account of failing health. In politics he is a stanch Republican and he is as true to his duties of citizenship to-day as he was when following the old flag to victory on the battlefields of the south during the dark days of the Rebellion. Upright and honorable in all the relations of life, he merits and receives the confidence and esteem of those with whom he is brought in contact, and his friends are many in the community where he has so long made his home.

JAMES VAN GORDER.

Section 19, Blue Ridge township, is the home of this "horny handed son of toil." Here he was born and bred, and in this community none stand higher in the public esteem. James is the son of Benjamin and Charlotte Van Gorder, who were early settlers in the county, and highly regarded for their honesty and integrity. He is a native of the county, born in 1866 in Blue Ridge township, where he still cultivates the homestead farm. One brother, William Judson, and a sister, Mrs. Mary Martin, who also reside in the county, are the remaining members of the family.

Mr. Van Gorder passed the period of boyhood and youth in the invigorating outdoor life of the farm, securing a good primary education at Langley, the district school of the community. For a year after attaining his majority he remained beneath the parental roof, working for his father, then took up the duties of life on his own account, cultivating a portion of the home farm. In 1895 he purchased forty and five years later purchased forty acres more of the three hundred and twenty acres he now cultivates, the remaining portion still belonging to his father. The farm is one of the most

productive in the county, the combined efforts of the father and son having brought it to a high state of cultivation. They devote its products largely to the fattening of cattle and hogs for the market, using grain as a crop in rotation.

Mr. Van Gorder waited until he was well prepared to care for a wife before taking the important step of matrimony, the 13th day of October, 1892, marking that event. Mrs. Van Gorder was a Piatt county girl, the daughter of Hiram and Susan Steele, well-to-do farmers living near Galesville, where her father and sisters still reside, the mother having passed away. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Van Gorder have been born Adelia, Howard, Paul, Vernie, who died in infancy, and baby Bertha, who constitute a most interesting family.

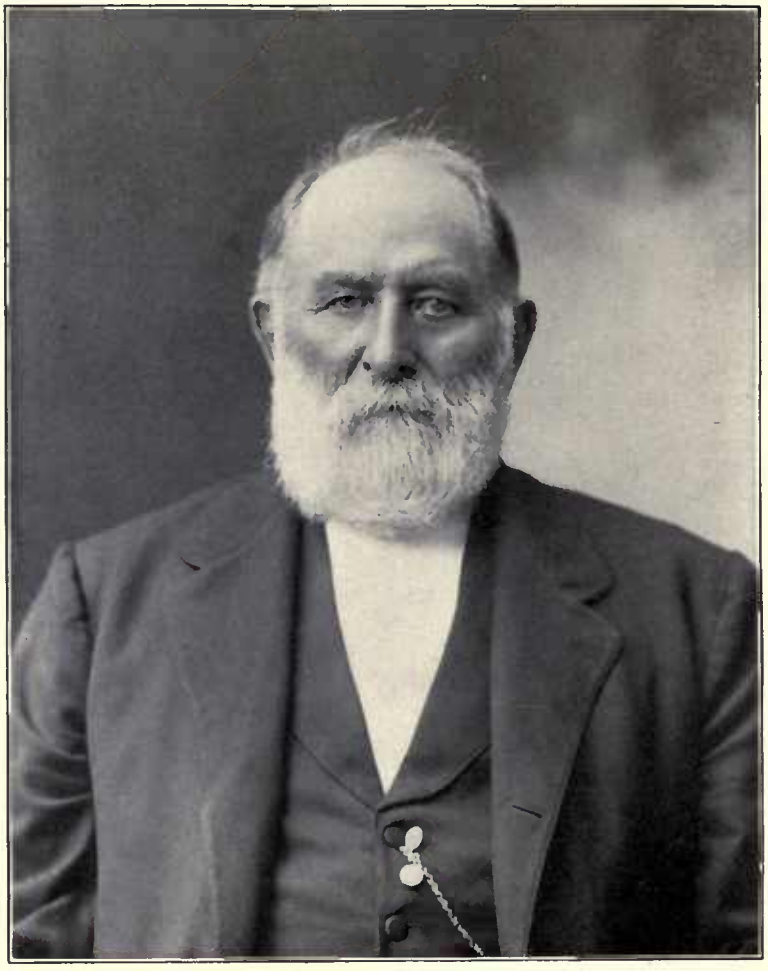
The weight which attaches to a life well spent entirely within one community is hardly to be estimated. A floating population is the bane of our civilization. Using the other end of the familiar old saw, "A rolling stone gathers no moss," one finds in the Van Gorder family a fine old moss-covered stone—covered with the attractive moss of sterling attributes of character. Their church affiliations lie with the United Brethren, while fraternally Mr. Van Gorder is a worthy member of the Modern Woodmen and the Masons, with membership at Mansfield. He is a Democrat in politics, and though not courting office, has been called on to serve his community in a minor way. He is at present school director of the district and as such is an earnest advocate of the growing idea in educational fields—that consolidation of schools in the country will greatly improve the service—which is an idea that is yearly gathering strength as each new experiment demonstrates its feasibility.

SAMUEL McCLURE.

Willow Branch township has many good citizens but none better known and more favorably held in the esteem of the public than the gentleman whose name prefaces this sketch. He resides on a splendid farm of three hundred and sixty acres on section 9, the fine twelve-room modern farm house, which he erected in 1883, having few equals in the county.

Mr. McClure's place of nativity was in Jefferson county, Kentucky, where he was born in 1829. His father, William McClure, was born in Lexington, Kentucky, and near there he married Nancy Wheeler about 1823. William McClure was of a stirring, restless character, with an abundance of animal spirits and not a lazy bone in his body. Had he possessed business ability in a larger degree he would have risen to affluence. In early life he engaged in wagon-making. Later he turned his ingenuity to good account in the manufacture of stocks for cradles and scythes. His later days were passed in agricultural pursuits in Macon county, Illinois, to which state he had removed in 1848. After the death of his wife, on November 6, 1877, he became an inmate of our subject's home, where he was tenderly cared for until his race was run, the date of his death being 1878. The family born to these parents were as follows: John C. W., who entered the army during the Mexican war, and died in Mexico; Samuel; Emaza J., deceased wife of George R. Farrow; Eranie E., who married William Farrow and is now deceased; Nancy, who died at the age of twelve years, and William, who died at fifteen.

Samuel McClure is the product of grinding toil and poverty. It was his lot until near his majority to pass the daylight hours, as



SAMUEL McCLURE



MRS. SAMUEL McCLURE

well as many of the night, in hardest toil. After he became a man he, Lincoln-like, secured enough education to transact ordinary business, and an observant mind has done the rest toward making him what might safely be called a man of good education. His first efforts were directed toward getting a home for his wife, whom he married May 15, 1851, her maiden name having been Eliza Jane Farrow. She was the daughter of Thornton and Catherine Farrow, of Macon county. By renting land and breaking prairie for outside parties he was finally enabled in 1856 to buy his first piece of land, an eighty-acre tract in Macon county, all wild. Several different times he bought and sold, steadily advancing in prosperity. Finally, in 1857, he purchased a part of his present farm, it being at that time virgin prairie, and now, as he looks out over his three hundred and sixty acres of broad domain, Mr. McClure does so with the satisfaction that his is the unaided hand which has wrested from nature one of the finest farms in the whole state. He laid the first tile used in the township, and the farm is covered with objects of his care and forethought, fine orchards yielding abundant fruit in every variety, wells and good fencing, and spacious and substantial barns and outbuildings. For many years Mr. McClure was one of the most active farmers in the county, raising large crops of all kinds of grain. Of late years, however, he has taken matters more quietly, pleasing his fancy in the raising of thoroughbred stock—Norman horses, Aberdeen and Jersey cattle and Poland China hogs—with which varieties he has had great success.

Eight children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. McClure: Daniel K., a farmer of Willow Branch township; John C. and Francis, both of Bement; Theodosia, wife of William F. Ater, a bookkeeper of Chicago; and Lyona, wife of O. B. Baker, a farmer of the township. Three girls died in early infancy.

Life is a battle. To win one must have a superabundance of reserve force. This may consist of inherited wealth or natural ability, reinforced by strong will power. Samuel McClure found himself handicapped as to the former, but endowed with an abundance of the latter he has vanquished adversity. All honor to such a man. As road overseer and school director he serves his community most acceptably, and he and his family deserve the large measure of esteem which comes to them from friends and neighbors.

JACOB FISHER.

Jacob Fisher is a retired farmer living in White Heath. He was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, December 2, 1837, his parents being John and Margaret (Cline) Fisher. The father was a native of Frederick county, Virginia, born on the 9th of August, 1808, and obtained a common-school education in the Old Dominion. In 1836 he was united in marriage to Miss Cline, and in 1839 they removed to Piatt county, Illinois, this being then a frontier region in which the work of progress and improvement had been scarcely begun. For miles stretched the wild prairie unclaimed and unimproved. Mr. Fisher took up his abode upon a tract of this land and developed a farm which continued to be his home for fourteen years. In the early days he and his family endured many hardships and trials incident to pioneer life. He broke the prairie with one of the old-time plows, driv-

ing an ox team. He raised wheat and corn for market, and by the sale of these products was enabled to gain some of the other necessities of life. He would haul his wheat to Chicago for there was only one other flour mill, and that was in Springfield, but on account of the low prices at which groceries sold in Chicago at that day Mr. Fisher preferred to take his wheat to that city in order to secure his other supplies. He first made the trip with ox teams and afterward with horse teams. His wheat sold for thirty-seven and a half cents per bushel, while pork brought one dollar and fifty cents per hundred weight. He harvested his wheat and corn with the sickle, and shocked it all by hand. All farm work was done with primitive machinery, and the farmers felt that they were greatly benefited by the invention of the cradle which enabled them to do much more work with less labor. There is certainly a great contrast between farm machinery used at that early day and the improved agricultural implements of the present. The home was a log cabin, and while many of the conveniences in use at the present time were then unknown, still pioneer life was not devoid of its pleasures for hospitality then reigned supreme, and many were the merry gatherings held in the different pioneer homes. After some years residence in this county, Mr. Fisher purchased a farm of three hundred and forty acres upon which he resided until his death. In addition to general farm products he was also extensively engaged in raising stock for the market, making a specialty of hogs. Year by year the work of improvement was carried on by him until at the time of his demise he was considered one of the most successful and prosperous agriculturists of Piatt county. He died on April 11, 1863, respected by all who knew him. His wife was of German lineage and was a most estimable lady, carefully rearing her family. She died on May 11, 1849, at the advanced age of eighty-three years. Their children were Jacob; George W., deceased; Mary Ann, who died in early childhood; John, who died in infancy; Martha, the wife of James Collins, now deceased; Sarah Malissa, who died when but three years old; Hiram, who died at Memphis, Tennessee, while serving in the Union army; David, deceased; James, a farmer living three miles north of Monticello; Serelda C., who is the wife of James Phalen, and is living on the Allerton farm, four miles southwest of Monticello; Margaret, the wife of I. N. Holloway, who is living retired at White Heath; and Ezra, who died in infancy.

Jacob Fisher is indebted to the public school system of Piatt county for the educational privileges he enjoyed. He gained his lessons sitting upon a slab bench in a log schoolhouse and wrote his exercises upon a plank desk. There were puncheon floors and old fashioned fireplaces. It was just about that time that sawmills were coming into universal use and lumber was therein prepared for flooring and other purposes. Mr. Fisher worked upon his father's farm and attended school when he could be spared from the labors of the fields, but he was the eldest of twelve children and his services were often needed at home. His educational privileges were therefore limited, but in later years reading, experience and observation have added largely to his knowledge, making him a practical business man. He wedded Mary Ann Morse, a daughter of Henry Morse, of Mahomet, Champaign county, Illinois. Her father was a Canadian while her mother

was from Ohio, and Mr. Morse followed the blacksmith's trade in Mahomet, carrying on the business also at his farm about half a mile from the town.

At the time of his marriage Mr. Fisher began farming upon his father's land and was thus engaged until two years after his father's death. He then purchased land of his own—a part of the Cline tract—and continued to carry on agricultural pursuits there until 1898, when he rented the place and removed to White Heath. About three years ago he sold his farm to William Alexander and purchased a house and a half block of land in the village. He also owns property in Clinton, Illinois, and the rental from the place brings to him a good income. Since his removal to White Heath he has lived a retired life. In all his dealings he has been straightforward and honorable, and his untiring industry has been the source of his prosperity. He has never consented to hold office nor cared to figure prominently in public positions, save during three years when he served as school director. Many other times he has been urged to become a candidate for political preferment, but has always refused. Both he and his wife are very familiar with the pioneer history of this section of the state, and passed through the experience and hardships incident to frontier life. They can relate many interesting incidents concerning the early days, Mrs. Fisher telling of the times, when years ago the water was so high in the spring that it was almost impossible to ford the rivers, and it overflowed many places until it reached the height of a horse's back. On one such occasion her father's family exhausted their supply of flour and meal and were obliged to live three weeks without bread, subsisting on hominy, potatoes and meat. At the end of that time they were all so hungry for bread that Mrs. Fisher's mother parched some corn which she ground in a coffee-mill and then converted the meal into bread, which Mrs. Fisher declares tasted better than any wheat bread they ever ate. An estimable lady, she holds membership in the United Brethren church and is most loyal to its teachings. Mr. Fisher votes with the Democracy, and both are widely and favorably known in the county and are held in the highest regard by all with whom they have come in contact. They are among the oldest settlers now residing in White Heath, and it is with pleasure that we present to our readers the history of people who have been so closely associated with the annals of Piatt county through long years.

CHARLES S. DEWEY.

One of the most progressive and successful agriculturists of Piatt county is Charles S. Dewey, whose home is on section 28, Goose Creek township. His methods of farm management showed deep scientific knowledge, combined with sound practical judgment, and the results show that high-class farming as an occupation can be made profitable as well as pleasant.

Mr. Dewey was born in McDonough county, Illinois, June 10, 1865, and is a son of Edward and Delphina (Lantz) Dewey, and a grandson of Alonzo Baldwin and Emeline (Washburn) Dewey. His father is a second cousin of Admiral Dewey—of America's most prominent naval officers. The grandfather of our subject lived to quite an advanced age and died on the 20th of

March, 1891, but the grandmother died in 1845, at the age of thirty-five years.

Edward Dewey, the father, was born in Northfield, Vermont, November 7, 1836, and during boyhood came to Illinois with his parents, the family locating in McDonough county, where he was reared and educated in the usual manner of farmer boys. When the Civil war broke out he resolved to strike a blow in defense of the Union, and on the 12th of October, 1861, enlisted in Company F, Fifty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Going south he participated in a number of important engagements including the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, Chickasaw Bayou, Champion Hills, the siege of Vicksburg, the capture of Jacksonville, Mississippi, and the battles of Raymond, Missouri Ridge, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta and Peach Tree Creek. He was severely wounded in an engagement July 28, 1864, and several days later was sent home on a furlough. In due time he reported for duty at Quincy, Illinois, and was transferred to Company E, Twenty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and his brigade was assigned to General Sherman's command. At the time of President Lincoln's assassination his company was stationed at Springfield, Illinois, and was appointed a guard of honor while the body lay in state at the capitol. The war having ended and his services being no longer needed, Mr. Dewey was honorably discharged in June, 1865, and returned home.

On the 12th of May, 1864, at Bushnell, Illinois, he was united in marriage to Miss Delphina Lantz, who was born at Stanhope, New Jersey, October 28, 1842, a daughter of David and Malinda (Heminover) Lantz. Eight children blessed this union, of whom our subject is the eldest. John E., born November 4, 1866, is now a farmer of Ringgold county, Iowa. William F., born August 24, 1868, died December 11, 1871. Mary Estella, born June 27, 1871, is the wife of Joseph Severs, a carpenter living in Ohio. Curtis Melvin, born June 8, 1873, is a farmer of Ringgold county, Iowa. Hattie M., born March 29, 1879, is the wife of Ray Covey, a carpenter of Farmer City, Illinois. David Edwin, born March 14, 1881, died January 31, 1889. Etta Viola Jane, born October 26, 1885, is at home with her parents in Farmer City.

In 1871 the father brought his family to Piatt county and purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Goose Creek township, four miles and a half north of DeLand. He broke and improved this place, and after operating it for about two years, he purchased forty acres adjoining and eighty acres more two years later. As time passed he steadily prospered and kept enlarging his estate from time to time by additional purchases until at present he owns about a thousand acres of well improved land. His success in life is due entirely to his well directed efforts, persistent industry and good management for, on starting out for himself he was without capital and had to make his own way in the world unaided. He is a man of exceptional business ability and sound judgment, and has steadily overcome all obstacles in the path to success until he has acquired a handsome competence which ranks him among wealthy citizens of his community. After years of active labor, he is now living a retired life in Farmer City, enjoying a well-earned rest.

Charles S. Dewey was quite young when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Piatt county, and he is indebted to the

district schools near DeLand for the educational privileges he enjoyed during his youth. During the summer season he would aid in the work of the home farm and attended school for about three months during the winter until seventeen years of age, when he laid aside his text-books and took up the more arduous duties of life. He gave his father the benefit of his labors until about twenty-two years of age.

On the 13th of March, 1889, Mr. Dewey wedded Miss Mary Emma Beckwith, a daughter of James and Laura (Levy) Beckwith, both natives of Pennsylvania, where her father followed farming for some years. In 1871 he came to Piatt county, Illinois, and is now living near Farmer City in DeWitt county. Mrs. Dewey's mother died February 11, 1891, at the age of forty-one years and tweny-seven days, and in 1893, Mr. Beckwith was again married, his second union being with Etta Shreeves, by whom he has one child, Ruth. The children of the first marriage are Lawrence, a farmer of DeWitt county; Mary E., wife of our subject; and Katie May, wife of Frank Keefer, a farmer living near Storm Lake, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Dewey have two children: Clyde Edwin, born September 12, 1890; and Ethel May, born January 17, 1894.

After his marriage Mr. Dewey commenced operating a part of his father's land and purchased eighty acres of the land. He has since bought tracts from other parties, and to-day owns a half section of fine farming land, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation. Upon the place are good and substantial buildings, a fine orchard and beautiful shade trees, and everything indicates the supervision of a progressive and painstaking owner. The best improved machinery is used in carrying on the work of the farm, and the most advanced and practical methods are employed in its operation. Mr. Dewey is interested in stock, raising hogs for market, and he also has five pure-blooded registered Percheron mares and two two-year-old stallions. Like his father, he possesses exceptional ability in business affairs and his success is but the just reward of honest labor. Fraternally, Mr. Dewey is a member of DeLand Lodge, No. 603, K. P., and the Twentieth Century Lodge, No. 2178, M. W. A., of DeLand, and politically he affiliates with the Republican party.

JOHN SMITH.

John Smith, whose entire life has been spent in or near Centerville, Piatt county, Illinois, was born on a farm near that village, May 28, 1851, and is a son of William H. and Julia Ann (Wright) Smith, both natives of Pickaway county, Ohio, the former born in 1818, and the latter in 1826. In 1840 the father came to Piatt county with his stepfather, Ezra Marcus, and worked on a farm by the month until his marriage to Miss Wright in 1844, when he removed to his father-in-law's farm and there spent twelve years. At the end of that time he removed to Centerville or Lick Skillet, as it was then called, and purchased two lots on which he erected a store building and put in a stock of general merchandise. He carried on business at that place until his death, hauling his goods from Chicago, and sometimes from St. Louis. He passed away in 1870. His first wife also died in Centerville in 1856,

and after her death he married Barbara Dawson, a daughter of William Dawson. She is now the wife of Daniel Clinger and lives on a farm near Mansfield, Illinois. By his first marriage Mr. Smith had six children: Charles, who is married and lives in Alabama; George, deceased; Mary, wife of W. H. Dawson, a resident of Missouri; Sarah, wife of V. I. Williams, of Champaign, Illinois; John, of this review; and one who died in infancy. The children of the second union were James, a resident of the state of Washington; Frank B., of Nebraska; Edward, of Missouri; Isaac D., who died in Mansfield, Illinois, in November, 1902; and Madie, wife of Edward Reed, of Mansfield.

During his boyhood John Smith attended a subscription school in Centerville, and after completing his education at the age of fifteen years, he commenced driving a team for his father in hauling goods from Chicago and Champaign. He also assisted in the work of the home farm until his father's death, when he went to Iowa and spent one year, his brother having charge of his father's store at that time. On his return to Piatt county he worked in the store until after his marriage, when his brother removed the stock of goods to White Heath, and with an entirely new stock, our subject embarked in business on his own account at the old stand. Two years later he sold out and bought a forty-acre farm which he operated for three years, and on disposing of that property he purchased a house and two lots in Centerville, where he has since made his home. To some extent he still engages in farming, but owning to failing eyesight he is not able to do much.

In 1873 Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Jane Camp, a daughter of William and Charity (Morris) Camp, who came to this county from Pickaway county, Ohio, in 1866. Six children bless this union, namely: Lula, wife of Frank Webster, who is engaged in farming near DeLand; Arthur M., who is also a farmer; Alberta, wife of James Winters, a resident of Champaign; Etta, wife of Otis McWethy, a farmer living near Urbana; Eva, at home; and Elmer, who also follows farming. In his political views Mr. Smith is a Democrat. He is widely known in the community where he has always made his home, and those who know him best are numbered among his warmest friends.

GEORGE W. TEATS.

George W. Teats, who is living in White Heath, was born in Adelphi, Ross county, Ohio, on the 30th of August, 1854, his parents being Mathias and Mary (Puffinbarger) Teats. The father was also a native of Ross county, born August 11, 1818, and was a shoemaker by occupation, following that pursuit in Adelphi thirty-six years. He was married there in 1840 and in 1856 he removed with his family to Piatt county, Illinois, taking up his abode upon a farm near White Heath, where the Camp Creek cemetery is now located. Unto him and his wife were born five children—Maria Louisa, who was the wife of James H. Hickman, and died in the spring of 1902; Mary Elizabeth, who married Jehu Trotter and departed this life in the year 1901; Caroline Marian, who died about 1856; Jane, the wife of Jesse Bushee, of White Heath; and George W.

In taking up the personal history of

George W. Teats we present to our readers the record of one whose life history demonstrates the power of industry and perseverance in the active affairs of life, for he has been the architect of his own fortunes and has built wisely and well. He was educated in the common schools, attending the Camp Creek school through the winter months, while during the summer seasons he worked upon his father's farm and thus became familiar with every department of agricultural life.

Mr. Teats continued with his father until October 29, 1886, when he was united in marriage to Miss Barbara E. Trotter, a daughter of Hiram and Lydia Maria (Allman) Trotter, of Champaign county. She was born in Newcomb township, that county, June 12, 1858. Her parents were natives of Virginia and are now deceased. Her father was born January 22, 1813, and died November 13, 1900. He was three times married, his second wife being Mrs. Teats' mother, who was born October 7, 1815, and died in Champaign county, December 28, 1881. Mr. and Mrs. Teats have a daughter, Lydia May, who was born January 16, 1889, and is now attending school.

Our subject and his wife began their domestic life upon the Plunk farm, which he rented for two years, and afterward rented the Jehu Trotter farm, which was their home for the same length of time. Subsequently they removed to Nebraska, but after farming there for one season they returned to Piatt county, Illinois, and Mr. Teats purchased of W. P. Smith thirty acres of land in Sangamon township. In 1899 he sold that property, having successfully operated it during the intervening years. He then removed to White Heath, where he engaged in the livery business and in carpentering for four years. Three years ago he purchased about ten acres of land within the town limits, and in September, 1902, bought another nine acres, upon which he is now engaged in the raising of fruits, including pears of all kinds and also peaches, plums and cherries. He makes a specialty of strawberries and blackberries, however, and has a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of horticulture, his opinions on this subject being largely regarded as authority in the community. He makes a close study of the needs of different kinds of fruits, is always ready to investigate any methods advanced for the improvement of fruit and that which he produces is of such superior size and excellent flavor that he can always command the highest market prices. He and his family occupy a nice home only a short distance from the center of White Heath, and Mr. Teats is now improving this property by building an addition thereto.

FRED D. GILLESPIE.

Fred D. Gillespie, who is engaged in dealing in grain in Harris and is also a general merchant there, was born in McLean county, Illinois, on the 12th of August, 1879, and is a son of Christian and Lauretta (Davidson) Gillespie. The father was a native of Blair county, Pennsylvania, born on the 2d of August, 1846, and the mother's birth occurred in Westmoreland county, of the same state, on the 19th of April, 1849. During his early boyhood days Christian Gillespie came to the West with his parents, who settled in McLean county, Illinois. He was educated in Piatt county, however, but was married in McLean county. He then took

up his abode on the old Gillespie homestead in this county and continued to engage in farming here for a number of years. Later he removed with his family to Normal and there his wife died in the year 1882. On Thanksgiving Day of 1889 he was again married, his second union being with Louisa Osborn, of Mansfield. They now reside in Champaign county, and are well known and highly respected citizens of that locality. By the first marriage there were two children—Jessie, who is the wife of Charles B. Harrison, a resident of Manhattan, Kansas; and Fred D.

Fred D. Gillespie is indebted to the common-school system of the state for the early educational privileges he received, while later he attended school in Farmer City, pursuing a high-school course there. He then went to the normal school at Normal, Illinois, and later he engaged in teaching school for three years in Piatt county, following the profession in Blue Ridge and Sangamon townships. In the year 1901 he established his grain business at Harris, having a good elevator there, with a capacity of fifty thousand bushels. He is now carrying on a successful trade as a grain merchant, and his business furnishes an excellent market for the grain-raisers of this locality. He likewise conducts a general mercantile store and has secured a good patronage in that line because of his earnest desire to please his customers, his obliging manner and his straightforward business methods. In the fall of 1901 he was appointed postmaster of Harris and is now acting in that capacity.

On the 17th of June, 1904, Fred D. Gillespie was united in marriage to Miss Stella M. Long, a native of Piatt county, Illinois, and a daughter of Lewis Long. They now reside on the old Gillespie homestead near Harris, which place was entered by his grandfather, H. K. Gillespie, who settled in Piatt county many years ago, becoming one of the first residents of this portion of the state. Mr. Gillespie votes with the Republican party and is a popular, enterprising, wide-awake and highly respected young man of his native county.

CHARLES TAYLOR.

For some years Charles Taylor has been prominently identified with the business interests of Milmine, where as a member of the firm of Phillips & Taylor he is now doing an extensive business as a grain-dealer. He is a representative of that class of citizens who, while advancing individual success, also promote the public welfare.

A native of Piatt county, Mr. Taylor was born in Willow Branch township on the 14th of October, 1863, and is a son of Elijah Taylor, a farmer and stock-raiser who was well and favorably known in this county, where he made his home for many years, dying here July 2, 1887. The father was born in a pioneer home in Ross county, Ohio, January 23, 1834, and passed his early life in that state. He received a public-school education, and as soon as old enough he commenced farming. He came to this county in 1853, and here he was married on the 13th of February, 1861, to Miss Catherine Peck, a native of Piatt county, born December 15, 1839, and a daughter of Adonijah and Mary (Ater) Peck. For three years after his marriage Mr. Taylor engaged in farming on rented land, and then located on the farm in Willow Branch township, where his widow still resides in a well-appointed home. His first



CHARLES TAYLOR.



MRS. CATHARINE TAYLOR



ELIJAH TAYLOR

purchase consisted of eighty acres of wild prairie land, on which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made. By persistent hard work he brought his land to its present high state of cultivation and made many valuable improvements on the place, including the erection of the handsome brick residence occupied by his widow, it being built in the summer of 1871. He kept adding to his property from time to time until he had one of the best and most desirable farms of the township. For many years he was an active and prominent member of the Christian church, in which he served as deacon, and was always found on the side of right. Politically, he was identified with the Democratic party and he served as clerk of Willow Branch township and as township school trustee. After a useful and well-spent life he passed away, leaving many friends as well as his immediate family to mourn his loss. His widow still survives him and continues to reside on the old homestead. At her husband's death she was left with seven children to care for, the eldest of whom had just arrived at man's estate, while the youngest was only nine years old. No one but those who have experienced it can measure the weight of the load thus thrown upon her, but with a heroism born of a great need she faced the situation and began the contest. Details vary in such cases and the outcome alone concerns us. Her children were reared to habits of industry and honesty and are to-day numbered among the leading citizens of the community where they reside. Eight children were born to her, but Edwin, the eldest, is now deceased. Charles is the next of the family. Ulla Dell was the wife of C. Davies, who now lives in Oklahoma. Alonzo is a mechanic at Milmine. Lewis and Adelbert, the youngest, carry on the farm for their mother. Anna B. is the wife of William Burns, superintendent of the United States weather bureau at Springfield, Illinois. James E. is on a cattle ranch in Arizona.

Charles Taylor was educated in the public schools of this county, and on completing his education he engaged in teaching school here for four or five years. He next engaged in general merchandising with A. C. Evans at Bement for two years, and in June, 1890, formed a partnership with R. M. Shepherd under the firm name of Shepherd & Taylor in the same line of business. They carried a large and well-selectd stock amounting to about three thousand dollars and met with excellent success, doing an annual business between fifteen and twenty thousand dollars. Mr. Shepherd is to-day one of the popular men of Cerro Gordo township. On disposing of his mercantile interests, Mr. Taylor embarked in the grain business in partnership with Frank Phillips under the firm style of Phillips & Taylor, and they now do the largest business in their line of any firm in the county. Their elevators have a capacity of thirty-five thousand bushels and they have succeeded in making Milmine one of the great grain centers of central Illinois. During the summer of 1902 they handled one thousand dollars worth of oats per day for thirty days. Both Mr. Phillips and Mr. Taylor are energetic and enterprising business men of known reliability and well deserve the success that has come to them.

On the 9th of January, 1889, Mr. Taylor wedded Miss Mary Brandenburg, a native of Piatt county and a daughter of Samuel Brandenburg, who was born in Clark county, Kentucky, July 1, 1827. Her paternal grandfather, David Brandenburg, was of German extraction. Samuel Brandenburg was married August 24, 1853, to Miss Ade-

line Haggard, who was also born in Clark county, Kentucky, April 15, 1835, and is a daughter of Zachariah and Zilpha (Hodge) Haggard, her father being a Virginian by birth and a pioneer of Kentucky. Mrs. Brandenburg was reared and educated in that state, and by her marriage became the mother of eight children, Mrs. Taylor being the seventh in order of birth. Mr. Brandenburg died at his home in Cerro Gordo township, January 29, 1886, honored and respected by all who knew him.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor have three children: Theo, aged thirteen; Adlia, aged nine; and Ulla, aged seven. The family have a very cozy and pleasant residence in Milmine and are highly respected and esteemed by all who know them. Mrs. Taylor is an active worker in the Christian church and Mr. Taylor was formerly connected with the Presbyterian church, but now attends the Christian church. He is a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 276, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Court of Honor and Loyal Americans, all of Milmine, and in all of which he is serving as secretary. He also belongs to Cerro Gordo Lodge, Bement Chapter, Decatur Commandery and Mohammed Temple of the Mystic Shrine of Peoria, all of the Masonic order, and his wife is a member of the Rebekahs, a branch of the Odd Fellows society. He takes a very active and influential part in local politics and is a strong supporter of the Democratic party and its principles. He served as postmaster of Milmine for four years under President Cleveland and is now filling the office of township treasurer of schools. He is also United States section director and weather forecaster. Public-spirited and progressive, he takes a deep interest in the welfare of his community and is numbered among its most valued and useful citizens—one devoted to the public welfare.

CHARLES W. YAPP.

Charles W. Yapp, who is engaged in farming on section 27, Blue Ridge township, was born in Illinois in the year 1850 and is a son of G. W. and Anne Yapp. The father was a native of New York and at an early day came west, establishing his home in Iowa. He carried on agricultural pursuits in the Empire state, afterward following farming in Iowa, dying there. The mother and family came later to Champaign county, Illinois. He died when the subject of this review was only eight years of age, and the mother's death occurred in the year 1867. In the family were six children, but Charles W. is the only one now living in Piatt county.

When a youth of seventeen years Charles W. Yapp was left an orphan. At the age of nineteen he came to this county and, entering upon his business career, he leased eighty acres of land, upon which he is now living. Later he leased an additional tract of a quarter section, and in 1874 bought forty acres, to which he has since added one hundred acres. When he took charge of the farm there were no improvements upon it. The land was all wild prairie and not a furrow had been turned. Mr. Yapp has planted all of the trees upon his place and has carried on the work of improvement along various lines until he is to-day cultivating one of the finest farms to be found in this section of the state.

As a companion and helpmate on life's journey Mr. Yapp chose Miss Martha A. Gardiner, a daughter of William Gardiner. Their marriage was celebrated in 1873 and has been blessed with five children—Grace, who died at the age of a year and a half; two who died in infancy; Lucy May, who is now at home, and William W., who is also

under the parental roof. The daughter, Lucy, however, has been appointed to a school in the Philippine Islands. She attended school in Normal, Illinois, and is now studying music under Professor Foster in Champaign, but expects to go to our colonial possession in the far East.

The family attend the services of the Methodist church, to which Mr. Yapp belongs, taking an active and helpful part in its work. He is now serving as superintendent of the Sunday-school, is also a trustee and steward of the church and likewise secretary and treasurer of the board. He does everything in his power to advance the cause of Christianity, and his labors in its behalf have been far-reaching and beneficial. In his political views he is a Republican and he served as collector and road supervisor. Fraternally, he is connected with the Masonic lodge at Mansfield and he also belongs to the Court of Honor.

He may truly be called a self-made man, for both of his parents died when he was young and he had to begin work when but a boy, his early life being a period of hardships in many respects. He never had but two hundred and sixty-four dollars given him in all of his lifetime. When he was about seventeen years of age he had only one suit of clothes, and he had to work an entire month in order to secure another suit. For three years he was employed in the timber, having to grub up roots and split rails while in Iowa. In November, 1859, he started to make the trip from Iowa to Illinois. When he came to the Mississippi river it was frozen so that the boats could not run and the wagon had to be hauled across the ice. Mr. Yapp only had one boot on owing to a sore foot and the one with the boot on was frozen at that time. Finally he arrived at Bloomington, Illinois, and thence went to Mahomet. The snow at that time was up to the horses' knees. The town of Mahomet was called Middletown and Farmer City was known by the name of Mount Pleasant. At that time Mr. Yapp went to live with his grandmother in Champaign county and thus established his home in a district where wolves were still numerous, and where various kinds of wild game abounded. He has watched with interest the development of this county as the years have gone by and has seen its wonderful transformation. He has also advanced in his business career and to-day he is the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and forty acres of land, on which he raises grain and stock.

JOSEPH S. HUBBARD.

Among the representative farmers of Piatt county is Joseph S. Hubbard, who resides on section 21, Blue Ridge township. He was born in Pike county, Illinois, in 1844, his parents being Joseph and Lucinda (Lewis) Hubbard. The father was a native of Massachusetts and was a painter by trade. He also engaged in school-teaching and in farming, and he died when his son Joseph was but five years of age. Two years later the mother was called to her final rest and thus our subject was left an orphan. He acquired his early education in Pike county in a log schoolhouse, but by reading and observation in later years has added largely to his fund of knowledge and become a practical business man. He started out for himself at the age of fourteen years in Pike county by working as a farm hand for ten dollars

per month. He was thus employed until 1862, when he enlisted in Company C of the Ninety-ninth Illinois Infantry under the command of A. C. Matthews and Colonel Bailey. His company was the flag company of the regiment, and with this command M Hubbard participated in the battle of Hartsville, Missouri, and also about fourteen other open fights. He was likewise in the siege of Vicksburg and afterward was taken ill, because of which he received an honorable discharge and returned home.

Following his military experience, Mr. Hubbard was engaged as a farm hand for two years in Logan county, Illinois, receiving twenty-three dollars per month, which was very high wages to be paid for such labor. In the year 1866 he was united in marriage in Logan county to Miss Sarah P. Johnston, a daughter of William Johnston, and by this union have been born four children, but the first two died in infancy; Minnie, the daughter, is now the wife of Bert Collins, who is living in Farmer City, Illinois, and J. W. C. Hubbard, the youngest of the family, died on the 18th of December, 1902, at the age of twenty-five years. The wife and mother passed away in January, 1895. In 1900 Mr. Hubbard was again married, his second union being with Elizabeth Johnston, with whom he is now living on his pleasant farm in Blue Ridge township.

Mr. Hubbard came to Piatt county in 1869 and rented one hundred and sixty acres of land, on which he lived for four years, continuing its care and cultivation throughout that period. He then purchased eighty acres of land near the West Point schoolhouse. Later he sold that property and took a trip to the Pacific coast, spending about four months in Oregon and California. He then came to Illinois and rented a quarter section of land for a period of seven years, after which he purchased that property. He has made all of the improvements upon his farm and has now an excellent tract of land under a high state of cultivation. Upon the place are good buildings and everything is modern and progressive. He has always made it the rule of his life to be honest and straightforward in his dealings with others and these qualities have gained for him the unqualified confidence and regard of his fellow men.

He belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge at Mansfield and with the Grand Army Post at Farmer City. In his political views he is a Republican, and for two terms served as a school director. Both he and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church and he is well known throughout the community as one whose career has been guided by honorable principles and characterized by steadfastness of purpose. Left an orphan at a very early age and starting out in life on his own account when still quite young, he has steadily worked his way upward and the success that he has gained may be attributed entirely to his own diligence and perseverance.

WALTER GULLIFORD.

Walter Gulliford, a representative young farmer of Piatt county, now engaged in his chosen occupation on section 34, Cerro Gordo township, was born in Bement on the 21st of April, 1874, and is a son of Thomas and Eliza (Knighton) Gulliford, both natives of England. The father is now deceased and the mother is now the wife of William Clark, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume.

During his boyhood Walter Gulliford pursued his education in the Gulliford school of Cerro Gordo township and after completing his studies he turned his attention to farming, to which vocation he still devotes his energies with marked success. He now rents and operates his mother's farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 34, Cerro Gordo township.

On the 22d of February, 1899, Mr. Gulliford was united in marriage to Miss Ora Edith Peel, who is the second in order of birth in the family of Benjamin and Amanda E. (Haviner) Peel. By this union one child has been born, Katie Belle. Mrs. Gulliford's father is a native of Marshall county, Kentucky, and on first coming to this state in 1857, located in Sangamon county, whence he removed to the village of Bement, Piatt county, in 1880. He is now working for our subject on the farm. During the Civil war he served for eight months as a member of the Seventh Illinois Cavalry and was honorably discharged November 4, 1865. His children are as follows: Charles E., Ora Edith, wife of our subject; Laura E., a resident of Kansas; Lenora; Lura Eva and Carl William. In his political views Mr. Gulliford is a Republican and he takes a deep and commendable interest in public affairs, as each American citizen should do.

JOHN BECKENHOLDT.

Since 1881 John Beckenholdt has made his home in Piatt county, where he began work as a farm hand, and to-day he is one of the well-to-do agriculturists of Blue Ridge township and all that he possesses has come as the reward of earnest labor. He was born in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, on the 7th of February, 1856, and is a son of John and Wilhelmina Beckenholdt, both of whom were natives of Germany. In early life they came to America and were married in Cincinnati, Ohio. The father was a brewer by trade and for many years operated a brewery in Lawrenceburg, while later he devoted his energies to farming in that county. He and his wife both died during the early boyhood of their son John.

In the schools of Dearborn county, Indiana, John Beckenholdt of this review acquired his education. He was there instructed in the elementary branches of learning and as the years have passed he has added to his knowledge through reading and experience. He possesses an observing eye and retentive memory and has thus gained valuable information concerning the world and the practical duties of life. He and his three elder brothers lived together in Dearborn county, Indiana, keeping "bachelors' hall." In 1877 Mr. Beckenholdt, whose name introduces this review, came to Illinois. Later he went to Kansas, where he took up a homestead in Sheridan county, but not meeting with the success that he had anticipated there, he went to Colorado and also to Nebraska, remaining in the west until 1881, when he returned to Illinois, this time establishing his home in Piatt county. Here he began working by the month as a farm hand in the employ of Jacob B. Chase, of Blue Ridge township, but when he had acquired a sufficient capital to become a landowner he invested his savings in a tract of three hundred and twenty acres, for which he paid thirty-one dollars and a quarter per acre. As his financial resources steadily increased he extended the boundaries of this farm until it now comprises four hundred and eighty

acres of the rich land of Piatt county, and there is no more productive soil in this great farming state of Illinois than is to be found in Blue Ridge township. Mr. Beckenholdt also owns four hundred and twenty-three acres in Pike county, Illinois. His home farm was improved but very little when he took up his abode there, and it is now well tilled, the rich fields promising golden harvests in the autumn. He has also given considerable attention to the raising of beef cattle and hogs, shipping to the Chicago markets and finding this a profitable source of income.

In 1884 Mr. Beckenholdt was united in marriage to Miss Sallie E. Chase, a daughter of his first employer in Piatt county, Jacob B. Chase, who came from Dearborn county, Indiana, and won a place among the well-to-do residents of this locality. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Beckenholdt have been born four children—Walter; Minnie, who died September 4, 1902, and was laid by the side of her mother in Blue Ridge cemetery; Wilber, who passed away February 8, 1890, and Willard. The wife and mother was called to her final rest October 16, 1894, her death being deeply deplored by many friends. In 1895 Mr. Beckenholdt was joined in wedlock to Miss Emily Godwin, but after a short married life she passed away March 5, 1898. In 1900 he wedded his present wife, who bore the maiden name of Lena Roth. She is a daughter of Christian Roth, who is represented elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. Beckenholdt is a member of Farmer City Camp, M. W. A., and in politics is a Democrat, but has never consented to become a candidate for office, desiring rather to give his time and energies to his business pursuits. He is a member of the Baptist church of Mansfield and has been a co-operant factor in the material advancement and the moral improvement of his community. In addition to his agricultural interests he became one of the organizers of the State Bank of Mansfield in 1901 and is one of its directors. He is a man of great natural ability and has been very successful in business. As has been truly remarked after all that may be done for a man in the way of giving him early opportunities for obtaining the requirements which are sought in books and schools, he must essentially formulate, determine and give shape to his own character, and this is what Mr. Beckenholdt has done. He has been very persevering in his life work and has gained a satisfactory reward.

EDWARD MOYER.

Edward Moyer, who is the present assessor of the township of Bement and who resides on section 13 there, where he owns an excellent farm of one hundred and fifty-eight acres, was born at Delphi, Indiana, on the 31st of October, 1853. The Moyer family is of German lineage and was established in America by Jacob Moyer, the grandfather of our subject, who settled in Pickaway county, Ohio, and there spent his remaining days, reaching the advanced age of eighty-one years. He was a farmer throughout his active business career.

The parents of our subject were David and Delilah (Kerns) Moyer. The father was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, in the year 1818 and, removing to Indiana, he spent four years in that state, after which he came to Illinois. Making his way to Piatt county, he here purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land in Willow Branch

township. All was wild and unimproved and with characteristic energy he began the arduous task of developing a new farm. For many years he successfully carried on general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising and in his work he prospered. His land was richly cultivated and the well-tilled fields returned to him golden harvests, while because of the good grade of stock which he raised he found a ready sale for his horses and cattle on the market. As his financial resources increased he added to his property until he was the owner of three hundred and fifty acres. About twenty years ago he removed to the village of Bement, where he spent his remaining days, his death occurring about 1892. In his political views Mr. Moyer was first a Democrat, but afterward became a Republican and in his later life was a Prohibitionist. He was fearless in his defense of what he believed to be right and never wavered in his allegiance to the political principles which he thought contained the best elements of good government. For six years he served as supervisor of Willow Branch township and was most loyal and prompt in the discharge of his duties. His religious faith was indicated by his membership in the Presbyterian church and his fidelity to its teachings. His wife, who was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, there lived until her marriage and her parents died in that county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Moyer were born six children—Mary E., who was the wife of Giles Clarke, and is now deceased; Isabelle, the deceased wife of John LeFever; John, who died at the age of four years; Edward, of this review; Clara, who is the wife of R. E. McKinney, of Decatur, and Ruth, the wife of William Cochran, of Bement township.

Edward Moyer was only three years of age when brought by his parents to Piatt county and was reared upon the home farm in Willow Branch township. He acquired his early education in the schools of this county and afterward became a student in the Jacksonville Business College, in which institution he was graduated. He then returned to the farm in Willow Branch township, where he remained until the fall of 1883, carrying on general agricultural pursuits. He also engaged in stock-raising quite extensively and successfully, making a specialty of shorthorn cattle and Norman horses. He devoted much attention to the breeding and raising of horses for six years. In 1883 he removed to Bement township, where he purchased one hundred and fifty acres of land on section 13, and upon this farm he still lives. He was for a number of years one of the representative agriculturists and stock-raisers of the community, but about two years ago he rented his land and is now living retired. His business affairs have been so capably conducted that as the years passed he won comfortable competence and is now largely resting in the enjoyment of what he previously earned.

In August, 1876, in Willow Branch township, Mr. Moyer was united in marriage to Miss Eva Heath, a daughter of John and Charity Heath. Her father was one of the early settlers of Willow Branch township, having come to Piatt county in 1854. Both he and his wife are now deceased. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Moyer was blessed with six children, all of whom were born in Piatt county. The three now living are: Charles A., who resides at home; Iona B., the wife of H. C. Cornelius, of Bement, by whom she has two children, Paul and Ruth; and Lena, who is the wife of David Johnson, a painter of Urbana, Illinois, by whom she has one

child—Edward D. The members of the family who have passed away are: Edward, who died when about eight years of age; Roy, who died of diphtheria at the age of four years; and one that died in infancy unnamed.

Mr. Moyer has held the office of assessor for five years and has been elected for another year. He was also road commissioner for one term and no public trust reposed in him has been betrayed in the slightest degree. His political support is given to the Democracy, and he keeps well informed on the issues of the day, thus being able to support his position by intelligent argument. Mr. Moyer is a valued and popular representative of a number of fraternal and insurance associations. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen Camp, to the Masonic fraternity, to the Court of Honor, to the Tribe of Ben Hur, to the Fraternal Army, to the Loyal Americans and the North Americans, and he has held official positions in all of these save the Tribe of Ben Hur. He has many excellent qualities which have made him esteemed by those with whom he has come into contact and gained for him the favor and friendship of many with whom he has been associated. There is in his life record much that is commendable, for he has always been faithful to duty, progressive in citizenship and reliable in business.

JOSEPH H. RANKIN.

Joseph H. Rankin, who is the well-known and capable manager for the Galesville Grain Company of Piatt county and a resident of DeLand, was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, on the 5th of April, 1848. His life record proves conclusively that success is not a matter of genius, but may be won through persistent effort, laudable ambition and sound judgment. It is these qualities that have formed the basis of Mr. Rankin's prosperity and made him a substantial and respected citizen of his adopted county.

Mr. Rankin is a son of James and Malinda (Decker) Rankin, who were also natives of the Buckeye state. By occupation the father was a stone-mason and carpenter. Coming to Illinois in the fall of 1852, he settled in DeWitt county, casting in his lot among the early settlers who laid the foundation for the present development and prosperity of this section of the state. He possessed natural mechanical genius and marked ingenuity along such lines and before coming to Illinois he had also mastered the trade of a millwright. After locating here he engaged in the operation of a mill for three or four years and also followed carpentering, carrying on the latter pursuit until his retirement from further business cares. His life for many years was one of unceasing industry and unfaltering enterprise and thereby he won a comfortable competence which now enables him to live retired. He makes his home in Waverly, Morgan county, at the age of seventy-six years and is one of the respected citizens of the community. His wife died when the subject of this review was but six years of age and her remains were interred in Logan county near Atlanta. The children of this union were three in number, two sons and a daughter, all of whom are yet living, namely: John W., a resident of Oregon; J. H., of this review; and Malinda, who is the wife of Clayton Newberry, a resident of Waverly, Morgan county.

J. H. Rankin acquired his early education in the common schools of DeWitt coun-

ty and mastered the branches of learning therein taught which prepare one for the practical duties of life. He attended school until about fifteen years of age and then began working for his father on the home farm, being thus connected with agricultural pursuits until about twenty-four years of age. For some years thereafter he followed carpentering and in this way was connected with the substantial upbuilding and improvement of the locality. He was actively connected with the builder's art for twelve years or until he turned his attention to the grain business as manager of the Galesville Grain Company. This is a farmers' co-operative institution of which Mr. Rankin took charge on the 4th of August, 1902. The business is an incorporated concern capitalized for ten thousand dollars, the company dealing in grain, coal and salt. The present officers are J. T. Churchill, president, a resident of Goose Creek township; J. Z. Schwartz, of the same township, vice president; James Bert, secretary and treasurer, also of Goose Creek township; and J. H. Rankin, manager. Mr. Rankin makes his home in DeLand, where he had been employed in the line of carpentering prior to coming here. He is a man of good business ability and executive force and is rarely, if ever, at fault in matters of business judgment, so that he is well qualified for the important position which he is now filling.

In 1867 in Piatt county near DeLand Mr. Rankin was united in marriage to Miss Emma Brown, a daughter of James A. Brown, who came here at an early day from Virginia. Two children graced the marriage of our subject and his wife: James Floyd and John W., but the latter died in infancy. In his political affiliation Mr. Rankin is a Democrat with firm faith in the principles of the party and he has been honored with a number of local offices. He served for four years as justice of the peace; was also town clerk for two years; was notary public and police magistrate for twelve years, and is still holding the last named office. He has ever been prompt and faithful in the discharge of the duties devolving upon him. Fraternally, he is connected with DeLand Lodge, No. 812, F. & A. M., of which he is a worthy and prominent representative, having served for three years as its secretary, prior to taking up his business at Galesville. He is likewise identified with some fraternal insurance orders. Mr. Rankin dates his residence in this county from pioneer times and the red men were still numerous when the family came to this section of the state and there was wild game of all kinds, including deer and turkeys. There were also many prairie wolves and pioneer conditions existed on every hand. With the work of progress and improvement Mr. Rankin has been identified and has taken a deep interest in what has been accomplished in this part of the state. He is the owner of one of the best homes in DeLand, which stands in visible evidence of his life of industry. His career has ever been honorable and straightforward and those who have known him entertain for him warm regard.

James Floyd Rankin, the son of J. H. Rankin, is now a bookkeeper in the First National Bank of Champaign. He acquired a liberal education, attending the common schools of this county and afterward becoming a student in Bryant & Stratton's Business College of Chicago, in which he pursued a commercial course. At the age of sixteen he began acquiring a practical education in the State Bank of DeLand and readily mastering the duties intrusted to him, he

steadily and rapidly advanced. Going to Kansas City he was assistant receiving teller in the First National Bank of Commerce there, and later returning to DeLand, he entered upon his present position in connection with the financial interests of this place. He is a young man of exemplary habits, respected in business circles because of his capability and trustworthiness. He married Miss Ermer Dresback, a resident of this county and a daughter of John P. Dresback, an old settler and retired farmer now living near DeLand. They have one child, Esther Burl, who was born on the 3rd of July, 1902, in Kansas City.

WELLINGTON EDWARDS.

On the 2d of December, 1895, Piatt county citizens were called on to mourn the demise of one of their number, Wellington Edwards, a gentleman of the old school, and who had been a resident of the county since 1854. Mr. Edwards was born near Buffalo, New York, February 14, 1831. At the age of five he accompanied his parents on their removal to Ohio, where they settled at Bucyrus. He lost his mother at the age of ten and the family afterward became scattered, our subject becoming an inmate of the home of an uncle, with whom he lived until his marriage. This event occurred January 11, 1852, the lady who now survives him being Sarah Jane McPheeters, daughter of Samuel McPheeters.

Thirteen children were born to this union as follows: Susan Janette, born March 24, 1853; Samuel Francis, December 3, 1854; Willis, November 12, 1855; Joseph C., April 20, 1858; Selah Ravenia, March 16, 1860; Adeline, December 20, 1861; Almeda Ellen, December 20, 1863; Charles W., September 26, 1865; Alonzo L., August 12, 1867; Sarah Eveline, June 20, 1869; Melcena, June 31, 1871; Harry V., February 4, 1873, and Harvey, January 25, 1875.

For two years after marriage Mr. and Mrs. Edwards rented land in Ohio. They then concluded to come to the great west, where land was cheaper and where they could secure a home with less outlay. They settled in Sangamon township, Piatt county, Illinois, where they purchased eighty acres at one dollar and a quarter per acre, which Mrs. Edwards still owns. Additions have been made at times to this original purchase —one hundred and sixty acres at one time and thirty-two at another. It is unnecessary to relate in detail the struggles and privations endured by the family in their efforts to build up a home and rear and educate so large a number of children. Suffice it to say that these children are all living and occupying respected positions in their different spheres of life. They are all married excepting Alonzo and Almeda Ellen.

JOSEPH C. EDWARDS.

Joseph C. Edwards cultivates a farm in section 24, Blue Ridge township. He was born as stated and continued dutifully at home, aiding his father in the support of his large family until the year preceding his majority. He then rented a farm from Thomas Bondurant, upon which he raised one crop and then rented his father's farm of eighty acres for a period of six years. By this time he was enabled to make a purchase of eighty acres, but with which he soon parted. An-

other purchase of two hundred and forty acres was made by our subject, which he retained for a time and then sold at a good advance. In 1900 he purchased the farm on which he now resides. It contains two hundred and forty acres and our subject devotes it to general farming—the raising of stock and grain.

Mr. Edwards consummated marriage December 11, 1879, the other contracting party being Emma Jane, daughter of William and Nancy Hall. Mrs. Edwards has become the mother of nine children as follows: Lucinda, born September 5, 1878; Cora, July 3, 1880; Albert, August 15, 1882; Daisy, November 8, 1884; Roy, January 28, 1887; Carl, February 7, 1889; Lillie, March 3, 1891; Pearl, March 1, 1893, and Lloyd, November 19, 1898.

Character is what we are, reputation what people think we are, at least so says the savant. Both, however, are really synonymous. No man can have a good reputation with his associates in daily life whose character is faulty, nor is the development of a good character possible without developing its consequent, a good reputation. These remarks are made introductory to the assertion that no man in the county has either in better degree than our subject. With word as good as his bond and a social and genial temperament, Joseph Edwards is the peer of any citizen of Piatt county.

JOHN HENRY SHREVE.

John Henry Shreve is one of the self-made men of Piatt county now numbered among the farmers of affluence. He has steadily worked his way upward to this position through persistency of purpose, overcoming all the obstacles and difficulties in his path by a strong determination and industry. He was born April 26, 1844, in Fairfield county, Ohio, and is a son of Samuel and Mary (Gearhart) Shreve. The mother died in Ohio and the father afterward came to Illinois, settling first in Champaign county, whence he later removed to Piatt county. After residing here for a time he went to Missouri, where his remaining days were passed. He was thrown from a wagon and never recovered from the injury received in this accident. In the family were two children, the younger brother of our subject being Oliver Shreve, who is now a resident of Calhoun county, Iowa.

The educational privileges of John Henry Shreve were somewhat limited. He attended school in Boone county, Indiana, conning his lessons in a little log schoolhouse while sitting upon a slab bench. The remainder of his education was acquired in Champaign county, Illinois, where he again attended a district school. He has always kept well informed on the questions of the day and on topics of general interest, continually adding to his knowledge through reading and observation. When twenty years of age he began earning his own living, working as a farm hand, and while thus employed he received from twenty to forty dollars per month in compensation for his services. For eight years he was thus employed, and with the money which he was enabled to save from his earnings he then purchased his own farm, containing one hundred and fourteen acres of land in Blue Ridge township. This he bought in the fall of 1885, and it has since been his home, covering a period of eighteen consecutive years. He raises stock and grain and his richly cultivated fields annually bring

to him good harvests, while the sales of his grain and stock add considerably to his bank account.

On the 26th of October, 1885, Mr. Shreve was united in marriage to Miss Mary Katharine Freeze, a daughter of Harvey and Josephine (Paulsel) Freeze. In 1898 Mr. Shreve was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 6th of December of that year, her remains being interred in the Mansfield cemetery. Unto them had been born but one child, Roy Allen, who was born November 28, 1888, and is now living at home with his father. Mr. Shreve gives his political allegiance to the Democracy and while he keeps well informd on the issues of the day he has never sought or desired public office, preferring to devote his energies to his business affairs. He belongs to the Baptist church, and his life is in consistent harmony with its teachings. He has long resided in Piatt county, and is known as a worthy and representative farmer of this portion of the state.

JOHN T. CHURCHILL.

John T. Churchill, farmer, stock-raiser and splendid good citizen, residing on section 34, Sangamon township, was born at Mechanicsburg, Sangamon county, Illinois, September 29, 1853. His parents, Joe and Lucretia J. (Bondurant) Churchill, were natives of the Blue Grass state, from which they came to Piatt county in 1825, thus constituting them pioneers of the pioneers. They remained in the county until the close of the Civil war, and then removed to the new state of Kansas, where they settled near the famous town of Lawrence. After ten years, however, they returned to their early love, where they continued to reside until their death.

John T. Churchill passed his early boyhood on the Kansas farm, receiving training in the district school and later at Baldwin University. Upon leaving that institution in 1874 he remained in Kansas, engaged in farming, but met with so little encouragement on account of the grasshoppers and drouth that he finally returned to Piatt county. Mr. Churchill retains vivid remembrances of those early days of his career and especially of the grasshoppers. He happened to be in a section particularly overrun with the pests and distinctly recalls one day on his return home from town seeing them piled in the road three feet deep, and having to drive out of his way on account of them. In February, 1875, Mr. Churchill rented a farm in Piatt county and has since that time been a continuous resident here. In 1892 he made his first purchase of one hundred and sixteen acres in Sangamon township, but he later sold out and bought his present two-hundred and-forty-acre farm, which under his careful and intelligent management is without doubt one of the best farm properties in the county. He devotes it largely to the raising of grain, a crop which he understands as well as any man in the county, and from which he realizes handsome profits.

Three years after his return from Kansas, June 11, 1878, Mr. Churchill became a married man, leading to the altar Miss Florence Bell, daughter of William and Katherine Hatfield, of DeLand, now deceased. Three children have come to brighten their home, Fabian C., born August 1, 1879; Roscoe W., December 2, 1881 and Lloyd J., September 10, 1896.

Mr. Churchill votes with the Republican

party, and carries insurance with the Modern Woodmen, holding membership in Mansfield Camp, No. 2919. He and his family are much esteemed and enter with zest into all movements looking to the elevation of their fellow citizens.

THOMAS BATEMAN, JR.

Thomas Bateman, Jr., is one of the well-known, successful and enterprising agriculturists of Piatt county, his home being on section 19, Blue Ridge township. He was born in Ontario, Canada, on the 14th of November, 1866, and is a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Brown) Bateman, who were natives of Ireland and Canada, respectively. The father crossed the Atlantic to the Dominion in 1848 in company with his parents, and the grandfather there carried on farming for some years. Subsequently, however, he removed to the United States, settling in Piatt county, Illinois, where his remaining days were passed.

In the year 1863 Thomas Bateman, Sr., was united in marriage to Elizabeth Brown, and in 1872 they arrived in Piatt county, where he had previously purchased the old William Johnson homestead of one hundred and sixty acres. To-day he is the owner of two hundred acres of valuable land, but at one time owned five hundred and sixty acres. This, however, he has divided among his children, giving to them more than one-half of the entire amount. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bateman were born eleven children and it is remarkable in that the family circle has never been broken by the hand of death. The children are as follows: Thomas, whose name introduces this record; Jane, who is the wife of Alvin Smothers of Mansfield; Mary, the wife of Enoch Chase, of McLean county, Illinois; Samuel, who is also living in McLean county; Charles, who is engaged in the grain business at Bellflour, Illinois; John, a resident of Piatt county; Elizabeth, the wife of Latham Smith, of McLean county; Etta and Nellie, both at home; Edna, the wife of Herbert Warren, of Mansfield; and Harry, who completes the family The father is now practically living retired upon his home farm and is one of the respected and worthy citizens of the community whose life record contains many lessons that might be profitably followed.

Thomas Bateman, Jr., was only about seven years of age when the family came to Piatt county, and in the public schools here he became familiar with the branches of learning usually taught in such institutions. He also early became identified with farm life, receiving ample training in the work of field and meadow. He remained at home until his marriage, which was celebrated on the 16th of March, 1892, the lady of his choice being Miss Cora Slater, a daughter of William and Mary Slater, of Champaign county. They now have one son, William Slater, whose birth occurred January 28, 1893.

The home farm of Mr. Bateman is a tract of two hundred acres of productive and fertile land on section 19, Blue Ridge township, and to its cultivation and improvement he gives his personal supervision. The farm is adorned with one of the best country residences to be found in this section of the state. It was built by Mr. Bateman in 1899, is a commodious structure erected in a modern style of architecture, is supplied with hot and cold water, is heated by hot water and is equipped with all modern conveniences. It

was erected at a cost of three thousand dollars. Other improvements Mr. Bateman has placed upon his farm which is indeed a model one. He gives his attention to the raising of grain and stock, making a specialty of fine cattle and hogs. He is an industrious and energetic business man and has met and is meeting with richly merited success. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party, and his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Baptist church of Monticello.

WILLIAM H. LEACH.

William H. Leach, a retired farmer, is now living in Mansfield in a pleasant home which stands as a monument to his life of industry. For many years he was connected with agricultural pursuits and the rest which he is now enjoying is well merited, because he has always been a most industrious and energetic man, and has ever been honorable in his business relations. He was born on the 24th of March, 1827, near Wheeling, West Virginia, and is a son of Clement and Mary (Worley) Leach. In the family were the following named: Mordecai M., born September 10, 1818; John, March 12, 1821; Rebecca, December 17, 1822; Rachel and Levina, twins, October 20, 1824; William, March 24, 1827; Clement, May 18, 1829; Martha, April 5, 1831; and Joseph, February 24, 1834. The last named served as a soldier of the Civil war, being commissioned lieutenant, and lost his health while in the army.

William Leach was reared in the state of his nativity, spending his boyhood days under the parental roof, and in the public schools of the locality he acquired his education. After arriving at years of maturity he wedded Miss Mary Ann Bowen, who was born on the 11th of September, 1851. Determining to seek a home in the Mississippi valley they started by wagon for Illinois, driving across the country with a four-horse team. They were eighteen days upon the road, and on reaching their destination Mr. Leach was the possessor of seventy-five dollars in cash and a team of horses. He went first to Grundy county, Illinois, and became identified with agricultural interests and about twenty-six years ago removed to Piatt county and began farming in this locality. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land a mile from Mansfield, and devoted his attention to the raising of grain and hogs. He annually harvested large crops and in addition he raised many head of hogs annually, his profits in one year on his hogs amounting to fourteen hundred dollars. This work has been the source of his prosperity. He has never engaged in speculation or placed his dependence upon a combination of fortunate circumstances, but has worked diligently and persistently and has thus acquired a comfortable competence. He is now the owner of two hundred and sixty acres of rich farming land in Webster county, Iowa, in addition to his house and lot in Mansfield.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Leach have been born the following children: Clement, born September 2, 1852; Martha, October 29, 1859; Mary M. B., October 12, 1857; William, October 1, 1860; John M., November 27, 1863; George, October 3, 1866; and Rose, November 11, 1871. Martha died at the age of seven years but the others are still living and all are married.

Mr. Leach usually gives his support to the Republican candidates, but votes rather for the men than for the party. He keeps well informed on the issues and questions of the day and does what he believes is for the best interest of the country in the exercise of his right of franchise. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist church, and his connection therewith influences his life and his treatment of his fellow men. He has always lived uprightly and his many excellent traits of character have gained for him the regard of those with whom he has been associated.

CARL O. GILLESPIE.

Carl O. Gillespie is one of the extensive landowners of Piatt county, his possessions aggregating seven hundred and twenty acres. He lives on section 36, Blue Ridge township, and is one of its native sons, his birth having occurred in this township in 1861. His parents were H. K. and Nancy Gillespie, who are mentioned elsewhere in this volume. The father was born in the year 1828, and died in June, 1901, while his wife, whose birth occurred in 1828, is still living, making her home in Farmer City, Illinois.

In the usual manner of farm lads Carl O. Gillespie spent the days of his boyhood and youth. He attended the public schools and assisted in the care and improvement of the home farm and in 1886 he began farming on his own account on the old home place, comprising four hundred acres. The practical training which he had received in his youth now proved of marked value to him. He engaged in the raising of fine cattle and hogs which he carries on extensively and finds a profitable source of income. He raises only good grades of farm stock and he now ships about three carloads of hogs annually. In all of his farm work he is progressive and enterprising, and as the years have passed he has met with a high degree of prosperity. He still resides upon the old home place, to which he is continually adding improvements of an important character so that his farm is one of the best in this portion of the state. He owns altogether four hundred acres of rich land, two hundred and forty located at Bethel church and one hundred and sixty near the home place. His mother owns the home place.

In 1890 Mr. Gillespie was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Wisegarver, a daughter of George W. and Mary Wisegarver, who are living in Farmer City. Unto our subject and his wife have been born two children who are yet living and they have also lost two, their eldest, George L., having died in infancy, while Maurine, the third, died at the age of one year. The others are Evangeline, now ten years of age; and Mary Madge, a little maiden of six summers. The parents belong to the Methodist church and take an active interest in its work. In politics Mr. Gillespie is a Republican, but the honors and emoluments of office have had no attraction for him as he has preferred to give his time and attention to his business interests. He has never followed any occupation save that to which he was reared and has found it to be a profitable source of income. He belongs to that class of progressive agriculturists of the west who have made the county to bloom and blossom as the rose, using the latest improved machinery, and all modern equipments that will facilitate his work. He has a good home

and valuable farm and deserves much credit for what he has accomplished during his business career.

WILLIAM CLARK.

Nature seems to have intended that man should enjoy a season of rest in the evening of life. In youth one is full of energy, determination and bright hope, and with more mature years comes sound judgment, keen insight and practical experience so that labor is carefully directed and brings its just reward. If one has carefully husbanded his resources and made the most of his opportunities he will through the years of youth and mature manhood gain capital sufficient to enable him to put aside business cares in his later life. This Mr. Clark has done and his rest is well deserved, for his has been an honorable career characterized by industry, enterprise and integrity. He is now living in the village of Bement and is one of its most respected and worthy citizens.

Mr. Clark was born in Somersetshire, England, on the 12th of June, 1828. Coming to the United States in the year 1855, he determined to make the most of his opportunities here and win success if it could be gained through honorable persistent effort. He had obtained his early education in the subscription schools in the place of his birth and until his immigration to America he had always been employed as a farm hand, but desiring to see the new world and having heard much of its advantages for the young men of pluck and energy, he decided to leave England and established his home in the United States. Immediately after his arrival on the Atlantic coast he made his way to Ohio and spent six months in Lorain county as a farm hand. At the expiration of that period, however, he continued his journey westward and soon arrived in Piatt county, Illinois, where he has since resided, spending the greater part of this time in the village of Bement. He has always engaged in agricultural pursuits and his first farming here was done in Cerro Gordo township. There he rented a small tract of land which he cultivated for several years. He afterward spent sometime in working on a number of farms in the county by the month, being thus employed at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war.

After coming to the United States he had informed himself thoroughly concerning conditions and political issues and he noted the growing dissatisfaction in the south. In 1862, prompted by patriotic loyalty to the Union cause, he offered his services to the government, enlisting in Company H, One Hundred and Seventh Illinois Infantry, with which he served until the close of hostilities. He was in some of the hard-fought battles of that long and sanguinary conflict and when the war was ended received an honorable discharge at Camp Butler near Springfield, Illinois. He was always found at his post of duty, loyal to the nation's starry banner and the cause it represented, and with a creditable military record he returned to his home.

On again reaching Piatt county Mr. Clark spent a short time in the village of Bement, and afterward went to Monticello township, where he again took up the occupation of farming, which he followed through several years. He has been twice married and by his first wife had five children, of whom two are still living, the others having died in infancy. Sherman is now a resident of Iowa.

He married Lena Bauch, and they have five children. John, the second surviving son, is employed in St. Louis. For his second wife Mr. Clark chose Mrs. Eliza Gulliford, the widow of Thomas Gulliford. She was a native of England, and a daughter of Edwin and Anna (Bacon) Knighton, both of whom were natives of England, where they spent their entire lives. Mrs. Clark came to the United States when twenty-one years of age. Her first husband, Thomas Gulliford, was also born in England, and came to America in the same vessel in which Mr. Clark crossed the Atlantic. He made his way to Piatt county and located in Cerro Gordo township, where he carried on general farming and stock-raising. He also became an extensive shipper of live stock to the city markets, and a well-known business man of this locality. He died in Cerro Gordo township at the age of forty-three years, leaving a widow and two children, the sons being Walter E. and Herbert. The former, who is now a farmer of Cerro Gordo township, married Edith Peel and they have one child, Katie. Herbert, who is also an agriculturist of Cerro Gordo township, wedded Mabel High and they have a son, William.

After his second marriage Mr. Clark engaged in the operation of the farm owned by his wife until his health failed, and during the last few years he has been leading a quiet life at his pleasant home in the village of Bement. He draws a pension in recognition of his services during the Civil war, and he is a member of the Grand Army Post at Bement. In politics he has always been a Republican, and in matters of citizenship he is as true and loyal to his country as when he wore his blue uniform, and followed her banners upon the battlefields of the south.

ISAAC SHIVELY.

Among the prominent and successful agriculturists of Piatt county none are more deserving of mention in this volume than the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. He was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, February 8, 1837, and there spent the first fourteen years of his life, at the end of which time he removed to Wabash county, Indiana, with his parents, Christian and Barbara (Ulery) Shively, the family locating near North Manchester. His parents were also natives of Montgomery county, Ohio, and the father was a farmer by occupation. He assisted materially in the early development and upbuilding of Wabash county, Indiana, and spent the greater part of his life in that state, but died at the home of our subject on section 24, Cerro Gordo township, Piatt county, Illinois, when over eighty-eight years of age. His wife had passed away on the old home farm near North Manchester, Indiana. In their family were eight children: Jacob died in infancy; Esther is the wife of John Miller, of North Manchester, Wabash county, Indiana; Samuel died at the age of thirty years; Isaac is next in order of birth; Christian is a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska; Elizabeth married Samuel Blickenstaff and died in Wabash county, Indiana, leaving a family; John H. lives in North Manchester, Indiana; and Barbara died at the age of sixteen years.

Isaac Shively received but a limited education in the common schools of Ohio as his time was almost wholly occupied by the work of the farm. At the age of twenty-two he started out in life for himself as a farmer, near North Manchester, Wabash county, Indiana, and remained there until after his marriage. He wedded Miss Margaret

Blickenstaff, a daughter of Samuel and Mary (Gumph) Blickenstaff, and in 1871, accompanied by his wife and three children, he came to Piatt county, Illinois. He purchased the north half of section 24, Cerro Gordo township, some of which was under cultivation, but there were many ponds and much of the land unbroken, but he has since ditched and drained it and made many other improvements to the value of thousands of dollars. In addition to the original purchase he now owns one hundred and twenty acres more, which is well drained. For his first eighty acres he paid twenty-five dollars per acre, for the second eighty thirty dollars, and for the last eighty acres, adjoining it on the east, sixty dollars per acre. He now has four hundred and forty acres, and it is all worth over one hundred dollars per acre, owing to the rise in value and the many improvements he has made thereon. He built two good barns, one, forty by sixty feet, and the other thirty by seventy-eight feet, which will accommodate sixteen head of horses and cattle, and he has corncribs which hold about six thousand bushels. His success in life is due entirely to his own well-directed efforts, being a man of sound judgment and good business ability. He has always made the most of his advantages, and has labored untiringly to make for himself and family a comfortable home and competence. Besides his property in this state, he owns a section of land southwest of Houston, Texas.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Shively were born ten children, seven sons and three daughters, of whom nine are yet living: Elizabeth, the wife of Frank Etnoyer, of Cerro Gordo township; Julia, wife of Jacob Wyne, whose home is near LaPlace in Cerro Gordo township; Daniel, who married May Boone and lives in Cerro Gordo township; John, who married Dora Musselman and also resides in Cerro Gordo township; Samuel, who wedded Annie Musselman, a sister of his brother's wife, and makes his home in the same township; Joseph, who married Nora Duncan and resides in Carroll county, Indiana; Jerome, Ira and Festus, all at home.

For many years Mr. Shively has served as school director and has ever taken an active interest in educational affairs, doing all in his power to secure good teachers and the best advantages along that line. He is a deacon in the German Baptist church of LaPlace, in which he and his wife hold membership, and they are active and sincere Christian workers. Mr. Shively is regarded as one of the representative men of his community, as well as one of its most substantial and honored citizens, and is therefore justly deserving of mention in this volume.

EUROPE L. FOSNAUGH.

Europe L. Fosnaugh is largely a promoter of the business activity of White Heath, where he is engaged in dealing in dry goods, boots, shoes and groceries. He is also proprietor of the only hotel in the town and throughout this portion of the county he is very widely known, while his friends are almost as numerous as his acquaintances. He was born upon the farm three miles northeast of the village, September 24, 1858, his parents being Ezra and Eliza (Bushee) Fosnaugh. He is of German and French descent. His paternal grandfather, Jacob Fosnaugh, was a native of Pennsylvania and was of German lineage, while the maternal grandfather, Jacob Bushee, was of French

extraction. The parents of our subject were natives of Fairfield county, Ohio, and in the year 1856 came to Illinois. They journeyed westward by wagon to Macoupin county, where they remained for one winter and then continued on their way to Piatt county. Here the father carried on agricultural pursuits near White Heath until his death, which occurred on the 1st of October, 1873, when he was fifty years old, his birth having occurred in 1823. His wife was born in 1832 and survived him until 1901. They were the parents of eight children: Austin, who is a merchant in Clinton, Illinois; Selina, who was the wife of George McCabe and died in 1873; Theodore, a railroad employe living in Springfield, Illinois; Elifus, a farmer who is living five miles east of Monticello; Europe L.; Dora Alice, the wife of William Dungan, of Deadwood, South Dakota; Laura Belle, the wife of John Dilsaver, who resides upon the home farm; and Erwin, a railroad employe living in Decatur, Illinois.

Europe L. Fosnaugh pursued a common-school education in the Prairie Dell school near White Heath. His studies were pursued through the winter months, while during the summer he worked with his father and thus became familiar with the farm work in all its departments. He entered upon an independent business career as a farm hand, working for eighteen dollars per month, and he continued in that way for about four years. He next rented a farm which he cultivated for a year and subsequently he accepted a clerkship in his brother's store in Lane, DeWitt county, Illinois, where he remained for three years. When that time had elapsed he again rented a farm for one season and then embarked in business for himself as proprietor of a pool and billiard hall in Tolono, Illinois. He conducted it for three years, and on selling it took charge of his brother's store in Lane, this state, there continuing as a merchant for fifteen years, when he purchased the store in White Heath of which he has since been proprietor. He now carries a large and well-selected line of dry goods, boots, shoes and groceries, and has a liberal and growing patronage. On the 7th of April, 1903, he rented the only hotel in the town and has since conducted it. This hotel is well located on the main thoroughfare of the village and in this line Mr. Fosnaugh also does a profitable business.

On the 23d of March, 1874, occurred the marriage of Europe L. Fosnaugh and Miss Ida J. Graham, a daughter of George W. and Jane (Morgan) Graham. She was born February 4, 1861. Her father's birth occurred in Fairfield county, Ohio, July 8, 1824, and he was a son of William and Susanna (Leichleiter) Graham, natives of Virginia. After arriving at years of maturity George W. Graham was united in marriage to Miss Jane Morgan, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, December 4, 1827, and was a daughter of John and Anna (McCleary) Morgan, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The latter was a daughter of James and Janette (McCleary) McCleary, who were cousins prior to their marriage. They went to Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1815, and the latter died in 1862. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Fosnaugh have been born six children: Harlie, who is now at home; Garah, who is the wife of Vance Mattix, a farmer of DeWitt county; and Grace Jane, Lucile, William and Leota, at home.

Mrs. Fosnaugh is a devoted member of the Christian church and a most estimable lady. Mr. Fosnaugh belongs to Mozart Lodge, No. 96, K. P., of Weldon, Illinois; to Lane Camp, No. 1782, W. M. A., of Lane;

and the Mutual Protective League of Lane. He is likewise connected with the Royal Neighbors, and in these various societies he is a valued representative, having the good will and high regard of his brethren. Politically, he is a stalwart Democrat, but has never sought or desired public office, preferring to devote his energies to his business affairs. That he has prospered is due entirely to his own labors. Realizing that there is no royal road to wealth, he has worked untiringly as the years have gone by, and upon the sure foundation of indefatigable industry he has builded his success.

C. T. RINEHART.

On a farm on section 25, Blue Ridge township, resides C. T. Rinehart, who is one of the worthy citizens of Piatt county that Pennsylvania has furnished to this state. He was born in Millerstown of the Keystone state in 1861, and is a son of Frederick and Mary A. Rinehart. The father was a farmer by occupation and always carried on that work in Pennsylvania. At the time of the Civil war, however, he put aside all business and personal considerations, enlisting in 1861 as a member of the Union Army. He participated in many of the most important engagements of the war until about the close of hostilities when he was wounded in the left shoulder, the wound proving so serious that it became necessary to amputate his arm. He spent the rest of his life in the Soldiers' Home in Virginia, and his death occurred in Millerstown, Pennsylvania, in 1893.

Mr. Rinehart of this review began his education in Pennsylvania as a student in one of the old-time log schoolhouses. He sat upon a slab bench and conned his lessons from books that were almost as primitive as the school buildings. Later he attended school in Logan county, Illinois, for one term and he has also added to his knowledge through reading and experience until he is now a well informed man. Having come to the west in early manhood Mr. Rinehart began working for himself at the age of twenty-one years, being first employed by the month as a farm hand in Logan county. He there worked for three years, receiving eighteen dollars per month, after which he rented a farm where his mother acted as his housekeeper. In 1886, however, Mr. Rinehart was united in marriage to Miss Melissa J. Michaels, and unto them has been born a daughter, Bessie Fay, whose birth occurred in McLean county, Illinois, on the 18th of April, 1892, and who is now attending the home school.

Mrs. Rinehart was born in Logan county, December 15, 1862, and is a daughter of Gus Davis and Elizabeth (Barr) Michaels. Her father was a native of Germany, born June 6, 1822, and was twelve years of age when he came to this country. By occupation he was a farmer and both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church South. She was born in De Witt county, Illinois, August 2, 1834, and died there September 27, 1893. Mr. Michaels' death occurred June 26, 1894, both passing away at the home of a daughter in DeWitt county, though they made their home in Logan county for many years. Mrs. Rinehart has five sisters and one brother living.

Mr. Rinehart first became a landowner in 1893, when he purchased a tract of forty acres. Two years later, having prospered

in the meantime, he added to this eighty acres, and he now lives upon his farm which comprises one hundred and twenty acres of the rich land of Piatt county. It is situated on section 25, Blue Ridge township, and is a good property. In 1902 he spent four thousand dollars in improving his house and barn. In his home he has many of the modern equipments which are found in the city homes of the present. There is hard and soft water all through the house, being piped to the various rooms, and a hot water plant is used for heating, while the light is furnished by a system of acetylene gas lamps. Under the house there is a basement containing five rooms, and altogether this home is one of the most modern and desirable in the county.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Rinehart belong to the Methodist church and are widely known throughout the community for their sterling worth and upright lives. In politics Mr. Rinehart is a Democrat and has served as a school director for a number of years, the cause of education finding in him a warm friend. He is always deeply interested in everything pretaining to the welfare and progress of the community along lines of material, social, intellectual and moral development and his cooperation for the public good has been far-reaching and beneficial.

SYLVANUS NELSON.

Agriculture is, perhaps, the chief occupation of the residents of Piatt county for the lands in this portion of the state are so rich and productive that a splendid opportunity is afforded for the acquirement of success by following farming. To this work Mr. Nelson devotes his time and energies, and he is one of the native sons of Piatt county, his birth having occurred here on the 12th of December, 1856. His parents were Wesley and Nancy (Marsh) Nelson, who removed from Indiana to Piatt county, Illinois, at an early period in the development of this portion of the state. The father was of German lineage and the mother of Irish descent. He devoted his energies to the occupation of farming and thus provided for his family.

On the old family homestead in the county of his nativity Sylvanus Nelson was reared, his boyhood days being spent in the usual manner of most farmer lads of the period. In his early youth he was a student in the Clinger school in Piatt county, and the remainder of his education has been obtained through reading and through contact with the world, whereby he has gained much valuable and practical experience. He was twenty-two years of age when he started out upon an independent business career, and well may he be called a self-made man, for all that he has acquired has been gained through his determination and energy. He has had no assistance from influential friends, nor has a fortunate combination of circumstances aided him. He first worked by the month for Daniel Reed, receiving twenty-two dollars per month. He was thus employed for a year, at the end of which time he rented a tract of land of David Bailey, of New York, who owned farming interests in Piatt county. About 1893 Mr. Nelson purchased a farm in Indiana, becoming the owner of eighty acres in Boone county, and later he disposed of that. He now has a farm in Blue Ridge township, and his well-developed property indicates that his career has been an active and useful one.

On the 3d of July, 1880, Mr. Nelson was united in marriage to Miss Mary Jane Berry, and as the years have passed children to the number of six have been added to the household: Lillie Bell, born April 9, 1881, is now married and resides upon her father's farm; William Jasper, born August 16, 1884; Laura May, born July 27, 1887; Roy, born March 18, 1890; Amy Winniefred, born January 27, 1893, and Flora Henrietta, born November 28, 1897, are all with their parents. Thus the family circle remains unbroken.

Mr. Nelson belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, in which he carries insurance amounting to three thousand dollars. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party, and was at one time the school director, but otherwise has held no public office. He has made the golden rule his life motto, and has closely followed it. After an honorable and useful life, actuated by unselfish motives, he may rest assured that the people of the county entertain for him respect, confidence and good will.

PHILIP ISOR GORDON.

Nature seems to have intended that man should enjoy a period of rest in his more advanced years, for in early life one is full of energy, determination and courage, and later added to these qualities is a mature judgment that renders one's efforts more effective in the search of success. With advancing years, however, comes a desire for rest that may be gratified if one has diligently labored along practical lines as Mr. Gordon has done. In former years he was engaged in general farming and worked so untiringly and earnestly that to-day he is the possessor of a handsome competence. He maintains his home in Mansfield, where he is now living a retired life.

Mr. Gordon was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, on the 4th of January, 1838, his parents being Franklin and Gertrude (Hyde) Gordon. The father was born January 26, 1810, and the mother February 9, 1811, and they were married on the 17th of December, 1829. Their union was blessed with ten children, of whom Philip I. is the fourth in order of birth. The family record is as follows: Caroline, born December 18, 1830; Anna, October 6, 1832; Martha A., July 20, 1835; Philip I., January 4, 1838; Benjamin Thomas, January 24, 1841; Anna E., January 3, 1843; Nancy Jane, March 11, 1845; Mary Katherine, October 20, 1847; Sarah A., January 19, 1850; and Gitty Margaret, September 5, 1853. Only four of these children are now living, Philip, Sarah, Mary and Gitty. The father was a farmer by occupation and removed from the Keystone state to New Jersey, whence he afterward went to Preble county, Ohio, making the journey by wagon. He was upon the road for six weeks, and then reached his destination in safety. For seventeen years he continued to reside in Preble county, where he owned and operated a farm of fifty-three acres. In 1857 he came to Piatt county, Illinois, where he served for many years as justice of the peace of Blue Ridge township. He had also filled that position in Ohio, and the official papers for his tenth term came to him when he was on his death-bed. He was a man in whom his friends and fellow citizens placed unbounded confidence, for he was the soul of honor and integrity in all life's relations. When serving as jus-

tice in Ohio and Illinois he settled many estates, especially in Ohio. He did practically all of this for miles around. He left to his family the priceless heritage of an untarnished name, and to his friends the memory of a noble life. He passed away April 12, 1872, after having survived his wife for about five years. She died July 30, 1867, and her death was also deeply deplored by those who knew her, for she was a most estimable woman.

Philip I. Gordon, whose name introduces this review, spent the greater part of his early life in Ohio, being reared upon the home farm, where he early became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. When a young man of nineteen years he came with his parents to Illinois, and throughout his business career he followed the occupation to which he had been reared. When he had acquired sufficient capital he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Blue Ridge township, which he still owns, and to this he afterward added a tract of forty acres. While upon the farm he raised considerable stock, feeding them all of the grain which he annually harvested. His farming methods were progressive and in keeping with the spirit of the times. Everything about his place was neat and thrifty in appearance and gave evidence of his careful supervision and practical methods. In 1890, however, he put aside the arduous duties of agricultural life and took up his abode in Mansfield, where he is now living retired.

On the 17th of February, 1860, Mr. Gordon was united in marriage to Miss Martha J. Mathews, and unto them have been born three children: Thomas Edward, whose birth occurred December 20, 1860, and who died January 22, 1864; Benjamin Franklin, who was born August 15, 1862, and died April 17, 1866; and Charles, who was born on the 18th of February, 1864, and married Luella Caldwell. He is now living on the old home farm in Blue Ridge township, and unto him and his wife have been born three children: Philip Burton, Bertha and James Willard.

In his political affiliations Mr. Gordon is a stalwart Republican and has firm faith in the principles of the party, but has never aspired to public office, preferring to give his time and attention to his business interests, which have been so capably conducted that he has gained a neat little fortune. He and his wife are faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church, regularly attend its services, contribute generously to its support and take a helpful interest in its work. They are well known in Mansfield, and their many friends speak of them in terms of praise.

WILLIAM F. MATSON, M. D.

From no professional man do we expect to exact so many of the cardinal virtues as from the physician. If the clergyman is austere, we imagine that his mind is absorbed with the contemplation of things beyond our ken; if our lawyer is brusque and crabbed, it is the mark of genius; but in the physician we expect not only a superior quality of mentality and comprehensive knowledge, but sympathy as wide as the universe. Dr. Matson in large measure meets all these requirements and is regarded by many as an ideal physician. Certainly if patronage is any criterion of ability he ranks high among the leading physicians and surgeons of Piatt county. He has resided here since 1898, and

during the intervening years has well demonstrated his broad learning and ready adaptability of his knowledge to the needs of suffering humanity.

A native of Ohio, Dr. Matson was born in Logan county, that state, on the 9th of August, 1864. He comes of Scotch and Irish ancestry in the paternal line, and is of German lineage in the maternal line. His great-grandfather, Uriah J. Matson, was a native of Pennsylvania and a farmer by occupation, following the pursuit through his entire life. He wedded Eliza J. Beach, a native of Ohio. Dr. Albert F. Matson, the father of our subject, was a native of Richland county, Ohio, and after attaining his majority practiced medicine there for a number of years. During the Civil war he served as a surgeon and was stationed for a considerable time at Bermuda Hundred. After his return from the war he resumed practice in Logan county, Ohio, where he remained until his death, which occurred in 1867. He married Miss Hannah J. Marquess, who was born in Greene county, Ohio, a daughter of Thomas T. and Rosina (Stiles) Marquess, natives of Virginia. In the family of Dr. Albert F. Matson and his wife were three children: Charles A., a mining engineer, is at Dawson, Alaska; Ona D. died in 1895.

Dr. William F. Matson obtained his preliminary education in the district schools of Logan county, Ohio, and then took up the study of telegraphy and telegraph construction, entering the employ of the Western Union Telegraph Company, with which he continued for some time. From 1888 until 1890 Dr. Matson was in the West Indies, in the employ of the West India Improvement Company, and later he was in the service of James Ray, the millionaire prince of the West Indies. On returning to the United States he took up the study of medicine, reading in the office and under the direction of Dr. Staples, a prominent physician of Dubuque, Iowa, and later he was graduated in the medical department of the State University of Iowa City, with the class of 1896. After his graduation the Doctor located in Gilmore, Humboldt county, Iowa, where he continued in practice for two years, and in 1898 he came to Monticello, where he has since made his home. Here he has secured a large and lucrative practice.

In 1886 Dr. Matson was united in marriage to Miss Ida M. Calland, of Degraff, Ohio, a daughter of Gershan and Elizabeth (Dickey) Calland. They now have one daughter, Ona Marguerite. Both the Doctor and his wife have gained many friends during the five years of their residence in Monticello and their own home is the center of a cultured society circle. The Doctor is a worthy representative of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Fraternal Lodge, No. 58, F. & A. M., and to Lincoln Park Chapter, No. 177, R. A. M., of Chicago. In the line of his profession he is connected with the Champaign County District Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and through the interchange of thought and experience in these organizations he is continually broadening his scientific knowledge and rendering his labors more effective in his practice.

DANIEL P. SWISHER.

Daniel P. Swisher, who is successfully carrying on general farming on section 16, Goose Creek township, was born on the 9th



MR. AND MRS. D. P. SWISHER

of September, 1850, in the state of Pennsylvania, and is a son of Jacob and Catherine (Palm) Swisher, natives of West Virginia and Pennsylvania, respectively, the former born April 25, 1803, and the latter January 11, 1805. The Palms were of German descent, Mrs. Swisher's parents having come to this country from the fatherland. The birthplace of the father of our subject was Stanton, West Virginia, and there he continued to make his home until about 1840, when he removed to Pennsylvania. Previous to this event he had followed the blacksmith's trade, but he now turned his attention to farming, in which pursuit he engaged until called to his final rest on the 11th of August, 1857. He had nine children, who in order of birth, were as follows: Sarah Anne Elizabeth, born October 3, 1824, died July 2, 1825. William, born December 3, 1827, was graduated at the Allegheny Medical College at Meadville, Pennsylvania, and was first engaged in the practice of his profession at Elmwood, Illinois, and later at Canton, this state, where he died in 1881, leaving a wife and one child. His son, Edwin S. Swisher, is now a practicing physician of New Mexico. Mary Eveline Amanda, the third child of Jacob and Catherine Swisher, was born December 5, 1831, and died August 17, 1850. Elmus Josiah E., born November 22, 1834, died in July, 1840. Julia is the wife of Daniel Billig, who is engaged in farming near Harper in Harper county, Kansas. Emily L. is a resident of Fairview, and the widow of Jacob Wise, a carriage-maker and trimmer, who died about fifteen years ago. Jacob James K., who was born in 1843, and died during his service in the Civil war March 2, 1863. Samuel is now engaged in the harness business at Meadville, Pennsylvania.

Daniel P. Swisher received a good practical education in the common schools of his native state, and made his home with his mother until reaching manhood, his father having died when he was only seven years old. In early life he learnd the harness-maker's trade at Jamestown, Pennsylvania, and continued to follow that occupation until 1873, when he came west and located a mile west of DeLand, Illinois, in Piatt county. Here he rented eighty acres of land which he afterward purchased in 1883, and although he has since bought and sold a number of farms, on which he has made his home for a time, he finally returned to his first purchase. The farm is well tiled and improved and is divided into fields of convenient size by well-kept fences. A deep well has been made and a windpump set up, and the place is supplied with the latest improved machinery for facilitating farm work. The family residence has been remodeled and improved and the fields are highly cultivated. In connection with the operation of his own land, Mr. Swisher has charge of his father-in-law's farm of three hundred and twenty acres.

In 1876 he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Ann Wilson, a daughter of Joseph and Lucinda (Judy) Wilson, and to them have been born three children: Gertrude E., at home; Edith Viola, wife of Charles Marvel, a farmer of Goose Creek township; and Grace Anna, at home. The family are earnest and consistent members of the Christian church of DeLand, and Mr. Swisher also holds membership in DeLand Lodge, No. 740, I. O. O. F. In political views he is a Republican.

JOSEPH C. SMITH.

On section 24, Blue Ridge township, is located the home and farm of Joseph C.

Smith, who is successfully carrying on general agricultural pursuits. He was born in the year 1845, and is a son of Thomas and Jane Smith. His paternal grandfather was a native of England and came from York, that country, to America in the year 1816, landing at Philadelphia. He crossed the mountains in wagons and came down the Ohio river in a flatboat, landing at Lawrenceburg, Indiana. In that locality he purchased land and engaged in farming for a number of years, being one of the early settlers of the locality. Thus he took an active part in advancing civilization there and aided in laying the foundation for the present prosperity and progress of the commu:t
family were ten children, including Thomas Smith, the father of our subject, who was born in York, England, in 1805. He pursued his early education there and acquired good mental training for that day. With his parents he came to America and through long years was identified with agricultural interests in Dearborn county, Indiana. Prior to the Civil war he was a stanch Abolitionist and was very anxious to see slaves freed, but he never lived to hear the proclamation. When because of the cruelty of southern masters many slaves attempted to gain freedom in Canada, Mr. Smith conducted what was known as a station on the famous underground railroad. He and his wife frequently sheltered the negroes, who were then fleeing northward and assisted them on their way. Thomas Smith died in 1863, and his wife, who was born in 1807, long survived him, passing away in 1891. In the family of this worthy couple were eight children, and our subject now has one brother who lives in Piatt county.

Joseph C. Smith was reared and educated in Dearborn county, Indiana. He pursued his studies in an old log school-house and, though his privileges were somewhat limited he made the most of his opportunities and has always followed that course through life. It has been this that has brought to him his success. He started out for himself when twenty-one years of age, and for two years worked by the month as a farm hand in Piatt county, receiving from twenty-five to forty dollars per month. He purchased eighty acres of land about 1890, and has since added to his original purchase a tract of one hundred and sixty acres. The land was not improved and Mr. Smith broke it, doing the first plowing upon the fields. He has added a great many substantial improvements, has planted all of the trees, has erected good buildings and has made a splendid farm. His attention has always been given to general farming, and to-day he has a valuable property. In 1873 he erected a good residence, and the following year built a large barn. Annually he sells good crops, and as the years have passed he has gradually increased his capital until he is now numbered among the men of affluence in the community. In 1871 Mr. Smith was offered a wagon for one hundred dollars cash or one hundred and ten dollars on time. He went to a bank in Farmer City and borrowed one hundred dollars for three months, paying six dollars interest, but on the expiration of that time did not have the money and paid six dollars more interest. At the end of six months he was still unable to pay and was told that as money was a little more plentiful he could have it for another three months for five dollars. Again he could not raise the one hundred dollars, and this time paid another six dollars interest. He was able to settle at the end of the year, after having paid twenty-three dollars interest, which

would seem very exorbitant price at present.

In 1874 Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Lida Robinson, a daughter of William Robinson, and they became the parents of six children; Omer, who died at the age of sixteen years; Nora, who is the wife of E. B. James, by whom she has two children; Raymond, who married Maude Elmore; Alfred, who is living at home at the age of twenty years; Burton, who is now fourteen years of age; and Glenn, who died in 1902.

Mr. Smith is now serving as the efficient road commissioner of Blue Ridge township, and has held the office for four years. During the spring of 1903 he had five iron bridges built in Blue Ridge township. In politics he has always been a Republican, and is a progressive citizen, taking an active interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community and its progress along substantial lines. When he came to Piatt county there were only one or two spring vehicles in the county, and everything was primitive because this district was but a frontier settlement. Great changes have since occurred and Mr. Smith has endorsed everything pertaining to the general welfare and given his co-operation to many movements for the public good.

ANTHONY CLARK.

Anthony Clark, who is now residing on section 10, Bement township, where he owns and cultivates a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, was born in Jefferson county, Indiana, on the 27th of March, 1837. The family is of English lineage and was established in the new world by the great-grandfather of our subject, who settled near Baltimore, Maryland, on crossing the Atlantic to America. The grandfather, John Clark, removed from the Atlantic coast to Kentucky, and there spent his remaining days.

Samuel Clark, the father of our subject, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, but was reared in Kentucky and became a steamboat captain on the Mississippi river. He was the pilot on the third boat on that river, and ran from Pittsburg to New Orleans. For many years he followed that life, but at length was killed in Arkansas by an explosion on his boat when thirty-two years of age. He had married Miss Maria Horseman, who was born near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and survived her husband for some years, passing away in 1861 at the age of fifty-four years. She was a member of the Baptist church, and a lady whose many excellent qualities greatly endeared her to her family and many friends. Mr. and Mrs. Clark were the parents of four children, a son and three daughters: Elizabeth, the deceased wife of Thomas D. George, who was a Baptist minister, and died in Indiana, while her death occurred in California; Louisa, who resides at Columbus, Indiana, and is the wife of David J. Stilling, a railroad contractor; Anthony, whose name introduces this record; and Catherine, who is the wife of John H. Jones, a retired farmer living in Martinsville, Indiana.

Anthony Clark was reared in the place of his nativity, remaining there until 1865. His education was obtained in the public schools of Jefferson county and he worked upon the home farm, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He remained upon the old homestead for a short period after attaining his majority, and then came to Illinois,

locating in Pittsburg. For two years he resided there and then came to Piatt county in 1867, establishing his home on the place which he now owns and occupies in Bement township. He has made all of the improvements here and has to-day a valuable farm, supplied with all modern equipments. He uses the latest improved machinery in carrying on the work of the fields, and his place is characterized by neatness and thrift in every department.

On the 8th of November, 1872, in Petersburg, Mr. Clark was united in marriage to Miss Anne B. Parks, a native of Glascow, Scotland, who came to the United States in 1861. Her parents were James and Rebecca (Purdon) Parks, both of whom were natives of Scotland, and they crossed the Atlantic to the United States two years after their daughter's arrival here, establishing their home in Petersburg. The father was a farmer by occupation, and thus provided for his family. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Clark have been born three children: Samuel J., who is a machinist residing in Bement, and who was born on the old home farm in Bement township; Thomas P., who resides on the old homestead; and Rebecca M., who is now under the parental roof. All of the children were born in Bement township and were educated in the public schools.

In his social relations Mr. Clark is an Odd Fellow, belonging to the lodge at Bement, and is one of the supporters of the Baptist church. In politics he is a stalwart Republican, and has held nearly all of the township offices, in which he has proven most loyal to his duties, discharging the obligations which have devolved upon him with promptness and fidelity. When he came to Piatt county most of the land was wild prairie, and he has seen this section of the county developed from its primitive condition into highly cultivated farms, which are unsurpassed in the state. He has done his full share in making the county a rich farming district, and is a progressive agriculturist whose worth in business circles is widely acknowledged.

ALVAH JAMES.

Alvah James is numbered among the capitalists of Piatt county and makes his home in Mansfield. He is one of the typical citizens of the Mississippi valley—men of enterprise, of keen sagacity and strong force of character, who have developed this wonderful section of the country in a manner that has made its transformation almost phenomenal. He started out in life for himself as a school-teacher on a small salary, has also worked as a farm hand, and to-day he stands among the most prosperous residents of this portion of the state, having important landed and financial interests, while at the same time he is well known as a dealer in grain and beef cattle. The extent and volume of his business has made him widely known far beyond the confines of this locality, and his business operations have been so capably conducted that they have returned to him gratifying success.

Alvah James was born in Lucas county, Iowa, on the 21st of November, 1855, a son of Ezra and Susanna (Murray) James. The parents were natives of Ohio, were married there, and in 1852 removed westward, becoming residents of Lucas county, Iowa. The father entered land from the government and became a well-to-do citizen of that locality. In 1867 he removed to Marion

county, Iowa, where he spent his remaining days, his death occurring in 1886, when he was sixty-two years of age. His wife died in 1891, at the age of sixty-six years. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom the subject of this review is the sixth in order of birth. Nine are yet living, but he is the only one who resides in Piatt county.

In the common schools of Lucas and Marion counties, Iowa, Alvah James acquired his preliminary education and afterward attended the University of Indiana, at Valparaiso, where he pursued a literary course. After finishing his education he taught school for three terms, one in Porter county, Indiana, one in Marion county, Iowa, and the third in Champaign county, Illinois. In 1880 he came to Piatt county, Illinois, and worked by the month for an uncle, receiving three hundred dollars for the year's service. He then resolved to engage in farming on his own account, and rented three hundred acres of land. Through his untiring industry and careful management he was enabled to gain a start, and with the money acquired through his own labors he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land. His farming and stock-dealing interests have been carried on extensively. He is now the owner of one hundred and twenty acres in Douglass county, Illinois, ninety acres in Ohio, five acres in Champaign county, twenty-five lots in Roseville, Ohio, and three hundred and twenty acres in Piatt county, Illinois. He resided upon his farm in Blue Ridge township, Piatt county, until 1894, when he removed to Mansfield, Illinois. There he remained for two years, during which time he was engaged in the hardware business. He then returned to the farm and came again to Mansfield in 1902. In the meantime he had engaged extensively in dealing in stock and had found this a profitable source of income. For several years he was engaged in handling sheep, and during the last few years he has been interested in beef cattle, shipping to Chicago. His purchases and sales are extensive, and the annual financial return from this department of his business materially increases his income. Mr. James also has other business interests, and is a man of resourceful ability, alert and energetic. He is a director and the vice-president of the State Bank of Mansfield; is a stockholder in the old Citizens' National Bank of Zanesville, Ohio, and is a director of the Howard Grain Elevator and Mercantile Company of Howard, Illinois. Thus his interests are of a varied and important nature, and have been important factors in promoting the prosperity of the communities in which they are located by advancing commercial activity.

On the 20th of December, 1882, Mr. James was united in marriage to Miss Mattie Webb, a native of Piatt county, and a daughter of Preston Webb, a retired farmer living in Mansfield. Unto him and his wife have been born five children: Birdie, Clarence, Phebe, and Sybil and Herbert, twins, but Herbert died on the 9th of August, 1902, at the age of five years. Mrs. James is a member of the Baptist church and Mr. James belongs to Mansfield Camp, M. W. A. In politics he is a Republican, and while he keeps well informed on the issues of the day, he has never sought or desired office, preferring to give his time and attention to his business affairs, in which he has met with signal success. Intricate business problems he readily masters, and his judgment is seldom, if ever, at fault in regard to business matters. There is, perhaps, no history in this volume which more clearly illustrates the force of industry and integrity in the affairs

of life than does that of Mr. James. He is distinctively a self-made man, and has every reason to be proud of what he has accomplished, and yet he has never allowed the accumulation of wealth to in any way affect his actions to those less fortunate than himself. His is an honorable career of a successful man, and one who well deserves mention in this volume as a leading and representative citizen of Piatt county.

JOHN V. VAN SYCKEL.

John V. Van Syckel, who carries on general farming on section 21, Blue Ridge township, was born on the 3d of August, 1836, in New Jersey, a son of William and Charity (Smith) Van Syckel. The maternal grandfather of our subject was Major Smith, a soldier of the war of 1812, serving as major-general during the war and afterward as drill master, as the American soldiers kept drilling in fear that the British would make another attempt to subdue the colonists. William Van Syckel resided in Hunterdon county, New Jersey, where he carried on the occupation of farming and also engaged in the operation of some mills. His last days were spent in Illinois, his death occurring in Fulton county, while his wife died in McLean county, this state. He had several brothers and sisters who lived in New York city, but are now deceased. A brother of our subject, Abraham S. Van Syckel, was a drill master in the Civil war. One night he relieved a friend who was to go on picket duty, and during that night while he was on the watch he was shot and killed.

John V. Van Syckel, of this review, spent the days of his boyhood and youth in the east and started out in life for himself at the age of twenty-one years. At an early day he acted as head distiller in a distillery owned by his father and uncle in New Jersey, who carried on a more extensive business than any other firm in that line in the locality. Our subject has himself never taken a glass of whiskey, simply for the sake of enjoying the drink. For two years during his residence in the east he worked upon his father's farm and was then given a team of horses in compensation for his labors. He afterward rented land and engaged in farming for himself, continuing the operation of the leased tract for six years. Coming to the west he lived for thirteen years in Fulton county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming on his own account for three years, and then purchased eighty acres of land in Piatt county, for thirty dollars per acre. Later he bought one hundred acres more and afterward he sold this and purchased land on which he now resides. His farm comprises a half section, and the land is as rich and valuable as any in Piatt county. Mr. Van Syckel has made all of the improvements there, and now has a well equipped farm. He has paid considerable attention to stock-raising, making a specialty of the raising of hogs, and he has always endeavored to keep a breed that he thought would make the most money for the farmer rather than a fancy breed. He sold thirty-three male hogs in one year at fifteen dollars each. Mr. Van Syckel is eminently practical in all he does, and thus his methods in the conduct of his farm as well as in the discharge of his duties of citizenship have been of the greatest benefit.

At the time of the Civil war Mr. Van Syckel endeavored to join the army. He enlisted and went to Peoria for drill, but failed to pass examination there. In other ways, however, he gave his loyal support to the Union cause, and his efforts in behalf of the

community have been far-reaching and helpful. He and his father each gave one hundred dollars toward bounty for the One Hundred and Third Illinois Infantry, which was the means of keeping the draft for soldiers out of Fulton county.

In 1864 Mr. Van Syckel was united in marriage to Miss Emeline Hunt, a daughter of Richard Hunt, of Fulton county. This union has been blessed with one child, George Edmund, who married Lila DeGrofft and now resides upon his father's farm. They had three children. In his political views Mr. Van Syckel is a stalwart Republican, but has never sought or desired office, preferring to give his entire time and attention to his business affairs. He is energetic, wideawake and progressive, and has been the architect of his own fortunes, building wisely and well in this respect. He was school trustee for twelve years and refused to longer serve.

JAMES PONDER.

With the agricultural interests of Piatt county James Ponder has been identified from boyhood, and in his chosen field of labor he has met with remarkable success, so that he is to-day numbered among the most prosperous farmers in his locality, as well as one of the prominent citizens of Unity township. His home is on section 19. He was born in Washington county, Tennessee, June 5, 1852, and is a son of J. P. and Matilda (Radford) Ponder, both natives of North Carolina, from which state they removed to Tennessee and later to Kentucky. In 1864 they came to Illinois and took up their residence in Piatt county, where the father purchased a tract of raw prairie land. Wild game was then abundant and furnished many a meal to the early settlers, and most of the land was uncultivated and full of sloughs. Mr. Ponder drained his forty-acre tract in Unity township and soon had it under cultivation. On his retirement from farm work he removed to Hammond, Illinois, where he died in 1882, at the age of seventy-four years, and his wife passed away near that place January 28, 1901, at the same age. They were the parents of seven children, six of whom are yet living, namely: Mrs. Sophrona Jane Franklin, a resident of Colorado; Valanchie K., the wife of J. T. Edmondson, of Pierson Station, Piatt county; James, of this review; J. R., a resident of Hammond; Delitha, wife of J. R. Mitchell, whose home is near Hammond; and Cena, wife of J. B. Fisher, of Pierson Station.

James Ponder was about twelve years of age when he came with his parents to this county, and although his literary education was limited, he gained an excellent knowledge of all the pursuits which fall to the lot of the agriculturist. At the age of twenty-two years he started out in life for himself, operating rented land in Unity township for three years, but since that time he has been engaged in the cultivation of his own property. So successful has he been in his farming operation that he is to-day the owner of some valuable property, comprising three hundred and twenty acres of land on section 18, Unity township; two hundred and forty acres on section 19; and one hundred and sixty acres on section 31, making seven hundred and twenty acres in Unity township, besides a twenty-acre tract in Moultrie county, Illinois.

In 1882 Mr. Ponder was united in marriage to Miss Lucretia Bryson, who was born

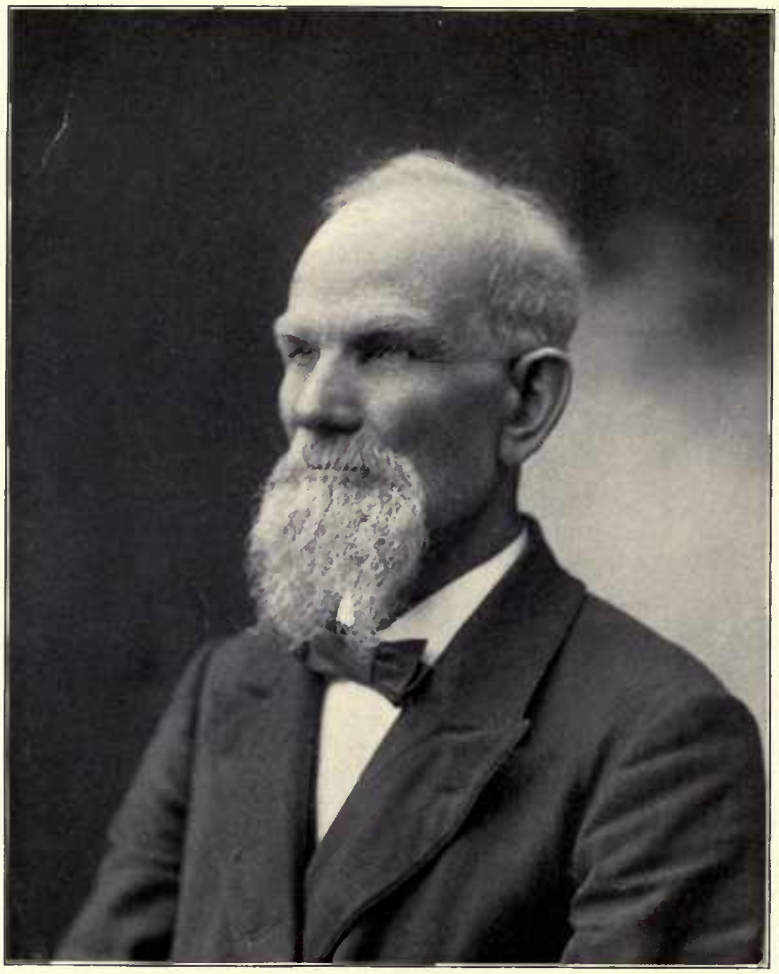
in this county in 1856, her parents, Samuel and Mary Bryson, having located here in 1850 among the pioneers. Five children bless this union: Ethel M., Walter S., Leslie J., Eva B. and John. Mr. Ponder had the misfortune to meet with an accident February 23, 1903, by his horse falling with him. As his foot was caught under the horse his leg was broken and his ankle sprained. Religiously, he is a member of the Baptist church at Pierson Station, while his wife belongs to the New Light church, and they receive and merit the high regard of the entire community. Mr. Ponder is a man of recognized ability and sterling worth, and as a citizen ever stands ready to discharge any duty devolving upon him.

JAMES M. SMITH.

One of the most progressive and energetic farmers of Willow Branch township is James M. Smith, who is now succesfully operating the old homestead on section 16, where the greater part of his life has been passed. He was born, however, near Middletown, Pennsylvania, April 24, 1855, a son of Colonel Jacob and Nancy L. (Shenk) Smith. The ancestral line of the Smith family in America can be traced back to a period antedating the Revolutionary war and the great-grandfathers of our subject on both sides took part in that struggle and were homesteaders in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania. Jacob Smith, the paternal great-grandfather, remained in the army for seven long years, fighting for the independence of the colonies. His son, Henry Smith, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, and was of English and German descent.

Colonel Jacob Smith, the father, was also a native of Dauphin county, born April 4, 1817, and died on the 11th of March, 1898. He was first married December 30, 1835, to Mary Nisley, who died April 25, 1847. Four children blessed that union, namely: Fannie; Martin N.; Henry Augustus, who married Margaret Brightbill; and Catharine A., wife of John Diller, a resident of Nebraska. Colonel Smith was again married, his second union being with Maria Zimmerman, February 8, 1848, but she died June 22, 1849, and their only child, Fannie Maria, died in infancy. On the 22d of October, 1850, the Colonel was united in marriage to Nancy L. Shenk, who was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, December 25, 1820, and is still living, making her home in Monticello, Illinois. Her father, Michael Shenk, was also a native of the Keystone state, and of German descent. By his third marriage, Colonel Smith had four children: John George Washington, who was born July 31, 1851, and died May 20, 1887, after having engaged in teaching school for many years; James M., of this review; Mary Elizabeth, who was born December 15, 1856, and makes her home with her mother in Monticello; and William P., whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume.

In 1857 the father came with his family direct from Dauphin county, Pennsylvania to Piatt county, Illinois, having acquaintances here, and he became prominently identified with the early development and improvement of this section of the state. He purchased a farm in Willow Branch township, for which he paid fifteen dollars per acre, that being considered a high price at that time, as the land was still in its primitive condition and for twenty-five miles to the northwest all was wild prairie. He is



H. H. GILMORE



MRS. H. H. GILMORE



JAMES M. SMITH



JACOB SMITH



MRS. NANCY SMITH

believed to have owned the first sawmill ever erected in Piatt county, having shipped the machinery from Philadelphia, and he also purchased the first piano brought here, it being of the Phelps & Wiley manufacture, and the first sewing machine, which was of the Grover & Baker make. All of his farm machinery he bought in Chicago at that early day, and for his first clover seed he paid fifteen dollars per bushel. Colonel Smith was a very progressive and public-spirited man, and headed the list with his signature for the right-of-way for the Champaign & Decatur branch of the Illinois Central Railroad. He was also one among the few who fought the signing of the bonds for railroad tax, which saved the township many thousand of dollars. He was a most pronounced Republican in politics and kept well informed on the issues of the day, being able to support his position by intelligent argument. In early life he commanded a regiment of state militia and served as colonel on the staff of Governor Pollock, of Pennsylvania. His life was busy, useful and honorable, and he commanded respect wherever known. In 1882 he left the farm and removed to Monticello, where he spent his remaining days in retirement from active labor. His widow still makes her home in that city. She has a coverlet which she made herself in 1840, shearing the sheep, carding the wool, dyeing it and then sending it to Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, to be woven. Besides this highly prized relic of early days the family have a clock which is about two hundred years old and is seven feet in height.

It was during his infancy that James M. Smith was brought by his parents to Piatt county, and he has witnessed almost the entire growth and development of this region. He well remembers when there were but few frame buildings throughout the county, the houses being built mainly of logs. During his boyhood he received a good common-school education and became thoroughly familiar with all kinds of farm work. Leaving home in 1878, he went to Nebraska, where he spent one year and then returned to the old homestead, but in 1881 he removed to Iowa, where the following two years were passed as clerk in a general store. He was next engaged in the music business with his brother at Monticello for three years, and later was employed as clerk in the clothing store of N. E. Rhoades & Son, and also Sackriter & Ormsby, at that place. In 1890 he took charge of the home farm, being overseer of the estate which is still undivided, and in 1895, he took up his residence thereon. He has since made many improvements on the place in the way of tiling, fencing, clearing and breaking the land, which is today under a high state of cultivation, owing to his untiring labors and excellent management. His principal crops are corn, oats, hay and rye, and he has made a specialty of the raising of potatoes, principally for seed. He has engaged in this business on quite an extensive scale, and thus solved the problem that has so long puzzled the people here—how to secure a good crop of potatoes.

In February, 1896, Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Mattie Keene, a daughter of William and Louisa Keene, of Clay county, Illinois, and to them has been born one child, Wayne K., now three years old. Mr. Smith is insured in the Fraternal Order of America, and is also a member of Selah Lodge, No. 403, I. O. O. F. Politically, he is a strong Republican, and takes quite an active interest in local politics, usually serving as delegate to all county conventions, and as a delegate to the state convention two

years ago. He is a recognized leader of the party in his community, and is widely and favorably known.

JOSHUA O. BATEMAN.

Joshua O. Bateman, who is engaged in the raising of grain and stock on section 24, Blue Ridge township, was born on the 13th of June, 1851, in New London county, Canada, his parents being John S. and Elizabeth (Morgan) Bateman. The father was a native of County Cork, Ireland, and after emigrating to Canada carried on agricultural pursuits there. He rented a tract of land in that country upon his arrival there and through its cultivation provided for the needs and wants of his family. Joshua O. Bateman, of this review, is the youngest of the six children of the family, the others being Samuel, John Wesley, Benjamin, Jane and Matilda. After living in Canada for a number of years the father brought his family to Logan county, Illinois, arriving in the year 1866. He then again rented a tract of land, and in about four years removed to Piatt county.

Joshua O. Bateman accompanied his parents to the United States, and in 1872 he began farming on his own account. After his father's death he and his brothers took possession of the old home place, and together they conducted the farm for about four years. On the expiration of that time the place was sold and the money divided equally among the children.

After the partnership between the brothers was dissolved Joshua O. Bateman purchased a tract of land of eighty acres, about 1884. He then engaged in its cultivation and improvement, and also rented a tract of land which he operated, while his sister acted as his housekeeper. Later, however, he was married, Miss Minnie, a daughter of Marcus and Mary Walker, becoming his wife. Their marriage was celebrated on the 4th of February, 1885, and they have become the parents of five children: Lora, who was born September 11, 1887; Roy, born March 23, 1889; Tessa, who was born April 22, 1891; one, who was born June 20, 1894, and died in infancy; and Elsie, born on the 23d of April, 1896.

Mr. Bateman sold his first eighty acres of land in Blue Ridge township and bought another farm in the same township, comprising one hundred and ninety acres, becoming owner of this tract on the 1st of September, 1890. He paid fifty dollars per acre for it, and, with characteristic energy, began its development and cultivation. On the 1st of January, 1903, he made another purchase, this time paying one hundred and twenty-eight dollars per acre for a tract of one hundred and fifty-six acres, making altogether three hundred and forty-six acres in Blue Ridge township which he owns. Of this, three hundred and twenty acres are on section 24, and the remainder on section 19.

Mr. Bateman obtained his early education in Logan county, Illinois, and some in Piatt county, and as the years have passed his knowledge has been broadened by practical experience, as well as observation and reading, and to-day he is a well-informed man, who is prospering in his business affairs and directing his efforts by intelligent judgment, so that his labors are bringing to him creditable success. In his political views he is a stalwart Republican, and has been offered several offices, but he would not accept, preferring to devote his time and energies to his

business affairs. He has engaged in the raising of stock and grain with excellent success. He belongs to Camp No. 9089, M. W. A., of Galesville, in which he carries three thousand dollars' insurance. He believes insurance is a splendid investment and that every man should thus provide for his family. Mr. Bateman's interest has always centered in his home, and he has put forth every effort to secure for his wife and children advantages which will make life pleasant for them and will promote their best interests. His business career has been active and honorable, and during the long years of his residence in Piatt county he has steadily worked his way upward until he now occupies a position on the plane of affluence.

R. B. MOODY.

In an analyzation of the life record of R. B. Moody we find that he has well earned and justly deserves the proud American title of a self-made man. He is now engaged in the manufacture of brick and tile in DeLand, and is one of the substantial citizens of this locality who started out in life for himself in a very humble capacity, receiving only six and a quarter cents per day for his services. His history proves conclusively what may be accomplished through strong purpose, unabating diligence and unfaltering perseverance, and such a record should serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others.

Mr. Moody came to Illinois from Ohio. A number of the substantial citizens of this portion of the state are natives of Ohio, and Mr. Moody's birth occurred in Mahoning county about five miles from the city of Youngstown, on the 30th of June, 1837. His parents, John and Martha (Hahn) Moody, were also natives of Ohio, and in their family were eight children, of whom the subject of this review is the third in order of birth.

In the common schools R. B. Moody acquired his education, but his privileges were somewhat limited, as the family was in limited financial circumstances, and it was necessary that he should aid in his own support. When he was very young he began driving a yoke of oxen to a plow, receiving six and a quarter cents per day for his labor, or the munificent salary of a quarter for four days' work. When fifteen years of age he was given only four dollars and a half per month, his duties being to milk fifteen cows night and morning and work in the fields the balance of the time. His youth was largely a period of toil, and his entire life has been one of unusual activity, which, however, has been crowned with a high degree of success.

He arrived in the west in 1855, locating in DeWitt county, Illinois, east of Wapello. There he began working as a farm hand, receiving seventeen dollars per month, and in this way he saved some money. When he had secured sufficient capital he began farming for himself, purchasing one hundred and twenty acres of land. In April, 1861, however, he put aside all business and personal consideration in order that he might aid his country in her struggle to preserve the Union. He had been an interested witness of the progress of events which led up to the Civil war, had noted the threatening attitude of the south, and resolved that if an attempt was made to overthrow the Union he would strike a blow in its defense. He, therefore, enlisted, April 20, 1861, as a member of Company E, Twentieth Illinois Infantry, un-

der Colonel C. C. Marsh, and was attached to the Seventeenth Army Corps under General Grant. Going to the front, he participated in the battles of Fredericksburg, Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh and others. He was wounded at the last named battle, and during the remainder of his time in the army served on detached duty, continuing with the Union troops, however, until the war closed. From 1864 until 1865 he worked for the government on special duty, and among all the soldiers who wore the blue uniform of the nation, none were more faithful to the old flag and the cause it represented. After the close of hostilities and his aid was no longer needed, Mr. Moody returned to DeWitt county, Illinois, where he began farming, there making his home until after his marriage.

On the 4th of March, 1868, he was joined in wedlock to Miss Rumina Hassinger, of Ohio. The young couple removed to Sangamon township, Piatt county, where Mr. Moody carried on general farming until 1869, at which time they took up their abode in Goose Creek township, there living until 1873. In that year, in company with John Vail, Mr. Moody erected a store building, which was the first built in DeLand. For two years he engaged in merchandising there, and for some time followed the carpenter's trade in that place. He then built an elevator and was engaged in the grain business for fifteen years, during which time he annually handled many thousands of bushels of grain, carrying on a business that was of benefit to the locality, as well as a source of income to himself, for it furnished a market to the producers. In 1889 Mr. Moody sold out to the firm of Tyler & Company, of Chicago. In the meantime he had become interested in other business enterprises of this locality, having in 1885 purchased a third interest in the tile factory. In 1887 he purchased another third interest, and in 1889, after closing out his grain business, he became sole proprietor, and his since engaged in the manufacture of brick and tile. He has a plant that is well equipped with the latest improved machinery, and the product of his factory is of such excellent quality that he finds for it a ready sale on the market, His identification with business interests also extends to the financial affairs of the county, for he is a stockholder in the First National Bank of DeLand.

Mr. and Mrs. Moody have had no children of their own, but have displayed great kindness of heart and sympathetic natures by rearing eight children. These are James W. Moody, now of DeLand; D. B. Troxell, who is now postmaster of DeLand; Rumina Troxell, who died when twenty-four years of age; Bruce Clemons, who resides near Fort Madison, Iowa; Pearl Clemons, the wife of L. C. Dick, a resident of Port Arthur, Texas; Grace Jones, who died at the age of ten years; Eva Moody, whose name was Eda Carroll, and who lived in Chicago, but for a number of years has resided with her foster-parents and is now attending school in DeLand; and Lawrence Dawson, who is also with our subject and his wife.

This worthy couple are consistent, loyal and active members of the Methodist Episcopal church and their Christianity is certainly shown in their kind and generous treatment of the little ones whom they have brought to their home and cared for, preparing them for life's practical and responsible duties. Mr. Moody has served as recording steward of his church for a number of years, is most generous in his contribution to its support and is active in the various depart-

ments of the church work. Fraternally, he is connected with DeLand Lodge, No. 812, F. & A. M.; Chapter No. 48, R. A. M.; and Urbana Commandery, No. 16, K. T. He is past master of the lodge here and is recognized as one of the exemplary representatives of the craft. In politics he has always been a stalwart Republican, and his close study of the political issues has made his knowledge concerning politics broad, thorough and comprehensive. He has served continually since 1876, except four years, as justice of the peace, and has been school treasurer since 1875. His loyalty in citizenship, his honesty in business and his trustworthiness in private life stand as unquestioned facts in his career, making him one of the most honored and esteemed men connected with agricultural, industrial and financial interests, as well as public affairs in Piatt county.

GEORGE W. BAKER.

George W. Baker, who is now deceased, was a resident farmer of Blue Ridge township and lived on section 13. He was born in 1852 in Darke county, Ohio, and died in Piatt county in 1897, leaving to his family the record of an upright life. He was a son of Jonathan and Sarah Baker, and acquired his early education in the schools of Darke county, Ohio. He was thrown upon his own resources when only fourteen years of age, and from that time forward earned his living and gained through his own labors all that he possessed. He first worked by the month as a farm hand in Ohio until he was twenty-two years of age. He then came to Piatt county, where he was employed for three or four hours as a farm hand, after which he resolved to engage in farming on his own account, and rented land for four or five years. Thus with the capital he had acquired through his own industry, economy and perseverance he purchased land in Piatt county, upon which he lived up to the time of his death. His farm comprised one hundred and sixty acres and the soil was rich and arable, returning to him good harvests. He built a barn and made other improvements from year to year, and successfully carried on his labors until he was the possessor of a comfortable competence that enabled him to leave his family in good financial circumstances. He first gave his attention to the raising of grain, but after a time he began raising stock and gradually increased in this because he found it a lucrative business. He made a specialty of the raising of beef cattle and of hogs, and his annual sales were large and profitable.

In the year 1880 Mr. Baker was united in marriage to Miss Mary Leach, a daughter of William Leach, of Mansfield. She was born in 1857 in Grundy county, Illinois, and came to Mansfield with her parents, who lived upon a farm until the time of their daughter's marriage. It was in her home there that Mary H. gave her hand in wedlock to George W. Baker. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Baker was born but one child, Millie Jane, who is now the wife of Wallace Walk, by whom she has two children, Verna Belle and Clifford Clayton, the former born July 1901; and the latter February 19, 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Walk reside upon Mrs. Baker's farm and keep house for her.

Mr. Baker was a member of the Methodist church at Mansfield, with which his widow is still connected. In his political views he was a Prohibitionist and was serving as a school director at the time of his death. He

took a deep interest in the cause of temperance and in all the movements for the welfare and betterment of humanity. He was a great church worker, indefatigable in his efforts to promote the cause of Christianity. He served as one of the trustees of the church, labored untiringly for the Sunday-school, and was frequently superintendent of the school or one of its teachers. His entire life was in harmony with his professions as a member of the church, and his name was a synonym for honor and integrity in all business transactions. He was long a citizen who enjoyed the highest respect and confidence of his fellow men, and he left to his family not only a good property, but also the priceless heritage of an untarnished name.

GEORGE DE LAND.

George DeLand, who is engaged in the cultivation of small fruits for the city markets and at present rural mail-carrier, and has his home in White Heath, has passed the Psalmist's span of three score years and ten, but is still an active factor in business circles, and his career should put to shame many a man of much younger years who would relegate to others the burdens that he should bear.

Mr. DeLand is a native of Rutland, Rutland county, Vermont, his birth having there occurred on the 19th of October, 1832. The same city was also the birthplace of his parents, Squire and Hannah (Butler) DeLand, the former born on the 19th of December, 1788, and the latter on the 27th of August, 1794. The father of our subject pursued a common-school education in Rutland and then entered upon his business career there as a wagonmaker, following the trade continuously until he left Vermont in the fall of 1837. He removed to Union county, Ohio, and then turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, and purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which he successfully operated until his life's labors were ended in death on the 22d of April, 1858. It was on the 14th of December, 1809, that he had wedded Hannah Butler, and unto them were born nine children: Amy M., who was born August 22, 1810, became the wife of Philip S. Fay, and died May 4, 1864; Harriet A., born August 15, 1813, married Jonathan Reynolds and died about 1860. Lucy M., born November 6, 1815, became the wife of John Stooks, and departed this life March 10, 1888; Mariette, born February 9, 1818, is the wife of Michael Sager, and resides upon a farm in Union county, Ohio. James, born August 31, 1821, was married October 20, 1842, to Emily Abbott, and died May 11, 1896. It was in his honor that the town of DeLand was named, and he took the contract for the building of the Champaign & Havana branch of the Illinois Central Railroad which ran through that place. Charles, born September 3, 1823, was married April 7, 1846, to Elizabeth A. Eaton, of Madison county, Ohio. He is now a retired farmer of Wymore, Nebraska. Edward, born February 11, 1827, married Elizabeth McCloud on the 5th of July, 1853, and is now assistant secretary of the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company of Sioux City, Iowa. Hannah, born April 29, 1831, was married October 12, 1848, to Ross Mitchell. She is now a widow and she and her children reside with her brother, George, who completes the family.

In one of the old log schoolhouses of Ohio, seated with slab benches and supplied

with other primitive furnishings, George DeLand pursued his education through three months of the winter term. In the summer seasons his attention was given to the farm work, and he gave his father the benefit of his assistance until he had attained his majority. In the meantime, however, he taught school for three winter seasons. In early manhood he was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Ellen A. Converse, and the wedding took place November 3, 1853. She is a daughter of Darius and Lois M. (Smith) Converse. On leaving her parents' home, she went to the home of her husband upon a rented farm near Plain City, Ohio, where he lived for about seven years, carrying on agricultural pursuits in a successful manner.

He then turned his attention to merchandising in Chuchery, Union county, Ohio, in 1860, and was thus engaged until the outbreak of the Civil war, when in response to his country's call he joined the army, enlisting on the 16th of August, 1862, as a member of Company I, One Hundred and Thirty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He participated in the battle of Champion Hill and Perryville on the 8th of October, 1862; the battle of Chickamauga, September 20, 1863; Lookout Mountain, November 20, 1863, and the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, on the 22d of June, 1864. In the engagement at Chickamauga he was wounded in the back and side, and for two months lay in the hospital. He then returned to the army just in time to participate in the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, where he was again wounded. He was first struck in the leg and, while trying to stop the flow of blood from that wound, he was again struck by rebel lead, this time in the shoulder. The injuries there sustained were the cause of his discharge on the 24th of February, 1865. Being unable for further field duty he was mustered out at Columbus, Ohio, and for two years after returning to his home he was unable to walk save with the aid of crutches. For a long period his health was so impaired that he could not work, but ultimately he obtained a position in a railroad office at Union City, Indiana, where he remained for two years.

On the expiration of that period Mr. De Land rented a tract of land near Union City, where he resided until 1881, when he came to White Heath, Piatt county, Illinois. Here he erected a store building and stocked it with a general line of goods, carrying on the business for two years. His store was then destroyed by fire, after which he purchased two blocks of ground in 1885, and began raising small fruits. He has since followed this pursuit, and the products of his place find a ready sale upon the market because he has so effectively labored to raise fruits of superior size and flavor. In addition to this work he carries the mail on the rural route from White Heath, and though now seventy-one years of age, is covering twenty-eight miles daily in this work, having performed this service for the past two years.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. DeLand have been born five children: Linda, born June 26, 1855, died October 17, 1859; Ernest, who was born February 2, 1857, was married February 4, 1877, to Mary E. Alexander, and died August 7, 1896, while his widow is now living in White Heath; Edward R., born March 5, 1862, was married August 10, 1883, to Etta Teats, and is now telegraph operator on the Illinois Central Railroad at Maroa, Illinois; Lola M., born June 9, 1867, is the wife of B. R. White, one of the most successful farmers of Piatt county; Earl,

born May 8, 1878, was married February 23, 1901, to Minnie Perry, and they are now living with his father in White Heath.

In his political views Mr. DeLand is a stalwart Republican, unfaltering in support of the principles of the party, and he is now serving as town clerk and also owns the township right on the White self-operating farm gate, handling the same throughout Sangamon township. George DeLand, the father, votes with the Republican party, and for some time has been notary public, while for twelve years he has filled the position of justice of the peace. About eighteen years ago he built the house in which he now lives, it being one of the pleasant homes of White Heath. He and his family are all members of the Universalist church, and he belongs to Franklin Post, No. 256, G. A. R., of Monticello. In days of peace he is as loyal to the old flag as he was when he followed it upon the southern battle-fields, and in matters of citizenship he is ever public-spirited and progressive, taking a deep and helpful interest in whatever pertains to the general progress and improvement.

HENRY H. GILMORE.

Henry H. Gilmore, a practical and enterprising farmer residing on section 32, Goose Creek township, owns and operates four hundred and eighty acres of land in this county, constituting one of the valuable and highly improved farms in this locality. His possessions have been acquired through his own efforts and as the result of his consecutive endeavor he has won a place among the substantial citizens of his adopted county. He claims Illinois as his native state, for he was born near Canton on the 5th of October, 1840.

His father, William Gilmore, was born in Pennsylvania, in 1782, and during boyhood, removed with his parents to Pickaway county, Ohio, where, after reaching man's estate, he was married to Miss Addie Vandolah. He followed farming there until 1836, when he came to Illinois and took up his residence in McLean county, where he engaged in the same occupation for two years. His next home was near Canton, where he purchased two hundred acres of land, and continued to operate that place up to within a few years of his death, which occurred on the 10th of November, 1870. When this farm came into his possession it was all wild and unimproved, but he transformed it into a highly cultivated and very desirable place. He served in the war of 1812, under the command of General Harrison, and was ever a patriotic and loyal citizen, devoted to the best interests of his country. His first wife died about eight years after their marriage, leaving three children, namely: James, who died in 1877; Sarah Ann, who died in 1882; and Amanda, who died in 1880. About 1820 he wedded Jane Pinkerton, by whom he had one child, Ada Jane, now the widow of David Bennett and a resident of Oregon. This wife survived the birth of her daughter only a short time, and for his third wife Mr. Gilmore married Sophia P. White in 1835, and to them were born four children, as follows: Eliza, who died in infancy; William Milton, now a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska; Henry H., of this sketch; and Elizabeth M., who died in 1887.

The primary education of our subject was obtained in subscription schools, but in 1850 he commenced attending a free school —the first in this part of the country, and in

1859 he entered Lombard University at Galesburg, Illinois. After his graduation he entered upon the more practical duties of business life as a farmer upon rented land, his property at that time consisting of only one team, but he met with success in this undertaking, and in a short time had put himself on a firm footing, being able to have all the teams necessary and everything required to carry on his farming operations. He lived economically, was careful and painstaking, and worked incessantly, almost day and night, never losing an opportunity to make an honest dollar. After six or seven years had passed, he was able in this way to purchase three hundred and twenty acres of land on section 32, Goose Creek township, Piatt county, which he has farmed almost continuously since. From 1872 until 1879, however, he was obliged to part with the same during the panic at that time, but in 1880 he bought it back and has since added to it until he now has four hundred and eighty acres, besides a sixty-acre tract in Fulton county, and considerable city property in Canton, Illinois. He is also a stockholder and director of both the First National Bank of Farmer City and the State Bank of DeLand, and is numbered among the wealthiest farmers of Piatt county. When his present farm came into his possession it was in a wild state, not a furrow having been turned, or an improvement made thereon, but he soon broke the land, erected a good residence and several barns, and has since built another house. He has also expended several thousand dollars in tiling and draining the land, has divided the farm into fields of forty or eighty acres by well-kept fences, and has set out orchards, a new one being three acres in extent, and to-day he has one of the most valuable, well-cultivated and highly improved places in this part of the state.

At Canton, Illinois, in 1870, Mr. Gilmore led to the marriage altar Miss Mary Jane Chambers, a daughter of Rev. John R. Chambers, a Methodist Episcopal minister, who died in Hamilton county, Illinois, about thirteen years ago. Six children were born of this union, namely: Arthur B. and Francis, both of whom died in infancy; Charles, who married Othela Spratt and is engaged in farming in Goose Creek township; Ora Raymond, who was drowned when about one year old; Bertha, who was born July 2, 1893, and is with her parents; and Estella M., who died at the age of one year. While the son, Charles Gilmore, was taking part in a charivari at the home of Daniel Horsh, an accident occurred, the blame of which fell upon him. The matter was brought up in the courts in 1900, where jugment was rendered against him for fifteen hundred dollars, and this was afterward affirmed by the appelate court, but when carried into the supreme court by the state the decision was reversed and the son's name was cleared of disgrace, the other parties being beaten on the entire three points of the law. The suit cost our subject over three thousand dollars, but he has never regretted the money thus expended.

In his political views Mr. Gilmore is a pronounced Republican, and he has been called upon to serve his fellow citizens as school director twelve years, school trustee the same length of time, and also as road overseer. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are people of prominence in the community where they reside. Mr. Gilmore is a man of recognized ability, and his success in life is due entirely to his own well-directed efforts and capable management. He is widely and favorably known throughout this section of the state, and deserves prominent mention among

the leading and representative citizens of his adopted county.

C. H. ASHMORE.

C. H. Ashmore, who is residing on section 36, Blue Ridge township, was born in New Jersey, on the 23d of January, 1848, and is a son of Jabez and Keziah (Reeder) Ashmore, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, having been born in Bucks county. After their marriage they removed to Trenton, New Jersey, and settled in Mercer county, where the subject of this review was born. Jabez Ashmore was a blacksmith by trade and followed that pursuit for a long period. When the son, C. H. Ashmore, was two or three years of age, he removed with his family to Lena, Miami county, Ohio, where he established a blacksmith shop and carried on business for a time. He afterward removed to Plattsville, Shelby county, Ohio, where he made his home for six years and then passed away at the age of thirty-five. His widow still survives him at the age of seventy-eight years, and has always remained true to his memory. This worthy couple were the parents of six children, four of whom are yet living, but none reside in Piatt county save the subject of this review.

C. H. Ashmore attended the schools of Shelby county, Ohio, for a time, and after the death of his father the mother removed with her family to Fletcher, Miami county, Ohio, where the son completed his education, his knowledge, however, being more largely acquired through reading and observation in later years than through mental discipline in the schoolroom. The first school which he attended was an old log building seated with slab benches and with a puncheon floor. Around the wall was a writing desk nailed to the logs. The first teacher was a Mr. Heat, who is yet living at the advanced age of about ninety years. After completing his education Mr. Ashmore began working, starting out for himself when eleven years of age as a farm hand. The first six years he was bound out, receiving no compensation for his labors but his board and clothing, and the latter was of a very poor quality. The first wages he ever earned was twenty-five dollars a month, a high price for those days. He was industrious and energetic, however, and as the years passed he added to the sum of money which he was enabled to save in his early years. In November, 1865, he came to the west, going first to Secor, Woodford county, Illinois, where he remained until the winter of 1878-9. During this period he worked as a farm hand for twenty dollars per month, and later he operated a ditching machine for a number of years. In 1871 he began farming and rented land in Roanoke township, Woodford county, where he purchased forty acres, this being the first land that he ever owned. In the latter part of December, 1878, he came to Piatt county, establishing his home in Blue Ridge township, after the first three months, which were passed in Champaign county. He then bought eighty acres of land in Blue Ridge township, which was unimproved with the exception of a little shanty which had been built thereon. He then planted all of the shade trees, as well as the orchard, has built a good house and substantial barns and outbuildings. His attention has been given to the raising of grain and stock.

On the 11th of March, 1869, Mr. Ashmore was united in marriage to Miss Bernice Jane Bullington, a resident of Eureka,

Woodford county, Illinois, and a daughter of Robert and Mary Bullington, who were early settlers of Woodford county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ashmore have been born three children: Ora, who married Miss Lydia E. Knupp, of Mansfield, Illinois, and has three children—Amy Fern, Leslie C., and Eulalia Ruth, the family home being in Blue Ridge township, where Ora is engaged in farming; Bertie Lewis, who died at the age of three years; and Carrie A., wife of S. E. Smith, of Sterling, Colorado.

Mr. and Mrs. Ashmore are consistent members of the Brethren church, and his political support is given the Democracy. He is now serving his twenty-first year as a school director, and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend who is deeply interested in the advancement of the schools and has done much for their progress. His career has been creditable and his success is the just reward of his capable management and unremitting labor. Starting out in life at the early age of eleven years, and since depending upon his own resources, he has steadily worked his way upward, overcoming all difficulties that have barred his path to the goal of success.

D. F. WYMAN.

D. F. Wyman is one of the more recent additions to the business circles of Mansfield, but during his residence here has given proof of his diligence and energy in the conduct of the lumberyard of which he is now the proprietor. Mr. Wyman was born in Essex county, New York, on the 9th of April, 1849, and is a son of Daniel and Anna (Phelps) Wyman, also natives of Essex county, the former born on the 6th of April, 1816, while the mother's birth occurred in Essex county, on the 6th of July, 1825. The father was a millwright by trade, and followed that pursuit for some time, but during the last twenty-five years of his business career engaged in milling.

To the public school system of Crown Point, New York, D. F. Wyman is indebted for the educational privileges which he received. He continued to reside in the east until 1883, when he came to the Mississippi valley, establishing his home in Iowa. He afterward removed to Nebraska in 1887, and there engaged in the lumber business, continuing in the trade there for three years. On the expiration of that period he went south, locating at Eagle Mills, Arkansas, where he became connected with the Eagle Lumber Company. For six years he was associated with that firm, and then severing his business connections in the south he came to Mansfield, Piatt county, Illinois, in order that his children might take advantage of the excellent school system of this city. Here he purchased the lumber business of W. D. Root and has since conducted his yard which is now equipped with a large stock of lumber and building materials. He has demononstrated his right to a share of the public patronage through honorable business methods and an earnest desire to please his patrons, and to-day he numbers among his customers many of the best citizens of Mansfield and the surrounding country.

On the 16th of October, 1872, Mr. Wyman was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Barnett, and unto them have been born four children, all of whom are yet living: Orin, who was born September 25, 1873, was graduated in the public schools of Davenport

Iowa, and is now assistant manager of the Eagle Lumber Company at Eagle Mills, Arkansas. Charles, who was born December 30, 1875, is a graduate of the schools of Crown Point, New York, and is now acceptably serving as bookkeeper for the Crossett Lumber Company of Crossett, Arkansas; Florence, born June 24, 1883, is yet with her parents. Wallace, born June 13, 1890, is now a student in the schools of Mansfield.

Mr. Wyman has just completed a beautiful home in Mansfield, one of the most attractive residences of the town. He holds membership in the Royal Circle and the American Home Circle, two fraternal insurance organizations, and his political support is given to the Republican party, for he has firm belief in its principles and its platform. He is now serving as one of the township trustees, and in public office is always loyal and true to the trust reposed in him. He belongs to the Methodist church, with which he has long been associated, and his religious faith is manifested in his upright life, his loyalty in citizenship, his trustworthiness in business and his fidelity in friendship.

PRESLEY B. WEBSTER.

Presley B. Webster, whose operations in farming have made him one of the successful men of Piatt county and the owner of a valuable tract of land of one hundred and fourteen acres near the postoffice of Lodge, was born on the 17th of May, 1855, at Centerville, Piatt county. He is a son of James and Mary (Enbanks) Webster. At an early day in the history of this section of the state the father came from Ohio to Piatt county and settled near Centerville on the Sangamon river, where he purchased a tract of land which was all raw prairie, not a furrow having been turned or an improvement made upon the place. He soon began to clear the land, however, and continued the work of cultivation and development until he had become the owner of a very fine farm. Later he purchased other tracts of timber land, cleared it of the trees and built thereon a good residence. For many years he carried on agricultural pursuits, but is now living retired in the village of Seymour, having reached the age of about seventy-seven years. His wife, however, has passed away. They were the parents of ten children, and with the exception of one son, all are yet living.

Reared under the parental roof, Presley B. Webster acquired his early education in the country schools of Piatt county, attending what was known as the Sangamon school. The little "temple of learning" was a log structure, supplied with slab benches and other primitive furniture. It was in this school that Mr. Webster mastered the primary branches of learning and later he continued his studies in the schools of Monticello. He spent much of his youth, however, upon the home farm, his training at the labor of the fields not being meager. He early became familiar with farm work in its various departments, and from the time of early spring planting until crops were harvested in the late autumn he assisted in the work of cultivation. With the excepion of one year spent in the postoffice at Monticello and two years at White Heath, he has devoted his entire life to agricultural pursuits. In the year 1884, with the money earned through his own labor, he purchased forty-two acres of land, for which he paid eleven hundred dollars. As time has passed and his financial resources have in-

creased, he has added to this property until he now owns one hundred and fourteen acres, valued at one hundred and thirty dollars per acre. His fine farm is the visible evidence of his life of industry and thrift, and he has today one of the valuable properties of Piatt county. Mr. Webster carries on general farming and stock-raising, and both branches of his business return to him a good income, because of his thorough understanding of his work and his keen sagacity. He makes a specialty of the breeding of Poland China hogs, and also of fancy poultry, raising Plymouth Rock chickens and turkeys. His energies, however, have not been confined entirely to the work of the farm in its various departments, for he is the owner of a store at Lodge and also of an elevator there. He is a man of excellent business capacity and executive force, readily comprehending intricate business situations and carrying forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

Mr. Webster has been twice married. When about twenty-four years of age he was joined in wedlock to Miss Ida F. Conklin, a native of Piatt county. Five children graced this marriage, namely: Amy, who died in infancy; Elmer; Maude; Laura, now deceased; and Carrie. In November, 1891, Mr. Webster was again married, his second union being with Miss Mamie Wolf, a native of Champaign county, but who has resided during the greater part of her life in Piatt county. Mr. and Mrs. Webster are well known, and the hospitality of many of the best homes in this portion of the state is freely accorded them.

Mr. Webster gives his political support to the Republican party, and always keeps well informed on the issues and questions of the day, thus being able to support his position by intelligent argument. For five years he held the office of assessor, but has preferred to give his time and attention to his business interests, in which he has met with very creditable and honorable success. He is ever true to the relations of the home, citizenship and of business life, and his many sterling traits of character have gained for him the warm regard of all with whom he has been associated. He is well known as one of the leading representatives of agricultural interests, and as such deserves representation in this volume.

FRED KERSTEN.

The farming interests of Piatt county are well represented by this gentleman who is now living on section 5, Blue Ridge township, where he owns and cultivates a good tract of land. The German element in our American citizenship has been an important one. It is of this class that Mr. Kersten is a representative and his life record has been so honorable and successful that it is creditable alike to the land of his birth and the land of his adoption.

Mr. Kersten was born in Germany on the 3d of November, 1840, and in that country his father carried on agricultural pursuits, spending his entire life there. Mr. Kersten of this review was reared and educated in the fatherland and remained there until twenty-eight years of age, when he crossed the Atlantic to the new world, landing at New York. He took passage on a westward bound sailing vessel, Shakespeare, and was twenty-eight days upon the water, encountering some severe storms, but eventually reached harbor in safety. He then went

to Cleveland, afterward to Chicago, and later to Bloomington, Illinois. He remained in the last named city for three years, following various pursuits during that period, including carpenter work and mason work. He is a man of marked industry, and idleness is utterly foreign to his nature. On his removal to Piatt county in 1872 he rented a tract of land belonging to General Mansfield and resided upon that farm for five years. He then rented the farm upon which he now lives for one year, and at the end of that time purchased the property. It contains ninety-eight acres of rich and productive land, for which he paid sixteen hundred and seventy-five dollars. It was not improved, however, when it came into his possession. He has set out all of the trees upon the place, and has made many excellent improvements of a substantial and beneficial character. He uses modern machinery to facilitate his farm work, and everything about his place is neat and thrifty in appearance.

On the 23d of February, 1874, Mr. Kersten was united in marriage to Miss Fredericka Spiehs, a native of Germany, who came to the United States in 1873 as a passenger on the Maine, which made the voyage in eleven days. Mr. and Mrs. Kersten are most worthy people and belong to the Evangelical Lutheran church. They take an active interest in the work, contribute generously to its support and do all in their power for its welfare.

In his political views Mr. Kersten is independent, voting for the man whom he thinks best qualified for office regardless of party affiliations. He is now practically living a retired life, having rented his farm to Carl Porter. While actively engaged in farming himself he raised grain, giving little attention to stock. When he came to Piatt county he then found a tract of wild prairie, for little of the land had been improved at that time, but as the years have passed time and man have wrought many changes, and to-day the rich soil of Piatt county is utilized for farming purposes and this district of the state has become one of the garden spots of the entire country. Mr. and Mrs. Kersten were schoolmates in childhood, and have now traveled life's journey together as man and wife for almost thirty years. They are well known in the community where they make their home, and it is with pleasure we present to our readers the record of their lives.

LEWIS J. COPE.

It is not often one sees the professions abandoned for an agricultural life, and yet an investigation of the conditions obtaining at this time in the industrial world warrants the belief that sound business judgment is evidenced by such a change. The gentleman whom the biographer introduces to the reader here qualified in pharmacy, but was led to abandon it after three years for the pursuit of agriculture in the belief that in it was a larger future outcome—a fact which his course has already sufficiently attested.

Lewis J. Cope comes from Buckeye stock, having been born in Smithfield, Ohio, in 1873, the son of William and Mary Cope, who now reside there. These parents, with their family, passed a considerable portion of the earlier part of their lives in Piatt county, and are remembered among the older settlers as pioneers in Blue Ridge township, where they opened the farm on which our subject now resides. Circumstances led them to re-

turn to the state of their birth, while the son continues the work of improvement which they initiated. The family which they reared consisted of three children, a brother of our subject, Charles, by name, living near by, while a sister, Ida M., married John Henderson and lives near the parents in Ohio.

Lewis J. Cope is the product of a cultured home and the best schools in the Buckeye state. After laying the ground work of his education in the graded schools, he graduated in the Smithfield high school. His further scholastic training was acquired in the Ohio Normal University, after which he matriculated at Scio College, and from which excellent institution he was graduated in pharmacy in the class of 1893. The following three years Mr. Cope passed in Wheeling, West Virginia, in the employ of a drug house. A trip of three months throughout the great west taken at this time changed his mind concerning the future, and he settled on his father's farm of two hundred and forty acres in Blue Ridge township. Here he found much to engage his attention, the farm being in a run-down condition. He proceeded at once to improve it, building a fine modern farm house at a cost of three thousand dollars, together with a commodious barn. Other improvements are in course of construction, and still others are contemplated. Mr. Cope and his brother together own four hundred and eighty acres in this county, and as an investment have lately purchased a section of Minnesota farming land.

The marriage of Mr. Cope was an event of June 19, 1895, on which day he led to the altar Miss Martha Isabelle, the accomplished daughter of William B. Adams, of Cadiz, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Cope enter into the social life of their community with intelligent zest and enthusiasm, and are leaders in every good cause. They are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Cope is a member of the Knights of Pythias, No. 634, of Mansfield, Illinois. The wide-awake and intelligent interest which these young people manifest in the welfare of their community has resulted in endearing them to a circle of friends and neighbors whose name is legion.

CHARLES C. COPE.

Charles Cope, brother of the above, is another of Piatt county's energetic young farmers. He cultivates a portion of the old homestead and is regarded as one of the county's best citizens. Charles was born in Smithfield, Ohio, in the year 1870. He also was given the advantage of scholastic training, after graduating from the high school taking a thorough course in the commercial department of Scio College. He then accepted a position with a firm of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and for five years was the trusted bookkeeper of that concern. In 1897 he concluded to begin an agricultural life and came to Piatt county, where he has since cultivated his father's farm. He has built a snug little cottage at a cost of a thousand dollars, and is demonstating the wisdom of his change of occupation. Mr. Cope takes an intelligent and active interest in affairs, votes the Republican ticket, and he and his wife are active members of the Presbyterian church. Prior to 1899 Mrs. Cope was Huldah Coomer. She is a Buckeye by birth, the daughter of William Coomer, of Mansfield, Ohio.

The current of life for the last half century has been largely toward the great cities

of the land. Young men have been tempted by the tinsel of city life to give up comfortable homes and a solid future, only to wake up late in life to the fact that "all is not gold that glitters." Were there more young men with the wisdom of Charles and Lewis Cope the cities would be unable to drain the country of its best blood. Their example is well worthy of emulation.

JOSEPH G. KILE.

In the history of Piatt county it is necessary that mention shall be made of Joseph G. Kile, else the record would not be complete, for he is numbered among its earliest settlers, having located here in 1844, when but a boy of eight years. Around the beautiful home which the father established stretched the broad prairie, over which one could ride for miles without coming to a fence or other evidence of settlement to impede his progress. The land was covered with its native prairie grasses and along the streams stood the timber as planted by the hand of nature. There were deer, turkeys and other wild game to be had in abundance, and farms could be purchased for a very low price, as there was not as great demand for the property as there is to-day. As the years have progressed Joseph G. Kile has become an active factor in agricultural circles, and has done his full share in reclaiming the wild land for the purposes of civilization.

Mr. Kile is a native of Pickaway county, Ohio, his birth having there occurred on the 20th of August, 1836. His father, Josiah Kile, was a native of the same state, and was a farmer by occupation. After arriving at years of maturity he wedded Miss Mary Clarke, who was born in New Jersey. In the year 1838, he brought his family to Illinois, establishing his home in Shelby county, where he rented a tract of land and in connection with its cultivation, he engaged in teaming to St. Louis in an early day. In 1844 he made his way to Piatt county, settling two miles west of Monticello, where he again leased a tract of land. In 1846, however, he made purchase of a farm of eighty acres in Macon county. This was all raw prairie on which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made, and he at once began its cultivation. He broke the fields, planted the seed, and in due course of time harvested good crops. He also built a log house upon the place and resided there for four years, after which he sold that property and again came to Piatt county. Here he rented land east of Monticello for two years, at the end of which time he again bought a farm in Macon county, there living from 1849 until 1883, when he was called to his final rest, passing away at the age of sixty-nine years. He lived a life in consistent harmony with his profession as a member of the Methodist church and took a very active interest in founding the Wesley Chapel at the edge of his farm. His wife, who survived him for some time, passed away at the age of seventy-three years, dying upon the farm of her son, Joseph G., about one mile from the old home place. She was a woman of deep religious nature, of earnest convictions and of unfaltering loyalty to the principles in which she believed. She, too, held membership in the Methodist church, and the influence of her life was a potent factor for good among those who knew her. By her marriage she became the mother of ten children, namely: Elizabeth, who is the wife of O. L. Stewart, a farmer residing in Ma-

con county; James, who died in 1855; Joseph G., of this review; John W., who is living in Humboldt, Kansas; Isaac W., who makes his home in Argenta, Macon county; Edward M. and Ezra M., who are located in Decatur; Mary, who is the wife of Irvin Dunbar, a farmer of Nebraska; Martha, who died when a child of three years; and Reuben A., who is also a farmer and makes his home in Missouri.

Mr. Kile's educational advantages were limited to two terms' attendance at a subscription school, but through experience, observation and reading in later life he has gained a good practical education that has enabled him to carefully conduct his business interests and to keep in touch with the thought and progress of the day. When only thirteen years of age he started out in life on his own account. He was a young boy to battle with the world, but it seemed necessary that he provide for his own support, and in his work he showed adaptability and perseverance. He began earning his own living by working as a farm hand at seven dollars per month, being employed in this way for three months. He then became connected with cattlemen, with whom he worked for four years, making many trips over the mountains to eastern markets. He made one trip to New York which required ninety-seven days. At the end of four years, however, he resumed farm work and was in the employ of friends up to the time of his marriage.

It was on the 10th of February, 1859, in Macon county, that Mr. Kile gained a companion and helpmate for life's journey, wedding Miss Elizabeth Carver, daughter of George Carver, who was one of the early settlers of Macon county. Three children were born of this marriage, but one died in infancy. Mary Samantha, the eldest, is now the wife of Charles Stucky, a resident of Cisco. Eliza Ann, the youngest member of the family, is the wife of Oliver Jones, who is now living in Macon county, where he follows farming.

At the time of his marriage Mr. Kile rented a tract of land in Macon county, upon which he lived for two years. He then purchased forty acres of land in that county, afterward added another tract of forty acres and four years later bought forty-five acres in the same locality. When seven years more had gone by he bought seventy acres in Piatt county, this being the first tract which he owned in the latter county. This was improved land, for which he paid fifty dollars per acre and after retaining it in possession for thirteen years, he sold it at a good profit, the sale price being one hundred and seven and one-half dollars per acre. Mr. Kile next purchased eighty acres in Macon county on section 18, Friends Creek township, and then bought one hundred and twenty acres adjoining, for which he paid seventy-two and a half dollars per acre. The next purchase made him the owner of one hundred acres on section 22, for which he paid ninety dollars per acre, and this property he still has. He owns altogether four hundred acres, which is very valuable, being a part of the rich farm land of central Illinois, which has made this state famous as an agricultural district. He also owns five lots in the town of Cisco and two residence properties. Fifteen years ago he came to the village and has since lived retired, save that he gives his supervision to his investments. On August 5, 1903, he was offered one hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre for all the land he owns, but refused the offer.

Mr. Kile votes with the Republican party

when questions of national interest are involved, but at local elections often votes independently, regarding only the capability of the candidates. He has served as commissioner of highways, has been school treasurer for six and a half years, justice of the peace for nine years and police magistrate for two years, and in these offices has been prompt and faithful in the discharge of his duties, doing everything in his power to promote the welfare of the community. He attends the Presbyterian church and has lived a life that has won for him the respect and confidence of his fellow men. Starting out for himself with very meager advantages, he has steadily progressed in the world, and his success has been won along lines which all may follow. He met difficulties in his career but he has steadily advanced by determined and honorable purpose, and many of the obstacles in his path have served as an impetus for renewed effort. The history of pioneer life in this section of the state is familiar to him and from pioneer times down to the present he has watched the progress and development of Piatt county, feeling a just pride in what has been accomplished here.

HON. WILBUR F. STEVENSON.

Hon. Wilbur F. Stevenson is now serving as mayor of Monticello and is accounted one of the leading and distinguished citizens of Piatt county, for his has been an honorable and prosperous career. Success is determined by one's ability to recognize opportunity and to pursue this with resolute and unflagging energy. It results from continued labor, and the man who thus accomplishes his purpose usually becomes an important factor in the business circles of the community in which he is connected. Mr. Stevenson through such means attained a leading place among the representative agriculturists of Piatt county, and his well spent and honorable life commands the respect of all who knew him.

A native of Kentucky, Wilbur F. Stevenson was born in Scott county, that state, on the 12th of November, 1842, and is a representative of one of the old families of Kentucky. His paternal grandfather, Job Stevenson, was an active business man, and at one time a member of the Kentucky legislature. Evans Stevenson, the father of our subject, devoted his life to the work of the ministry and became a noted divine of the Methodist church. His services in this connection were probably required to a greater extent than any other man of local note. He solemnized many marriages, pronounced many funeral sermons and frequently was called upon to deliver lectures, public addresses and political speeches. He left the impress of his individuality upon the locality with which he was connected, his influence being widely felt in public thought and feeling, and from the time when he was seventeen years of age until his death in 1879, he figured prominently before the public, and by reason of his marked individuality, strong intellectuality and sterling worth he did much to promote progress, reform and improvement. He married a daughter of Major John Boggs, who won his title by service in the war of 1812, and who was well known as one of the early settlers of Pickaway county, Ohio.

In the state of his nativity amid the refining and ennobling influence of a good home Wilbur F. Stevenson was reared, and the lessons of integrity and nobility which

were impressed upon his mind in early youth have never been forgotten, but have largely aided in molding his character in later life. His arrival in Piatt county dates from 1868. He was at that time a young man of twenty-four years, desirous of winning success by his efforts in the business world. Reaching Illinois he entered into partnership with his uncle, John Boggs, Jr., who was prominent as a stockman throughout Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Throughout the greater part of his residence in Piatt county Mr. Stevenson has been actively and extensively associated with stock-raising, and stock-dealing interests. He has secured a valuable tract of land in Willow Branch township, and there conducted a stock farm, which gained a wide reputation throughout this portion of the country. His business affairs were always conducted along legitimate lines and in accordance with enterprise. Quick to note and improve opportunity he has steadily worked his way upward, and his efforts have been crowned with a high degree of success.

Mr. Stevenson was united in marriage to Miss Alice Talman, a native of Pickaway county, Ohio, whence she came to Illinois in her early girlhood. Her mother is now Mrs. Susan Farra, of Monticello. Since coming to Monticello Mr. Stevenson has taken a prominent part in public affairs, and in 1903 he was nominated on the Democratic ticket for the office of mayor of the city, and was elected to that position, so that he is now the incumbent in the office. His administration is practical and progressive, for he takes into consideration the real condition of the city, its needs and its possibilities, and he labors along lines of permanent good and substantial development. He is a wideawake, energetic and reliable man and as a citizen he has at all times, the good of the community at heart, while his ability has been exerted to make his adopted county rank with the brightest and best of all composing this great commonwealth. He is now numbered among the capitalists of Piatt county, and his life record should serve as a source of encouragement to others, for he started out for himself without capital and the position which he now occupies in the financial circles is due to his own labors.

ELIAS P. JAMES.

Elias P. James has placed his earnings in the safest of all investments, real estate, and is to-day the owner of valuable landed holdings in Piatt county. His home is in Blue Ridge township, where he has a splendidly improved property. He was born in the neighboring state of Indiana, his birth having occurred in Rush county, on the 27th of September, 1835. His parents were Elisha and Catherine (Poston) James, and the father was a farmer by occupation. He was born in Tennessee, and the mother's birth occurred in Kentucky. After living for some years in Indiana they removed to Missouri, and afterward came to Illinois, settling in Piatt county. They spent their last days on the farm of our subject, and when called to their final home their remains were interred in the Mansfield cemetery.

Elisha P. James obtained his education in Rush county, Indiana, pursuing his studies in the Bell school. The little "temple of learning" was an old log schoolhouse with slab benches. There was a large fireplace in one end of the room, and upon the wall an old-fashioned clock. The books were some-

what primitive in character, and the teaching was also after the same style. Mr. James has led a very busy and useful life. He began working for himself when twenty-one years of age, and rented a tract of land in order that he might carry on farming on his own account. The first land which he ever owned was near Bear Swamp in Wabash county, Indiana. He paid twelve hundred dollars for a tract of one hundred and sixty acres. This was all covered with timber and Mr. James cleared away half of it and then sold his land for forty dollars per acre, disposing of the property on the 1st of October, 1870. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Blue Ridge township, Piatt county, becoming owner of this farm on the 15th of October, of the same year. He has devoted his time and energies largely to the raising of stock and grain, and he was at one time the owner of seven hundred and fifty acres of valuable land. This, however, he has divided among his children, giving to each forty acres, so that he now has himself a tract of two hundred and eighty acres, all in Blue Ridge township. He bought one hundred and fifty acres at twenty-four dollars per acre, forty acres for thirty-one and a half dollars, one hundred and fifteen acres for thirty-six dollars per acre, one hundred and sixty for seventy dollars, one hundred and fifteen acres for ninety dollars, eighty acres for one hundred and six dollars, and forty acres for one hundred and one dollars per acre. Thus he has invested large amounts of money in land, but has found this a profitable way to use his capital, because of the rich yield which the fields give and because of the excellent pasturage which the land affords, this making it profitable to raise stock.

In Wabash county, Indiana, Mr. James was united in marriage on the 6th of February, 1862, to Miss Mary I. Shephard, who was born March 16, 1842, in McDonough county, Illinois. The lady is a daughter of Robert and Sallie Shephard, and by her marriage she has become the mother of seven children, four sons and three daughters: Stella B., who was born January 19, 1864; Cora B., born May 23, 1865; Charles E., born September 23, 1867; Emma Z., born December 1, 1869; Elmer B., January 9, 1872; Robert Quincy, born January 29, 1876; and Elias Ollan, born March 9, 1879. A number of the children were married and Mr. and Mrs. James and their sons and all of their children by marriage are members of the Christian church. Mr. and Mrs. James have been members of this section since 1862, and have led earnest, consistent lives in harmony with their professions. Mr. James also belongs to the Masonic fraternity of Mansfield, and he votes with the Republican party. The honors and emoluments of office, however, have had no attraction for him, as his time has been fully occupied by his business interests. He has displayed sound judgment in all of his work, untiring energy in the prosecution of his affairs, and unfaltering honesty in all of his relations with his fellow men. His life record should serve as a source of help and inspiration to others, showing what may be accomplished through persistency of purpose and diligence. He is to-day one of the best known as well as one of the most successful agriculturists of Piatt county.

WILLIAM J. SISSON.

No history of the business interests of Mansfield would be complete without mention of William J. Sisson, who is proprietor

of a department store that would be a credit to a city of much larger size. His is a splendidly equipped establishment, comprising a varied line of goods and in his business methods Mr. Sisson has gained general confidence. He never loses the patronage of those whose business he once secures, because in all his dealings he is found reliable, while in his treatment of those whom he serves he is ever courteous and obliging.

Mr. Sisson is one of Illinois' native sons, his birth having occurred in the city of Galesburg, Knox county, on the 5th of November, 1854. His parents were Frederick P. and Mary Ann (Field) Sisson. The father engaged in manufacturing pursuits in early life, and during the period of the Civil war purchased horses for the government. In the schools of his native state William J. Sisson obtained his education and was thus well trained for the practical duties of life. After putting aside his text-books he secured a position in a mercantile establishment in Galesburg, being employed as cash boy when about thirteen years of age. Later the firm with which he was connected failed and he then accepted a clerkship in a shoe store. In 1871 he went to Peoria, where he entered the employ of Charles Seaberry & Company, with whom he remained for twelve years, a fact which certainly indicates his fidelity to those whom he served, and the unqualified confidence reposed in him by his employers. During the last nine years of his connection with that house he served as traveling salesman upon the road, and annually negotiated a large amount of business for the firm. In severing his connection with business interests in Peoria in 1883, he removed to Indianapolis, Indiana, where he entered the employ of D. P. Erwin, with whom he remained for sixteen years. Certainly no higher testimonial of his business capability and his trustworthiness could be given than the fact that he has been so long retained in the service of these two firms. On leaving Indianapolis he came to Mansfield. He had previously purchased his store here and was also the proprietor of a store in Princeville, Illinois, but on coming to Mansfield he disposed of the store in Princeville in order to give his entire attention to the supervision of his business interests in this place. He now carries a large and carefully selected stock worth thirty thousand dollars, and has one of the most modern and completely equipped general mercantile establishments in central Illinois. The store is heated by hot water and is supplied with all modern improvements, including the Luxfer prism lights, such as are seldom found in any store outside of the large cities. He also has handsome toilet-rooms and fine bath-rooms in the building. The basement is cemented and is also used as a salesroom, being so splendidly lighted that the absence of sunlight is never noticed. Altogether the floor space of the store covers ten thousand square feet, and in addition to this Mr. Sisson has an oil house, flour house and a warehouse. He conducts a general department business, carrying a large line of dry goods, notions, carpets and floor coverings, clothing, hats, mens' furnishing goods, shoes, chinaware and groceries. His sales have reached a large annual figure, and are constantly increasing. He has studied closely the desires of the public and makes his purchases accordingly.

In 1886 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Sisson and Miss Mary E. Venemann. They now have three children all living. Frederick P. was educated in the schools of Indianapolis and Mansfield, and is now as-

sisting his father in the conduct of the store. Ella Richey and Sarah are at home. The family attend the services of the Presbyterian church, of which the parents are members. In his political views Mr. Sisson is a Republican, and while he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day, as every American citizen should do, he has no time or inclination to seek public office. He owns a beautiful residence in Mansfield in addition to his store, and is classed among the most prominent and influential citizens here. He has been the architect of his own fortunes, and has builded wisely and well, gradually working his way upward from the humble position of a cash boy until he is to-day a prosperous merchant, doing a large and profitable business. He is genial in manner, progressive in spirit, and as a citizen is very deeply interested in what pertains to the general welfare, co-operating largely in measures for the public good.

ELDER JOHN ARNOLD.

Among Piatt county's honored and respected citizens should be numbered the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch, the present pastor of the German Baptist Brethren church of Okaw. He was born on the 16th of June, 1846, in Mineral county, West Virginia, and is a son of Solomon and Susan (Wine) Arnold, also natives of Virginia, and of German extraction. The father who was a farmer by occupation, died in that part of the old Dominion which, during the Civil war, became the state of West Virginia. Later the mother and her family came to Piatt county, Illinois, in the spring of 1868, and she died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Samuel Henricks, near Cerro Gordo, in 1901, at the age of eighty-eight years. She had seven children, three of whom died in West Virginia. The others are as follows: Samuel married Lucina Rose, now deceased, and has three daughters, Laura, Mame and Flossie. Daniel is married and with his family resides in Missouri. John, of this review, is the next in order of birth. Lizzie is the wife of Samuel Henricks, and a resident of Cerro Gordo, Illinois.

John Arnold was educated in a primitive log schoolhouse with its slab benches and huge fireplace, continuing his studies there until about sixteen years of age. He made the most of his advantages in that line as it was his desire to obtain a good education, and by reading and observation he has added greatly to the knowledge acquired in the schoolroom. During his boyhood and youth he assisted in the work of the home farm, and has since been identified with agricultural pursuits. In the spring of 1868 he came with his family to Piatt county, Illinois, and settled in Cerro Gordo township, where he has since made his home. He and his brother, Samuel, engaged in farming together for several years, but on the marriage of the latter the partnership was dissolved. Our subject began life here in limited circumstances, but prospered in his farming operations, and in 1881 purchased his present farm of eighty acres on section 29, Cerro Gordo township, which was then under cultivation, but in tiling and other improvements he has laid out more money than the eighty acres cost him. Since then he has added to it an adjoining eighty, making one hundred and sixty acres. In 1887 he built a good barn and also corn-cribs, and in 1895 erected a nice modern residence, which is a very at-

tractive home on the main road. The place is divided into fields of convenient size by well-kept fences, and everything is in first-class condition.

On the 31st of May, 1875, Mr. Arnold was united in marriage to Miss Mary Henricks, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in February, 1840, and died on the 23d of August, 1890. Her parents were Elder Joseph and Lizzie (Seitz) Henricks, also natives of Fairfield county, Ohio. Mr. Arnold was again married in June, 1892, his second union being with Lydia Heeter, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Heeter, of Wabash county, Indiana. The children by the first marriage are Nora S., Etta May and Stella Ethel. The oldest daughter is a graduate of the German Baptist school at Mt. Morris, Illinois, and will leave this year as a missionary to India, having made preparations to devote her life to that noble work.

In 1876 Mr. Arnold was ordained as a minister of the German Baptist Brethren church, and has since served as assistant pastor most of the time, though he has been in full charge of the congregation at Okaw (formerly La Place) since 1897, succeeding Jacob Olery at that place. During his ministry the membership has grown and now numbers over two hundred, and the church has been otherwise strengthened and built up. Mr. Arnold has preached throughout Piatt, Macon and Moultrie counties, and has labored untiringly in the interests of his church. In 1898 he retired from active farm work, and now rents his land, living in honorable retirement from business. However, he still attends to his ministerial duties, and on the 30th of May, 1903, went to Bellefontaine, Ohio, to attend the general annual conference of his church. He has often been a delegate to such conventions, and for four years served as president of the mission board in southern Illinois. He is widely and favorably known throughout this section of the state, and those who know him best are numbered among his warmest friends.

WILLIAM F. LODGE.

One of the most progressive and energetic young business men of Monticello is the gentleman whose name introduces this review. He was born in that city on the 12th of November, 1868, and is a son of William E. and Frances A. (Piatt) Lodge, the latter a daughter of William H. Piatt, in whose honor the county was named. In the public schools of Monticello our subject began his early literary education and later became a student in the State University at Champaign, where he pursued his studies for some time. Leaving that institution he entered the law department of Northwestern University, at Evanston, Illinois, in which he was graduated on the completion of the regular course, with the class of 1892. He was then admitted to practice before the supreme court at Springfield the same year.

Returning to Monticello, Mr. Lodge joined his father as a member of the firm of Lodge, Hicks & Lodge, and became interested in the manufacture of building brick and tile, the plant being situated just outside the city limits on the north. This enterprise was established in 1891, and the machinery is of the latest improved patterns. The output of the industry is now large, and employment is furnished to a number of men and boys. Mr. Lodge also became secretary and incorporation promoter of the electric light company, and was instrumental in erecting

the plant. He succeeded in selling ten thousand dollars' worth of stock, and for nine years efficiently served as manager of the company, and also as electrician. He still owns a part of the stock. Mr. Lodge was also one of the organizers of the Monticello Mutual Telephone Company, which was afterward merged into the Piatt Telephone Company with exchanges at Bement, Monticello and DeLand, and about five hundred phones in use. This company was organized and incorporated in 1896, with a capital stock of ten thousand dollars. Our subject and his brother, James P., now own about seven hundred telephones in operation throughout Piatt county, and he gives his personal supervision to that business.

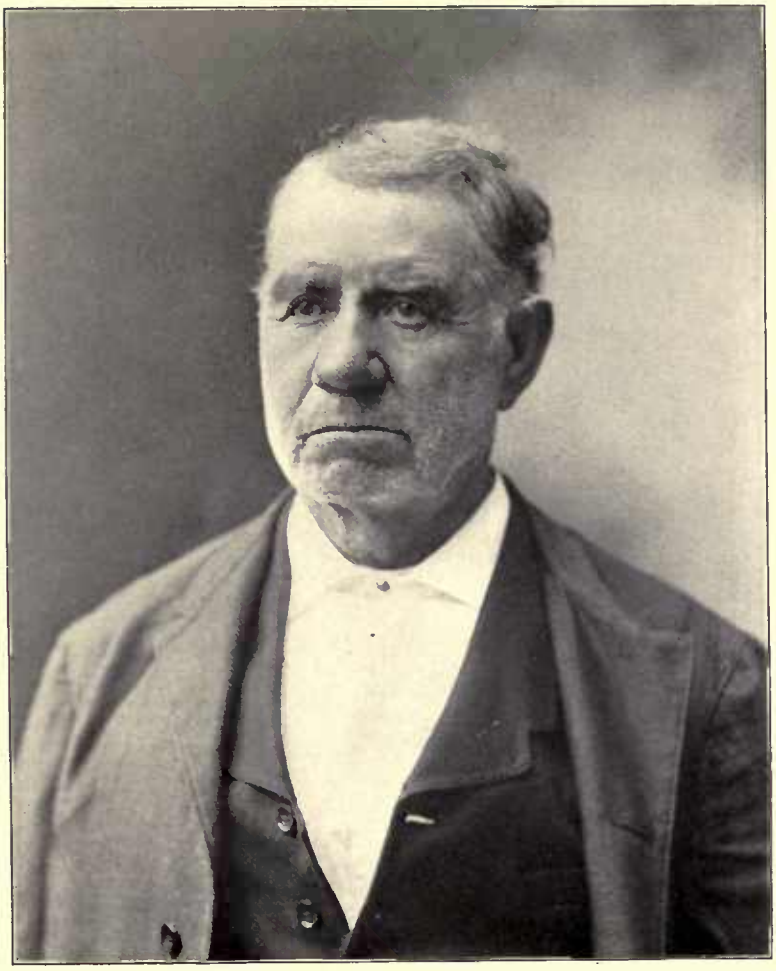
The Lodge family occupy the old Piatt homestead where the first location was made in this county, and two rooms of the residence were built by Mr. Barnett, becoming the property of our subject's father about forty years ago. The house is surrounded by a spacious lawn, the grounds comprising about twenty acres. Mr. Lodge is a young man of marked business ability and executive force, of keen sagacity and unfaltering energy, and along many lines he has contributed to the substantial improvement and permanent development of his native county.

JESSE W. WARNER.

Jesse W. Warner is one of the extensive land owners of Piatt county, his possessions aggregating five hundred and sixty acres. He is likewise well known as a large cattle-dealer, and both branches of his business have been so capably conducted that they have brought to him very deserved and gratifying prosperity. His home is on section 35, Goose Creek township, and for a half century he has resided in Piatt county, being one of its respected citizens and honored pioneers.

A native of Ohio, Mr. Warner was born in Ross county on the 16th of December, 1829, and is a son of George and Delilah Warner, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. They were farming people and for many years the father was connected with agricultural pursuits in the Buckeye state. There he died at the age of fifty-nine years, and the mother afterward came to the west, spending her last days in Piatt county, Illinois. In the family were eleven children, seven sons and four daughters, of whom Jesse W. Warner was the sixth in order of birth.

In the public schools of Ohio Mr. Warner, of this review, obtained his education, but his advantages were somewhat limited as his services were needed on the home farm. His father died when the son was seventeen years of age, and for two years thereafter Mr. Warner remained with his mother, assisting in the operation of the home farm. He then began farming on his own account in Pickaway county, Ohio, but thinking that he might have better business opportunities further west, he left his native state in the fall of 1852 and came to Monticello, where he arrived with a cash capital of eighteen dollars and fifty cents. He also had a horse, saddle and bridle, having made the journey westward on horseback. On reaching Piatt county he secured work by the month as a farm hand, and was thus employed until 1856, when at the age of twenty-six years he lost his right arm in an accident on a railroad. This would utterly have discouraged many a man of less resolute spirit, but Mr. Warner



J. W. WARNER

showed marked strength of character in facing the situation. He attended school and learned to write with his left hand. For two years after the accident he worked with another man in operating a mole ditcher, and in 1860 he engaged in the cattle business with Absalom Fisher and James Piatt, the relation between these gentlemen continuing until 1864, and their efforts were crowned with a high degree of success. With the money which he thus realized, Mr. Warner purchased two hundred and ninety-seven and a half acres of land, for which he paid five thousand dollars. This was largely unimproved, and with characteristic energy he began its development, transforming the tract into rich fields, which are now very productive. As his financial resources have increased he has added to his property until he now owns five hundred and sixty acres of the rich land of Piatt county, which is equal in productiveness to any to be found in this great agricultural state.

On the 24th of June, 1873, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Warner and Miss Katie Schultz, of Piatt county. She died in 1876 and their only child died in infancy. On the 6th of January, 1878, Mr Warner was again married, his second union being with Miss Lulu Connor, a native of Bloomfield, Ohio, and a daughter of Abner and Rachel Connor, who came to Piatt county in the year 1851. The father was a farmer and stock-buyer, and was thus closely associated with the leading business enterprises of the county for a number of years. He died at the advanced age of seventy-five years, his widow is now living with Mr. and Mrs. Warner. Unto our subject and his wife have been born four children: Ollie, Edward, Luella and Lena. The eldest daughter is now the wife of James Miner, a resident of Goose Creek township, and they have two children: Harold and Ruth.

While carrying on the work of cultivating the fields, Mr. Warner is also giving considerable attention to raising and dealing in stock, making a specialty of beef cattle and hogs, and annually he sends to the city markets large numbers of these animals. He is a man of resourceful business ability, quick to note opportunity and to utilize the advantages which come to him. In 1900 he was interested in founding the State Bank of De-Land, of which he has since been a director. For about fifteen years he has served as president of the Monticello Fair Association, an enterprise which has been of marked value to this section of the state, cultivating ambition for progress among the farmers with the result that better farm products and stock have been produced. Whatever tends to prove of value to the agricultural community is of interest to him, and he has always been a leader in matters of advancement in this direction.

Mr. Warner is also prominent and active in fraternal circles and now belongs to Selah Lodge, No. 403, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has passed all the chairs. He is also a member of the encampment of Monticello and has been representative to the grand lodge, while both he and his wife and their daughter, Luella, are connected with the Rebekah degree and their son is a member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity. In his political views Mr. Warner is an ardent Democrat, and has served as road commissioner for three years, while for one term he was overseer, but he has always preferred to give his time to his business interests rather than to political work, and along the line of his chosen field of labor he has won every gratifying and honorable pros-

perity. His life has been a useful, active and upright one, and now in the evening of his days he has the respect, confidence and good will of all with whom he has been associated. He has witnessed many changes and improvements in the county during the half century of his residence here, and well deserves credit for what he has accomplished, and mention among the honored pioneers.

JOHN W. CYPHERS.

John W. Cyphers, who was one of the defenders of the Union cause during the dark days of the Civil war, and is to-day an honored citizen of Piatt county, Illinois, was born on the 21st of August, 1843, in Morgan county, West Virginia. His parents, Joseph S. and Elizabeth (Zeger) Cyphers, were both natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in 1806, the latter in 1812, and in Mercersburg, that state, they were married in 1834. After following farming in Pennsylvania for some years, the father removed to Morgan county, West Virginia, in 1839, making his home there until coming to Illinois in 1858, when he located in Fairview, Fulton county, which was his home until called to his final rest. Throughout life he followed agricultural pursuits, and also owned a large herd of sheep, being quite extensively engaged in buying and selling those animals. He died on the 4th of July, 1868, and his wife passed away in 1885. This worthy couple were the parents of nine children, five of whom are still living, namely: Eliza, the wife of John Cosa, a shoemaker, of Fairview; Urias, a harnessmaker of that place; Jacob, a policeman of Chicago; Charles, a painter of Fairview; and John W., of this review.

Having spent the first fifteen years of his life in the state of his nativity, John W. Cyphers began his education in its public school, the first temple of learning being an old-fashioned log structure with puncheon floor and slab seats, and after coming to Illinois in 1858, he attended school for two winters, while working on his father's farm through the summer. He early acquired an excellent knowledge of every department of farm work, and later worked at six dollars per month as a farm hand.

Mr. Cyphers was thus employed when the Civil war broke out, and not being content to remain quietly at home while the country was in danger, he entered the army in August, 1862, enlisting in Company D, One Hundred and Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was assigned to the Second Brigade, First Division, Fifteenth Army Corps. He participated in the battles of Mission Ridge and Kenesaw Mountain, the siege of Atlanta, Georgia, and was with Sherman on his celebrated march to the sea, being all through that campaign. The war having ended he took part in the grand review at Washington, D. C., and was there discharged from the service, being mustered out at Chicago in July, 1865, with a war record of which he may be justly proud.

Mr. Cyphers then returned to Fairview, Illinois, and learned the plasterer's trade, which he followed continuously until coming to Piatt county in 1870, when he purchased a farm of eighty acres adjoining the village of DeLand and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. He has since operated his land quite successfullly, and has added twenty-five acres to the original tract, and has made many other useful and valuable improvements which have added greatly to the attractive appearance of the place, including the erection of a fine ten-room residence sur-

rounded by lovely shade trees. In connection with the raising of cereals best adapted to the soil and climate, he also raises cattle and hogs for market, and in both branches of his business is meeting with well deserved success.

In 1867 Mr. Cyphers was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Cook, a daughter of Joseph and Mary Cook, of Fairview, but she died within three weeks of their marriage. He was again married in January 1888, his second union being with Miss Caroline Zeger, a daughter of Joseph and Mary Zeger, and by this marriage five children were born, but only one is now living, this being Jerry, who is at home with his parents. John Wesley, Robert Franklin and Joseph Dickey all died with membranous croup, and Hattie May died in infancy. Joseph Zeger, the father of Mrs. Cyphers, was born April 3, 1822, and died February 5, 1901, when almost seventy-nine. His widow, whose birth occurred on the 3d of February, 1828, now makes her home with our subject and his wife.

Politically Mr. Cyphers is a staunch Republican, and fraternally is a charter member of De Land Lodge, No. 740, I. O. O. F. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are held in the highest respect and esteem by all who know them.

JAMES W. ELLIOTT.

James W. Elliott, who is now successfully engaged in general merchandising at Voorhies, was born in Lynnville, Morgan county, Illinois, on the 13th of October, 1855, his parents being George and Ann (Wilkinson) Elliott, who were of English extraction. Leaving England in his twentieth year, the father came to America, landing in New York, where he worked at his trade of harness making for a time, and then removed to Jacksonville, Illinois, where he was similarly employed, bu he now follows farming in Macon county, his home being three miles west of Decatur. He has been twice married, his first wife, the mother of our subject, having died about 1860. By that union there were two childlren: James W. and Frances. The latter was for some time a popular schoolteacher, and is now the wife of a Mr. Brown, of Kansas.

James W. Elliott passed his boyhood and youth upon a farm and received a good common school education. Being a lover of good literature, he has become a well informed man, and keeps abreast of the times. At the age of twenty-three years he left the home farm in Macon county and went to Kansas, where he engaged in farming for about twelve years. While there he was married in 1881 to Miss Ella M. Orr, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1862, and was educated at Cannonsburg, that state. They now have three children, two of whom were born before leaving Kansas. In order of birth they are George, Charles and Beulah, all of whom have received good educational advantages. One of the sons is now attending business college, while the other assists his father in the store.

On his return to Illinois, Mr. Elliott had charge of his father's farm for a time, and in 1892 removed to the E. P. Thompson farm in Unity township, which he conducted until the fall of 1895, when he came to Voorhies. Here he embarked in general merchandising on the 1st of January, 1896, and in this new venture has steadily prospered,

having a stock valued at about two thousand dollars, though he started out with a capital of seven hundred dollars. He is a thorough business man, prompt, energetic, and notably reliable, and generally carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. He is independent in politics and is well worthy the high regard so freely accorded him.

JOHN D. BELL.

An honorable retirement from labor has been vouchsafed to John D. Bell, who after many years connection with business affairs in which his success was won through honorable, persistent effort, is now resting in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. He is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Mifflin county, on the 3d of September, 1830. His parents were George T. and Sara (Sample) Bell. The father was born in Mifflin county on the 15th of March, 1803, and resided at the place of his birth until 1864, when he came to Illinois. He was a farmer by occupation and followed that pursuit during his residence in the Keystone state. He had also learned the blacksmith's trade in early life, but devoted his energies to it for but a brief period. A member of the Methodist Episcopal church, he was always interested in its work and progress, and in his political views he was a Democrat. In the county of his nativity he married Miss Sara Sample, who was born and reared in Mifflin county. Bringing his family with him to Illinois, he located in the village of Bement, where he spent his remaining days, passing away just two days before the seventy-seventh anniversary of his birth. His attention was not given to any business calling after his removal to the west, the small farm which he purchased being cultivated by his son, John D. and others. He was a prosperous and progressive man, public spirited and interested in all that tended toward improvement. In his work he was systematic and kept everything about his home in a neat condition. He passed away in 1880, and was survived seventeen years by his wife. She was born in 1809 and passed away at the advanced age of eighty-eight years and five months. Her Christian faith was manifested by her membership in the Methodist church, with which she became identified during her girlhood days. For long years she was one of its active workers, and her labors were effective in advancing the moral development of the community. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bell were born but two children, John D. being the elder. The daughter, Mary Jane, who was born in Pennsylvania, became the wife of Jacob Muttersbaugh,, who came to Bement, Illinois, at the time of the removal of John D. Bell and her parents to this place. Mr. Muttersbaugh engaged in the butchering business here after several years, and was engaged in it at the time of his death. He was laid to rest in Bement cemetery by the side of his wife, who passed away in 1876. They left five children: William and Harvey, who are now conducting a meat market in Bement; James, a resident of Nebraska; Addie, a resident of Decatur, Illinois; and May, who is on a farm near Decatur.

John D. Bell obtained his early education in the old-time log schoolhouses of Pennsylvania and assisted his father upon the home farm from his early youth up to the time of his marriage, in 1853, when he took charge of the farm then vacated by his father, who located on a small fruit farm in Pennsylva-

nia, remaining there until the family came west in the spring of 1864. On his arrival in Piatt county, Illinois, our subject purchased a farm just north of the village of Bement, erected a large and substantial brick residence and made other excellent improvements there. It continued to be his home until the spring of 1874, when, his wife having died in 1872, and his daughter being unable to keep house on the farm, he left the place and removed to Bement. Subsequently he engaged in the butchering business for ten years, and afterward bought a half interest in a drug store, but not liking the latter business he sold out to his partner in about a year. Since that time he has not engaged in any business on his own account, though he held a position in a furniture store until 1900, and since that time has practically lived retired from all business cares.

On the 1st of September, 1853, at McVeytown, John D. Bell was united in marriage to Margaret E. Oliver, the widow of G. W. Oliver. She was born in the Keystone state, a native of Huntingdon county, and a daughter of David Jackson, who was a farmer of that county. Both her father and mother died on the old home place in Huntingdon county. Mrs. Bell was a member of the Presbyterian church, and in that faith she died, November 19, 1872, at Lincoln, Illinois, while visiting her daughter, Mrs. Houser. Her remains were brought back home and at her request were then interred in the McVeytown cemetery near her old home in Pennsylvania. She was a devoted wife and a kind and loving mother. By her first husband she had three children who made their home with Mr. Bell: John L. Oliver, who now resides in Colorado; Mary, the wife of Dr. W. W. Houser, of Lincoln, Illinois; and George W. Olliver, who resides in Texas. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Bell was blessed with five children, three of whom are still living: Sadie, the wife of R. O. Hickman, of Colorado; Anna, the wife of A. C. Stadler, of Bement, Illinois, by whom she has one child, Arno Karl; and Elmer E., who is a traveling salesman, residing in New Jersey. He is married and has four children: Two children born unto Mr. and Mrs. Bell died in infancy and were laid to rest in the McVeytown cemetery.

During his residence in Piatt county Mr. Bell has so lived as to win the high regard and confidence of his fellow men. In his business relations he has been active and straightforward, and through capable management and enterprise he has won a competence that now enables him to live retired. He has passed the psalmists's span of three score years and ten, having reached the seventy-third milestone on life's journey. His worth is widely acknowledged, and it is with pleasure that we present to our readers this record of his career.

HENRY W. GANTZ.

Prominent among the successful business men of Piatt county is numbered the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. For many years he has been actively identified with the agricultural, industrial and mercantile interests of this locality, and he has attained a leading place among its representative citizens. In business affairs he has prospered through his own unaided efforts and sound judgment, and is now quite well-to-do.

A native of Ohio, Mr. Gantz was born in Richland county, September 3, 1845, and is a son of David and Mary (Laninger)

Gantz, both natives of Pennsylvania. The father was born July 7, 1806, and the mother September 18, 1817. They were married in the Keystone state on the 26th of February, 1837, and subsequently removed to Ohio, where the father followed his chosen occupation—that of farming—until his death, having entered one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government. In his family were seven children as follows: Hiram, born in 1838, engaged in farming in Ohio until his enlistment in the Fifty-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Civil war and died in the service in 1862. Rebecca, born August 21, 1840, married William Nagle, of Ohio, and died in June, 1899, leaving a husband and five children. Harriet is the wife of Michael Katzemire, a shoe merchant, owning two stores, one in Upper Sandusky and the other in Toledo, Ohio. Henry W. is the next of the family. George Washington, born June 13, 1848, is a resident of Morgantown, West Virginia. William Franklin, born July 6, 1855, is a farmer of Wayne county, Illinois. Sarah Alice, born July 3, 1858, died September 23, 1863.

During his boyhood Henry W. Gantz attended the common schools of Ohio from thirty to forty days in winter, the remainder of the year being devoted to the work of the home farm. He would also haul wood to the neighboring town, and on the return trip would bring home supplies for the family. On leaving home he started to earn his own livelihood in the lumber woods by manufacturing shingles. Deciding to try his fortune on the prairies of Illinois, he came to this state at the age of twenty-two years, and after working as a farm hand for one year, he purchased a team, and for one year operated a part of the Jacob Swigart farm of one hundred and sixty acres in DeWitt county. He was then taken ill and during his sickness lost all that he had made, being thus forced to accept employment on a farm at twenty dollars per month. During the year passed in that way he borrowed one hundred dollars and made his first payment on forty acres of land in this county, and then rented one hundred and sixty acres of land in DeWitt county in partnership with Jonathan Donnar, farming the same quite successfully until he had paid for his forty-acre tract in Piatt county. He then borrowed money to purchase an adjoining forty-acre tract, but after living upon his property for one year he traded it for one hundred and sixty acres of land in Goose Creek township, three miles southwest of De Land, which place he operated until 1883, in the meantime adding one hundred acres to his farm. Since then he has made his home in the village of De Land, but is still interested in farming property, and now owns four hundred and twenty acres in this county, four hundred acres in Wayne county, Illinois, and a half interest in five hundred and forty acres in White county, this state. In 1882 he erected a tile factory in De Land, but sold the same two years later and embarked in the mercantile business at this place as a member of the firm of I. L. Rinehart & Company, which firm was changed to Gantz & Fuller in 1896. In 1900 Mr. Gantz became sole owner and carried on the business under the style of the Gantz Mercantile Company for one year, when he sold a half interest in the store to Wiley Dewees, the firm becoming Gantz & Dewees. In the fall of 1901, however, Mr. Gantz sold his interest to his son and Mr. Dewees sold out to a Mr. Cox, since which time business has been carried on under the firm name of Gantz & Cox. Our subject is a stockholder and one of the directors of the

First National Bank of De Land, and owns forty thousand shares in the Mascot Gold Mining Company, which is capitalized at two million dollars, and is operating in Colorado.

On the 1st of October, 1873, Mr. Gantz was united in marriage to Miss Amanda Porter, a daughter of James and Elizabeth Porter, and to them have been born three children: Hattie Ethel, who was born July 8, 1874, and was married June 28, 1899, to Dr. Charles Smith, of East St. Louis; Inez, born January 10, 1878; and Ira W., born February 10, 1882. The younger children are still at home.

Dr. Gantz and his family hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and he is also connected with the Knights of Pythias lodge at De Land. His political support is given the men and measures of the Republican party, and he has served as county commissioner from Goose Creek township one term and as a member of the school board two terms. A man of keen perception, unbounded enterprise and good business ability, his success in life is due entirely to his own efforts, and he deserves prominent mention among the leading and representative business men of the county. He is what the world terms "self-made," and well does he deserve the prosperity that has come to him, for he started out in life for himself with no capital, and by industry and perseverance has overcome the obstacles in the path to success.

JESSE J. CROOK.

James M. Crook, father of our subject, was born in the county of Fountain in the Hoosier state in 1830, and lost his father when he was a lad of fourteen, the widowed mother being left with seven children. With them she settled in Willow Branch township on the creek of that name about the year 1845. James, being one of the eldest of the boys, early felt the burdens of man's estate, and secured little education. Others of the family were, George, deceased; Jane, deceased wife of George Hopkins; Thomas J.; Martha, wife of Dr. H. Hickman, of Oklahoma; Mary E., widow of Daniel Madden, of Danville, Illinois; Benjamin F., deceased; Harriet, wife of Sheridan Rose, of Oklahoma; and Delilah, also of Oklahoma, the wife of Murphy Secrest.

On arriving at years of maturity James M. Crook married Charity, daughter of Enoch and Elizabeth Peck, who had settled with their family in Willow Branch township as early as 1839. Life was simple and full of toil in those days, and Mr. Cook began his married life as a railsplitter. He finally succeeded in saving sufficient to make a payment on a tract of swamp land near Cisco. This he improved as he could and in 1868 sold it for a price which enabled him to purchase the first forty acres of the farm which he afterwards brought to high perfection and which our subject still cultivates. He later added to it a quarter section of land. This land was virgin and was reclaimed from that state by his hand. He was a man of shrewd judgment and gave his attention largely to one line, that of the raising of hogs. He was very successful with these animals, and it is said that he paid for a full eighty-acre tract by the sale of one single drove. He had just finished remodeling his house when he took a severe cold, which after two years' illness resulted in his death, the date being November 9, 1884. He left a wife and four children, the wife still surviving him, living at Milmine. The names of the children are Wil-

liam Wallace, now residing in Monticello; James M., who died in 1894; Jesse; and Ora, who now resides in Cerro Gordo township, the wife of William McQuay.

Jesse J. Crook has held continuous residence on the old homestead since the date of his birth, March 8, 1868. Hawver district school equipped him in the educational line, and he aided his mother in the cultivation of the home farm until his marriage, when he assumed the management himself. His wife, whom he married on the 8th of October, 1891, was Austie Snyder, daughter of Benner and Mary (Christian) Snyder. Her parents were farmers of Ohio, where she was born and reared, coming to Illinois in 1876. They settled on a farm in Cerro Gordo township, but after a few years moved to Milmine, where the mother died in 1881. The father is now living a retired life in Milmine. In the family beside Mrs. Crook were Victoria, who married Frank Root and resides in Bement; Virginia, now Mrs. James Doyle, of Hammond, Illinois; Lyda, now Mrs. Frank Coakley, of Bement; Laura, wife of Watts Caffee, of Pittsburg, Kansas; William, of Milmine; John, of Kansas; Addie, wife of John Hendricks, of Willow Branch township; Quinter, of Milmine; Bartley, of Willow Branch township; and Jesse, at home. To Mr. and Mrs. Crook have been born Elma, Lester R., Chattie Fay and Dimple May.

To speak of the life led by our subject would be the enumeration of the manifold duties performed by the busy farmer. Like many farmers, he has his weakness, and that is a good horse, of which he is an excellent judge. He has made a specialty of blooded stock, and has now in his possession two very fine animals. These horses are both registered, Schley III, a Percheron; and Milmine King, a fine Shire horse.

In the county round about Mr. and Mrs. Crook have a large acquaintance, among whom they are highly esteemed for their open-handed and generous hospitality. Mr. Crook served a term acceptably as tax collector of Willow Branch township, and six years as school director, and both are popular members of the Loyal American Lodge, No. 32, at Milmine.

ALBERT R. ROSS.

The above named gentleman is a representative of one of the oldest families in the county, his father, Francis Asbury Ross, having settled here during the great Civil war, after he had rendered gallant service to his country. He was born in Essex, New Jersey, April 1, 1841, the son of Simon and Eveline Ross. He came to Illinois when about three years of age, and was educated at Whitehall, and at a college in Jacksonville, Illinois. Soon after leaving school he entered the army as a private in Company K, Twenty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served for eighteen months in the Army of the West. He participated in the battles of Belmont and Island No. 10, when he was taken sick and passed the remaining time in the hospital at Benton Barracks. Upon his return home in 1863, on the 31st of December he married Miss Frances, daughter of William and Mary Cotter. After his marriage he purchased a farm in Blue Ridge township, then one of the wildest portions of the county. Here they patiently passed through the severe trials incident to pioneer life for a period of five years, thence removing to Mansfield, where Mr. Ross engaged in merchandising for some twenty-six years. His health failing he exchanged his store for



A. R. ROSS

land in Cheyenne county, Nebraska. After a period of rest he again engaged in mercantile life in Mansfield, but was again compelled to give it up and traded his store for six hundred and forty acres of choice land in Woodson county, Kansas. He removed to Bloomington, where he passed the rest of his days, dying in September, 1898. His wife survives him and is now a resident of Chicago. To them were born four children, those living being the subject of this sketch, and Brant C. Ross, now a student in Chicago Dental College.

Albert R. Ross, supervisor of Blue Ridge township, was born in DeWitt county, Illinois, on the 29th of July, 1867. He received a good education and at twenty-two began life for himself as a farmer. His marriage to Hannah Belle Hilligoss occurred February 22, 1888. Mrs. Ross is the daughter of B. E. and Eliza Hilligoss, of Mansfield, and is the mother of six children. The five living are Albert L., Duane E., Frances Adelaide, Henry G. and Frank C., the three eldest being in school, the younger ones at home.

Mr. Ross is one of the extensive farmers in Piatt county, cultivating four hundred and eighty acres of land and shipping from one to two hundred cars of beef cattle and hogs every season. For investment purposes he holds one thousand one hundred and twenty acres in Nebraska, a section in Kansas, and an eighty in Minnesota. It will thus be seen that Mr. Ross is one of the large land owners in the county, and an influential and respected citizen. His interest in matters of public moment is that of the good citizen, who, though not courting public attention, is yet willing to do his duty in administering the unpaid offices of the local government. In 1902 he was elected supervisor of the township on the Republican ticket, and is serving most acceptably. He is at present chairman of the building committee which is erecting a handsome stone and brick courthouse and jail in the county seat.

Mr. Ross is a thorough believer in the fraternal principles and is a popular member of several of the best societies, notable among which are the Knights of Pythias, of which he is a charter member of No. 634 of Mansfield, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Royal Circle, of which Mrs. Ross is also a member. Still a young man, with a record of helpful and efficient service to his credit, our subject has before him a useful future. Successful in business affairs, courteous and obliging with all his associates, he is held in high esteem wherever he is known.

NATHAN E. RHOADES.

The activity of Nathan E. Rhoades has touched many lines and to the benefit of all, and Monticello has profited by his marked energy, keen discernment and business sagacity, for he has labored in such a manner as to promote the public welfare while advancing individual success. His name is associated with commercial and agricultural interests of the county and with its political history, and throughout the years of his connection with varied interests here, he has so guided his affairs that he has won the unqualified regard of the public by reason of his straightforward business methods.

A native of Ohio, Nathan E. Rhoades was born in Franklin county, near the village of Reynoldsburg, in 1834, and his parents, Daniel and Catherine Rhoades, were also natives of the same county. In the year 1845 the father removed with his family from the

Buckeye state to Illinois, settling in Piatt county upon a tract of land which now constitutes the county poor farm, three miles west of Monticello. His possessions included two hundred and fifty acres, and for years he occupied that property, giving his time and attention to its cultivation and improvement. He died in 1854, and many friends mourned his death, for he was a citizen of worth. His wife, who survived him for almost twenty years, died in March, 1873, in Monticello, where she had removed after the death of her husband.

Nathan E. Rhoades was a little lad of about eleven years when his parents came to Illinois, and amid the wild scenes of pioneer life in Piatt county he was reared, aiding in the arduous task of developing a new farm and sharing in the hardships and difficulties of life on the frontier. He had spent three months in school before coming to Illinois, and he continued his education in the district schools of Piatt county. Farm work became familiar to him in its various departments, but in 1853, he left the farm and came to Monticello, where he engaged in clerking for a time in the employ of various merchants of the city. In 1859 he was called from commercial life to public service, being elected on the Republican ticket to the office of treasurer of Piatt county. Only three years before the party had placed its first presidential candidate in the field, but the new organization had gained great strength in Piatt county and Mr. Rhoades was numbered among its earnest endorsers. He has never faltered in his allegiance thereto throughout all the years which have come and gone since that time, and has done much toward securing its success in this locality. Entering upon the duties of the office of county treasurer he proved so faithful to the trust reposed in him that he was re-elected and filled the position for eight consecutive years. He was also deputy circuit clerk for four years and deputy county clerk for a similar period. For several years he served as trustee of the Monticello school district, and the cause of education found in him a warm friend.

On his retirement from office Mr. Rhoades again became an active factor in mercantile circles—this time as a proprietor. He conducted his enterprise from 1877 until 1901, covering about twenty-four years.

During the latter part of his connection with mercantile interests, he was the senior member of the firm of N. E. Rhoades & Son. In 1895 he established the Cedar Hill stock farm, and has since been engaged in the breeding of fine stock, often having as many as twenty head of fine horses in his stables. His stud Bernal has a record of 2:17, and was bred by Senator Stanford, of California, and after the Senator's death was sold in Kentucky. Later Mr. Rhoades purchased Bernal. He is sixteen hands high, weighs thirteen hundred pounds, is seal-brown in color and of a gentle disposition. Besides engaging in the breeding of horses Mr. Rhoades was at one time the owner of a very fine herd of shorthorn cattle.

In the way of building Mr. Rhoades has done much to improve Monticello. The Rhoades opera house block was erected in 1874 and with the exception of the room occupied by the bank and the basement underneath, and two offices, the entire building is owned by Mr. Rhoades. He also laid out an addition to the city known as the Rhoades addition, and owns a nice park just north of the town. In 1868 he erected a palatial home of fourteen rooms. It is constructed of brick and was long the finest house in the town.

In 1857 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Rhoades and Miss Mary E. Ross, of Madison county, Ohio, in which place she was born and reared. By this marriage there are two sons: Charles N., now a prominent farmer and stock-raiser of Oklahoma; and Corwin E., at home. Mr. Rhoades is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and both he and his wife have a wide acquaintance and large circle of friends in this part of the state. To him there has come the attainment of a distinguished position in connection with the various interests of the county, and his efforts have been so discerningly directed along well-defined lines of labor that he seems to have realized at any one point of progress the full measure of possibilities for accomplishment at that point. A man of distinct and forceful individuality, of broad mentality and most mature judgment, he has left and is leaving his impress upon business activity in this community. For years he has been an important factor in the development of this part of the state, and has been a witness of its growth for nearly sixty years. Great changes have occurred during this long period, the wild prairie land being developed into some of the richest farms of Illinois, while in other ways the county has kept apace with the universal progress. Mr. Rhoades has done everything in his power to further its advancement, and is justly accounted one of its most valued and respected citizens.

SCAMON C. RODMAN.

Scamon C. Rodman, who is now engaged in the grain business in DeLand, Illinois, and is also interested in lead mining in Missouri, was born on the 22d of April, 1844, near Zanesville, Ohio, and was educated in the common schools near Bloomington, Illinois, having come with his father to this state when nine years old. He was preparing to enter college when the Civil war broke out, and he laid aside his text-books to enter the service of his country, his patriotic spirit being aroused. He first enlisted in 1864 in Company H, One Hundred and Forty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served six months, and later being mustered out at Camp Butler he re-enlisted in the One Hundred and Fiftieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He participated in the engagements at Cleveland, Tennessee; Dalton and Atlanta, Georgia; and Jonesboro, North Carolina; and after hostilities ceased he assisted in the establishment of the civil government in the south during the reconstrucion period. A lengh he was mustered out at Griffin, Georgia, January 16, 1866, and was discharged at Camp Butler.

On his return home Mr. Rodman remained with his father until his marriage. It was on the 6th of January, 1870, that he wedded Miss Emily Fleming, a daughter of A. M. and Sarah Fleming, and to them have have been born five children: Gertrude L., now the wife of G. W. Griffin, of Nevada, Missouri; Roy S., who is in the employ of the Chicago Telephone Company of Chicago; Mabel F., Herbert G. and Earl C., all three at home.

For four years after his marriage Mr. Rodman operated his father's farm, and then purchased a store and grain business at Padua, McLean county, Illinois, thirteen miles from Bloomington, conducting the same until 1877, when he removed to DeLand and opened a general store in partnership with his brother, but sold out to his brother

a year later. He next embarked in the grain and stock business with R. B. Moody and built the first elevator in DeLand with a capacity of seventy-five thousand bushels. That connection continued for ten years, and in 1888 he sold out to his brother, J. N. Rodman, on account of failing health. He then removed to southwestern Missouri and engaged in the real estate and mining business, under the firm name of Rodman & McClure, at Carthage, that state, the capital stock of the company being twenty thousand dollars. In 1889 Mr. Rodman also embarked in the commission and farm implement business, which he followed for eight years, and on the end of that time he went to Salem, Iowa, where he was engaged in the clothing and general merchandise business, conducting what was known as the Salem Clothing House. After six years spent at that place he sold out and returned to De Land in September, 1892, and took the management of the J. N. Rodman elevator. He is still interested in a lead mine at Oronoga, Missouri, and has one hundred and sixty acres of land in that state, besides a nice home in DeLand, which he purchased of Edward B. Chenoweth, in 1902.

The Republican party has always found in Mr. Rodman a stanch supporter of its principles, and he has taken quite an active and commendable interest in affairs, serving as town clerk in Goose Creek township, this county, justice of the peace while in Iowa, and as a member of the school board for six years. He is a charter member of the Odd Fellows Lodge at DeLand, and both he and his wife belong to the Congregational church. He is a man in whom the community places the utmost confidence, and he has always been found worthy of and true to every trust reposed in him.

GEORGE W. HOFFMAN.

One of the leading and representative citizens of Blue Ridge township is George W. Hoffman, who is successfully carrying on his chosen occupation on section 19, where he owns a valuable and well-improved farm of two hundred acres. A native of Illinois, he was born in Logan county on the 24th of July, 1856, and is a son of James M. and Mary (Barr) Hoffman, who are natives of West Virginia and Illinois, respectively. When the father was three years old he accompanied his parents on their removal to Ohio and grew to manhood in Champaign county, that state. At the age of twenty he turned his face westward with the intention of making an overland trip to California, but on reaching Waynesville, DeWitt county, Illinois, he stopped and remained there until the spring of 1869, when he removed to McLean county. He was there engaged in farming throughout the remainder of his active business life, and since 1897 he and his wife have lived retired in Farmer City, Illinois, enjoying a well-earned rest. Unto them were born six children, but only three are now living, these being George W., of this review; Mrs. Della Cross, of Farmer City; and Mrs. Addie L. Orendorff, of Bloomington, Illinois.

George W. Hoffman received his early education in the common schools of McLean and Logan counties, and passed his boyhood and youth in much the manner of farmer boys, gaining an excellent knowledge of the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist. On the 2nd of April, 1879, he was united in marriage to Miss Ella Orendorff, of McLean county, a daughter of Lewis and Susan R. (Hoover) Orendorff. Her father was the first white male child born in McLean county.

Of his four living children none are residents of Piatt county with exception of Mrs. Hoffman. Our subject and his wife have nine children, namely: Myrtle, now the wife of Lincoln G. Heller, of McLean county, and the mother of one child, Bernice Evelyn; Daisy Pearl; Edith; Elmer O.; Mary; Hazel Laverne; James Lewis; George Arthur; and Ruth Lucile.

After his marriage Mr. Hoffman began farming in West township, McLean county, on land which Mr. Orendorff had given him and his wife, and they continued to reside there until February, 1893, when they removed to the farm in Blue Ridge township, Piatt county, where they now live. Mr. Hoffman first purchased one hundred and sixty acres, to which he has since added a forty-acre tract, making two hundred acres in one body. This he has improved and placed under a high state of cultivation. He is engaged in general farming and stock-raising, handling horses, mules, cattle, sheep and hogs, and gives considerable attention to that part of his business, which he has found quite profitable.

In 1886, on account of Mrs. Hoffman's health, the family removed to Tennessee, where they spent almost a year, and while there our subject engaged in buying and selling stock. With that exception he has always made his home in Illinois. He is an active and prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Weedman, of which he has been trustee for some years, and was also superintendent of the Sunday-school six or seven years. Fraternally, he is a member of Poplar Camp, No. 253, M. W. A., and politically, is identified with the Republican party. He has filled the office of tax collector, but has never cared for political preferment, his time and attention being taken up by his business interests. He is a man of sterling worth and commands the respect and confidence of all with whom he is brought in contact.

ELBERT G. KNIGHT.

Since 1877 Elbert G. Knight has figured in business circles in Monticello, where he is now extensively engaged in dealing in grain, implements and coal, and also in the manufacturing of harness. His achievements represent the result of honest endeavor along lines where mature judgment has pointed the way. He possesses a weight of character, a native sagacity, a discriminating mind and a fidelity of purpose that command the respect, if not the approval, of friends and foes alike. His is an honorable career, and he is recognized as one of the leading and representative citizens of Monticello.

His ancestral history is one of close connection with New England from an early day, although the family is of Scotch descent. Moses Knight, the great-grandfather of our subject, was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, who fought valiantly for the cause of independence, and his son, Moses, the grandfather of our subject, again took up arms in behalf of his country in the second war with England, entering the service in 1812. Patriotism has always been one of the strong characteristics in the Knight family, and many incidents might be cited of the love of country of the different people who have borne the name of Knight. Joshua Knight, the father of our subject, was born in New England, in 1802, and resided in that section of the country until after his marriage and the birth of his children. His last years, however, were spent in Illinois, his death occur-

ring in Monticello in 1881. In early manhood he wedded Miss Elizabeth Gage, a daughter of James and Elizabeth Gage. She died in 1853. In the family were five children.

Elbert G. Knight, whose name introduces this record, was reared in New England, attending the public schools of Bath and later working at various pursuits until he was twenty years of age. His birth occurred in Haverhill, Massachusetts, on the 29th of September, 1836, and in 1856 he came to Monticello, Illinois, where he entered upon his business career in the humble capacity of a clerk in a general store owned and conducted by O. Bailey. That he proved a capable and faithful employe is indicated by the fact that he remained in Mr. Bailey's service for five years. He was afterward in another store for ten years. In 1862 he volunteered his services for the Civil war, but not being accepted he returned to Monticello and was appointed deputy sheriff under E. P. Fischer for one year. On the expiration of that time he entered the employ of Piatt & Bryden, with whom he remained sixteen years, and in 1877 started in business with L. B. Tinder, as dealers in grain. This connection continued until 1884, when he purchased his partner's interest in the business, and his son became a member of the firm in 1892. They handle all kinds of grain, and as they found opportunity they have extended the field of their labor until to-day they have several elevators on the Wabash & Illinois Central Railroads, having a capacity of sixty thousand bushels, and owing to the close proximity of the railroads they have good facilities for the shipment of both grain and coal. They deal in the latter commodity on quite an extensive scale, and in the various branches of their business they have gained success. Business was carried on under the firm style of E. G. Knight & Son until 1903, when it was incorporated under the name of the Knight Grain Company, Mr. Knight being president, while H. N. Knight is vice president and treasurer, and W. K. Davidson is secretary. This is one of the best-known firms in the county, and its business methods are unassailable.

In July, 1858, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Knight and Miss Ann R. Curran, a native of Towanda, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Daniel and Anna (Duggan) Curran. This marriage was blessed with four children: Anna E., the wife of J. W. Davison; Ella Y., who married Daniel Bohon, of Monticello; H. N., who is in business with his father; and Jessie F., wife of J. E. Andrews.

Mr. Knight is the owner of a good farm of forty-five acres about four miles distant from Monticello and situated on the banks of the Sangamon river. The place is skirted with of the finest springs in Piatt county Mr. Knight has erected suitable buildings, and has a little rustic house which he uses as a cottage in the summer months, the family spending a part of the hot season of the year in this quiet, cool retreat. In his political views Mr. Knight is a pronounced Republican, taking a deep interest in the success of his party, for he earnestly desires the welfare of the county and the election of his friends. He has, however, never been an active politician in the sense of office-seeking on his own account, although for eleven years he served as a member of the city council of Monticello. Such, in brief, is the life record of one of the well-known citizens of this state, whose labors have closely touched the interests of state and have contributed to the advancement toward that perfection for which

a majority of the world's people are striving. He is a man of firm convictions, and it is doubtful if he ever weighed a single act of his life in the scale of policy, his conduct being prompted by the spirit of usefulness and conscientious obligation. Strong in his individuality he never lacks the courage of his convictions, and this taken into consideration with the sterling integriy and honor of his character have naturally gained for him the respect and confidence of men.

HERMAN G. MEYER.

A member of the Teutonic race who has made a success of farming in Piatt county, is Herman G. Meyer, who resides on a farm on section 32, Goose Creek township. He is a native of Germany, having been born there on the 10th of December, 1836, and is the son of George H. and Gertrude Frances (Hendricks) Meyer. The family is of German descent, tracing its origin far back into the middle ages. The father of our subject was born in the town of Pilsun, Province of Hanover, March 9, 1807. He grew to manhood in the fatherland, and with his family came to this country in 1867. He settled in the city of Peoria, Illinois, where he followed his trade of weaver for a period of some six years. At the solicitation of our subject, he removed to Logan county, where they together rented a farm, which they continued to operate for a period of fifteen years. The father then removed to Piatt county, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres in Goose Creek township. Here he resided some twenty years, at the end of which time he retired from active work and took up his residence in Monticello, where he died on the 9th of December, 1891. Our subject's mother was born also in the fatherland, the date being February 24, 1814, and her death occurring in Logan county, May 15, 1903, her age being eighty-nine years, three months and one day. She was the mother of seven children, five of whom are living: Herman; Lowery, widow of Nanka Rademaker; Henry, retired farmer residing in Monticello; Ties, a Logan county farmer; and Albert, who also resides in Logan county.

Herman G. Meyer received a good education in the common schools of Germany, and came with the family to this country on the date above mentioned. He had for some time previous to this been the mainstay of the family, and paid the passage of his parents to this country, he himself working his way as cook on the vessel. He was first employed in this country in the coal mines near Peoria, and, as stated, associated himself with his father in the cultivation of a farm in Logan county. He accompanied his father to Piatt county and in company with him purchased a farm of eighty acres in Goose creek township. After the retirement of his father Mr. Meyer continued the operation of this farm, and in 1880 had accumulated sufficient to purchase a tract of three hundred and twenty acres near by, for which he paid thirty dollars an acre. Upon this farm he continued to reside until the death of his father, when he removed to Monticello, and for two years resided in the home which he had bought for his father upon his retirement from active duties. A long life of activity on the farm, however, has unfitted Mr. Meyer for the monotonous life in town, and he therefore again took up his residence on the home place, where he has since resided, but which he rents to tenants. Mr. Meyer has been quite a dealer in real estate, and has purchased and

improved several valuable farms in the county, which he sold at a good price. His own farm is a model of the agriculturist's art, being thoroughly tiled and ditched and one of the most productive farms in the county, Large barns and many convenient outbuildings have been erected, and orchards consisting of all kinds of the best fruit surround the home.

The married life of Mr. Meyer began in the fatherland June 22, 1860, when he was joined in marriage to Rincha, daughter of Lewis and Grace Frances (Stroman) Adams. To them have been born two children, George, who married Miss Belle Reynolds; and Lewis, whose wife's maiden name was Dina Lubbers. Both of the sons are cultivating portions of the home farm, and reside near their parents. The mother of these boys was born in Germany, and is one of four children residing in this county, the others being Rinder, a brother, who is a retired farmer living in Ackley, Iowa; Wupke, the widow of H. Blacker and a resident of Pekin, Illinois; Tetge, the widow of Simon Uphoff and also a resident of Pekin.

Mr. Myer is one of the substantial men of the county, and has a reputation for honesty and integrity of character. Politically, he supports the Democratic party, has been school director for a period of two years, and for the past five years has been one of the ditch commissioners of the county. He is a worthy member of the Masonic Fraternity, and holds a membership in lodge No. 58, of Monticello. He and his wife are active members of the Presbyterian church of Monticello, in this regard following in the footsteps of Mr. Meyer's father and mother, who were both lifelong members of that church.

Secure in the possession of the esteem and respect of their neighbors, and the love of their children, Mr. and Mrs. Meyer are passing a happy and serene old age, conscious of duty well and faithfully performed. Honest toil and fair dealing have brought their sure reward, assuring a surcease from the heat and labor of the day for the remaining portion of their lives.

ROBERT HENRY ALLERTON.

One of the beautiful country homes of central Illinois is that owned by Robert H. Allerton about four miles west of Monticello, the artistic taste of the owner being shown in all its appointments. Mr. Allerton is a native of Illinois, born in Chicago, March 20, 1873, and is a son of Samuel Waters and Pamilla (Thompson) Allerton, of that city. The father is one of the most prominent farmers and bankers of this state, where he owns a large amount of land. The Allerton family was founded in America by Isaac Allerton, who came to this country in the Mayflower.

Robert H. Allerton began his education in the schools of Chicago, and later attended St. Paul's at Concord, New Hampshire. After leaving that institution he went abroad, where he spent five years in study and travel, giving special attention to art in Paris and Munich, and he was graduated at the Royal Academy art school at Munich in 1894. Since his return to America he has made his home principally in Piatt county as he is very fond of country life, and takes great delight in horses and dogs. He has made a scientific study of farming and practices the rotation of crops in the operation of his land, owning ten thousand acres in Piatt county, eight thousand in his own place and two thousand three miles the other side of Monticello. The



RESIDENCE OF ROBERT H. ALLERTON

land is all under cultivation with the exception of about one thousand acres of forest. His residence, which is a palatial structure, and also his stables and other buildings upon the place are of Georgian architecture, and the former is elegantly furnished. The grounds are also in keeping with the home, being laid out in a most artistic manner and under the supervision of expert landscape gardeners.

Mr. Allerton has become interested in a number of business enterprises which claim a portion of his attention, being president of the A. T. Ranch Company in Wheeler county, Nebraska; president of the First National Bank of Primrose, that state, and president of the Jersey City Stockyards of New York. In religious faith he is a Universalist and in politics is a Republican. He is now serving as a trustee of the St. Charles Home for Boys. By their investments and improvements Mr. Allerton and his father have done much to promote the interests of central Illinois, and have become prominently identified with its welfare and advancement.

JOHN H. REEVES.

Although for many years John H. Reeves was connected with general farming in central Illinois, he is now living retired in Cisco, in the enjoyment of a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. He was born on the 17th of June, 1837, in Pickaway county, Ohio, his parents being Josiah and Eliza (Mauser) Reeves, both of whom were natives of the Buckeye state. The father was a farmer by occupation, following that pursuit throughout his entire life in order to provide for his family. On leaving Ohio he removed to Jackson county, Missouri, taking up his abode there after the Civil war. He continued his residence in that state until called to his final rest in the year 1887, at the age of seventy-five years, his birth having occurred in 1812. In the family were nine children, of whom five are yet living.

John H. Reeves spent his early boyhood days under the parental roof and obtained his education in the old-time subscription schools of Ohio. Pickaway county during the period of his boyhood, was largely a frontier district, in which the work of improvement and progress had scarcely been begun. His training at farm work, however, was not meager, and from an early day he began work in the fields, assisting his father in the task of plowing, planting and harvesting, until about twenty-one years of age. Thinking that the newer west, with its more rapid development, furnished better business opportunities, he then resolved to establish his home in Illinois, and made his way westward to Champaign county, settling near Mahomet, where he lived for about three years. In the spring of 1861 he came to Piatt county, and has since been a representative of its agricultural interests.

Mr. Reeves was married in Ohio to Miss Angeline Williams, and brought his bride with him to Illinois. They began their domestic life in Champaign county upon a tract of rented land, and after coming to Piatt county he again rented land until 1872, during which time his industry and economy enabled him to acquire sufficient capital to purchase forty acres of land. Thus becoming the owner of a home of his own, with renewed courage and determination he began its development and placed the land under cultivation. He then bought forty acres more, and traded this

eighty acres for the one hundred and sixty acres.

As the years passed he gathered good harvests as the reward of his labors and development of a property which in its neat and thrifty condition indicates his careful supervision. To the original purchase he added forty acres, which he also placed under cultivation, and ditching and tiling have made the fields very productive. He also placed excellent improvements upon his property, and as his financial resources have increased he has added to his realty holdings until his landed possessions now aggregate four hundred and forty acres, of which two hundred and eighty acres are in Piatt county and the balance in Macon county. He has also town property, including two residences and six lots in the village of Cisco. All that Mr. Reeves possesses has come to him through his own efforts, and while promoting his individual prosperity he has also been an active factor in the development of Piatt county, cooperating in many measures for the general good along lines of substantial improvement and permanent development.

After the death of his first wife Mr. Reeves was united in marriage to Sarah P. Eva, a widow. By his first union he had six children: Turney, who is now deceased; William; Edward; Orin C.; Corilda; and Alba, who is also deceased. Mr. Reeves has given his political support to the Democracy since casting his first presidential vote for John Bell in 1860, but while he has kept well informed on the questions and issues of the day and taken a deep interest in the success of his party, he has never sought political preferment for himself. In 1893 he came to Cisco and purchased good residence property, since which time he has lived retired from the active work of the farm, enjoying the fruits of his former toil. While there is nothing in his life history to attract the reader in search of a sensational chapter, there are valuable lessons to be learned by those who have regard for the things of life which develop honorable character, upright manhood and which win success. He has ever guided his life by principles which will bear the closest and most rigid scrutiny, and in his dealings with his fellow men has ever been straightforward and honorable.

IRA F. MINER.

Ira F. Miner is a son of James and Emeline (Fleming) Miner, and was born in Clarksburg, Ohio, April 5, 1840. His education was that of the common schools, and he remained with his parents until after his removal with them to Piatt county. He then began farming for himself, buying forty acres of what was known as the John Dighton farm. Holding this two years, he sold and bought eighty acres on Stringtown lane. He improved this farm, and at the end of six years again sold out and purchased eighty-five acres in Goose Creek township. After the death of his father, he sold this farm and removed to a tract of sixty-four acres, which he received from his father's estate, and where he has since resided. Mr. Miner is one of the successful farmers of the county, giving especial attention to the raising of thoroughbred horses, some of which have attracted more than a local notice. His home is modern in every respect, and is surrounded with every convenience and necessity which go to make up country life.

Mr. Miner was married July 4, 1861, to Mary Bruffett, a daughter of William and

Amanda (Freeman) Bruffett. Her father was born in Madison county, Ohio, February 18, 1822, and her mother November 15, 1820. They were married December 18, 1843, and in the fall of 1851 came to Piatt county, Illinois, where they were leading farmers until their deaths, the father dying July 19, 1855, the mother surviving until June 24, 1871. Mrs. Miner is the eldest of their children. David Bruffett, a brother, is in the marble business at Urbana, Illinois. Rachel, a sister, died at the tender age of seven years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Miner have been born nine children: Emma, widow of Frank Robinson, resides in Monticello; Amanda is the wife of Edward Aterson, a farmer residing near Cisco, Illinois. They have three children: Warren, Willard and Gladys. Fannie married William Robinson and resides north of Bement, Illinois, with their children, Nellie and Lynn. Tallie is the wife of William McCartney, and resides on a farm near Cisco with their children: Ward, Wayne and Ira. Mary died at eleven years. James E. is a farmer of Goose Creek township. He married Olive Warner, to whom has been born Harold and Ruth. Nellie is the wife of Roy Jones, principal of schools at Foosland, Illinois. Her two children are Helen and Hazel. Roy D. is still a young man at home. Pearl, the youngest of the family, is a successful school-teacher, her last school being at Galesville, Illinois.

Few families of the county stand better in all that makes up good citizenship than the one here treated. Strong, manly sons and home-loving, womanly daughters speak with no uncertain tone of the splendid training received in the home of our subject and his good wife, and they constitute the crowning glory of well-spent lives. The family is one of the most esteemed in the county and is well worthy of representation in a volume devoted to the representative citizens of Piatt county.

HERBERT D. PETERS.

The many avenues of activity in which Mr. Peters has sought an outlet for his abilities and aspirations have invariably profited by his common-sense methods, his sterling worth and sound judgment. A prominent representative of industrial interests and well known in political circles, he certainly deserves mention in this history of his adopted county. His name figures conspicuously in connection with the Republican party in central Illinois, and his business interests have now assumed an importance which makes him one of the leading men of Monticello. He is now engaged in the manufacture of cigars, also writing tablets, does a printing business and is also a jobber of stationery, school supplies and tobacco articles, and his enterprise has reached extensive proportions.

Herbert D. Peters was born upon a farm in Steuben county, Indiana, November 1, 1849. His paternal grandfather was Richard Peters, a native of New York, who, when a young man, became a pioneer of Summerfield township, Monroe county, Michigan, and the village of Petersburg, that state, was named in his honor. He was quite an extensive farmer and stock-raiser, and owned a large amount of land in that locality. He was twice married, and died in 1862. Of his three sons Charles Peters was the father of our subject. He was born in 1827 in Monroe county, Michigan, not far from the city of Detroit. Reared amid the wild scenes of frontier life, he aided in the improvement of

his father's farm, and after attaining his majority he was united in marriage to Miss Julia A. Burnham, a native of Massachusetts and a daughter of Calvin Burnham. Unto them were born three children, who are still living.

Spending his boyhood days under the parental roof, Herbert D. Peters began his education in the public schools of Michigan, later became a student in the high school of Monroe, and afterward entered the State University, at Ann Arbor, in which institution he was graduated in the class of 1873. He entered upon his business career thoroughly equipped with broad mental training. For a time he was connected with journalistic work in Detroit, being employed on one of the papers of that city, and in 1874 he came to Monticello, Illinois, where he established the Piatt County Herald under the firm name of Scroggs & Peters. A year and a half later he became sole proprietor and continued the publication of the Herald as a Republican paper for eighteen years. At length he sold his interest to its present editor, Mr. Burgess, who now publishes it under the name of the Piatt County Republican.

On disposing of his newspaper Mr. Peters continued in the printing business along other lines, and also became a jobber in stationary and school supplies. Later he added another department to his business—the manufacture of tablets—and to-day he does a large business and carries an extensive stock, being represented on the road by several traveling salesmen, covering the greater part of Illinois and portions of Indiana. Later he began the manufacture of cigars and tobacco, thus adding another department to his business, and the upper story of his large brick building is now being utilized in this way. He has a building twenty-nine by ninety feet and two stories and a basement in height, and all devoted to Mr. Peters' business. In 1884 he also erected a brick business block that is now occupied by the Hott drug store, and thus he has added to the improvement of the central section of the city. In 1894 he erected his present building, which is twenty-nine by ninety-five feet and two stories in heigh with basement, and in this he conducts a part of his business. He employs a force of from twenty-five to thirty people, and is conducting an enterprise of importance to the city as well as to himself. The prosperity of any town or city depends upon its business activity and the promotion of its industrial and commercial interests, and Mr. Peters has done much in this direction.

In 1879 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Peters and Miss Anna Huston, of Monticello, who was for several years a teacher in the Monticello schools and a daughter of John and Mary E. (Prichard) Huston. They traveled life's journey happily together for about fifteen years, and then Mrs. Peters was called to her final rest in January, 1894, leaving a son and two daughters: Grant, who is a graduate of the Monticello high school of the class of 1903; Mary and Julia, who are attending school.

In his political affiliations Mr. Peters has always been a Republican, unfaltering in support of the principles of the party, and for several years he was connected with the Republican central committee of Piatt county as is secretary, and in other capacities. He has also been a delegate to the state conventions of his party and his efforts in behalf of the organization have been effective and beneficial. He has made a close study of the issues and questions of the day, and is thus able to support his position by intelligent ar-

gument, and he has also left the impress of his opinions upon public thought and action. In local politics he has figured prominently, and he was for two years a member of the city council from the first ward. He has also been president of the school board, the cause of education finding in him a warm friend. In 1880 he was nominated to represent Piatt county in the state legislature, was elected from the thirty-second district, and was an active working member of the body, serving on a number of important committees. He took an active part in the business that was transacted in the council chambers of the state, and his course was ever above suspicion. The good of the nation he places above partisanship and the welfare of his constituents before personal aggrandizement. He commands the respect of those with whom he comes in contact everywhere, but at home—in the county of his adoption—where he is best known, he inspires personal friendship of unusal strength, and all who know him have the highest admiration for his good qualities of heart and mind.

SAMUEL S. ARMSWORTH.

Samuel S. Armsworth is one of the leading young farmers of Willow Branch township, his home being on section 25, where he was born on the 13th of March, 1871, a son of James and Emma (Gulliford) Armsworth. The birth of the father occurred on the same place, it being originally the home of our subject's paternal grandparents, Samuel and Celia Armsworth, who located there when the county was in its wildest state.

The father was educated in the common schools of this locality, and when a young man began dealing in stock and also ran a ditching machine, which he owned in partnership with his brother-in-law, Thomas Gulliford, and John Kirby, of Monticello. They ditched much of land of this county. After his marriage James Armsworth continued to reside on the old homestead, and in connection with its operation he conducted a brick and tile factory, which was located on his land, having been established there by D. O. Loy, who had leased the land from James Armsworth. About 1880 the father purchased the plant and successfully carried on the factory throughout the remainder of his life, manufacturing much of the brick and tile used in this region. In 1883 he erected one of the finest brick houses in Willow Branch township, it being of the very best workmanship throughout and built for the convenience of himself and family. The brick was manufactured in his own factory and no pains were spared in the construction of the residence.

On the 9th of December, 1866, was celebrated the marriage of James Armsworth and Miss Emma Gulliford, who was born in Somersetshire, England, in 1840, and is a daughter of William and Mary (Ashford) Gulliford. Her paternal grandfather was William Gulliford, Sr., a property owner in England, while on the maternal side she is related to a Mr. Ashford, who has much wealth at his command in that country. In 1853 Mrs. Armsworth came with her parents to the new world and settled near Milmine, Piatt county, Illinois, when this section of the state was very wild and unimproved. Wolves and deer were then numerous and smaller game was also found in abundance. The homes of the early settlers were mostly built of logs, and were widely scattered. Mrs. Armsworth's father was a butcher by

trade, but he also engaged in the bakery business to some extent, and was capable of doing almost any kind of work. After coming to this country he turned his attention principally to farming, his home being near Milmine in this county.

Unto James and Emma (Gulliford) Armsworth were born the following children: William Edwin, now deceased; Samuel S., whose name introduces this sketch; Celia Lavina, Bertha Alma and Floyd Frederick, all three deceased; Ernest Albion, who died at the age of two years, before the father's death; and Edith May, who is at home with her mother and brother. After a useful and well-spent life the father passed away in 1885. Most of the children were then quite small, but Mrs. Armsworth not only reared her own family, but also three children belonging to her husband's brother, these being Sadie, now the wife of Samuel D. Parr, who is engaged in farming east of Monticello; Chattie, wife of John Mitchell, who lives near Ivesdale; and Scott, who is still with Mrs. Armsworth. At different times the family have resided in Monticello and Cerro Gordo, but they prefer the quiet of farm life and now occupy their beautiful country home.

Mrs. Armsworth is an active and prominent member of the Presbyterian church, to which her husband also belongs. He never cared for political preferment, but served as school director for many years, and always took a deep interest in all enterprises calculated to promote the moral, educational or social welfare of the community in which he lived. He was a very successful farmer and stock-raiser, and derived a good income from his business as a stock-dealer, buying and selling cattle on quite an extensive scale in early life. The old homestead had been rented for several years prior to his marriage, and when he took charge of the same it was in rather a dilapidated condition, but he tiled, fenced and improved the land, erected good and substantial buildings and made his farm one of the best in the county.

The property is now under the control of Samuel S. Armsworth, who is successfully operating about three hundred acres, raising corn, oats and fruit of all kinds, and he usually ships a carload of hogs to market each year. He was reared on the farm, and since his father's death has remained with his mother, doing all in his power for her comfort and pleasure. He raises a good grade of stock and has some very fine colts upon his place. On the 3d of November, 1892, he married Miss. Catharine Maier, a daughter of John and Catharine Maier, of Monticello, but she died, April 25, 1895, and their daughter, Catharine, who was born January 14, 1895, died the following July. Bessie, born September 22, 1893, is still living.

Mr. Armsworth is now serving his second term as tax collector in Willow Branch township. Politically, he is a Democrat, and socially, he is a member of Arela Lodge, No. 599, I. O. O. F., and the Royal Circle of Cisco.

EDWARD ALLMAN.

After years of active labor, mostly devoted to farming, Edward Allman is now living a retired life in the city of Decatur, enjoying a well earned rest and the fruits of his former toil. He is a native of County Kerry, Ireland, and a son of John Allman, who spent his entire life in that country. He still has one brother and a sister living, these being James L., a prominent citizen of Monti-

cello, and Mrs. Edward S. Stout, also a resident of Piatt county.

Edward Allman spent the first thirteen years of his life in his native land, and then came to the United States, landing in New York City, whence he made his way to Ohio, where he spent two years. At the end of that time he proceeded westward and settled in Monticello, Illinois. In partnership with his brothers, James L. and John Allman, he took up a tract of wild prairie land in Monticello township, Piatt county, which at that time was covered with ponds and sloughs, but by draining and cultivation they converted the place into a well improved farm. At that early day deer, wild geese and other game was plentiful and furnished the early settlers with many a meal. The farm machinery then in use was very primitive, and the first corn Mr. Allman helped to cultivate was with a single shovel plow, while he cut grain with a cradle. Upon their place the brothers erected a small frame house, which was later replaced by a more commodious and modern residence, and all of the improved machinery and conveniences were added to their farm.

When his adopted country became involved in Civil war, Edward Allman laid aside all personal interests and was one of the first to enlist from Piatt county, becoming a private of Company E, One Hundred and Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was at first under the command of Colonel Snell, and when he resigned under the command of Colonel Lowery, who was killed in the battle of Franklin. The captain of Company E was John W. Wood. Mr. Allman went into camp at Camp Butler, and from there was sent south with his regiment. The first engagement in which he participated was with Morgan in Kentucky, and after his capture in Ohio returned to Kentucky our subject took part in the battles of Nashville and Campbell Station, the siege of Knoxville, the battle of Peach Tree Creek, the siege of Atlanta and the battles of Jonesboro and Newbern, North Carolina, besides several other engagements of less importance. After three years of valiant and meritorious service on southern battle-fields, he was honorably discharged in 1865, and returned home to Piatt county.

After leaving the army Mr. Allman continued to engage in general farming and stock-raising with his brother, James L., for some years. He worked by the month for some time after coming to Piatt county, but about 1868 started out in life for himself. His first purchase consisted of a tract of virgin soil, upon which he laid about seven miles of tiling, and also erected thereon a good set of farm buildings. He is still the owner of a good farm of two hundred and forty acres in Monticello township, where he was successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits for many years, and gave considerable attention to the stock business, which he found quite profitable. In 1892, on account of ill health, he rented his farm and has since lived retired. He has twice crossed the ocean to visit his native land, and also went west in the search of health, having traveled quite extensively over this country for that purpose. Since 1892 he has made his home in Decatur, and now has a beautiful residence at No. 1006 E. Lincoln avenue, surrounded by well kept lawns. His housekeeper is his niece, Miss Maggie C. Allman, a daughter of John and Nora (Cronin) Allman, both now deceased.

By his ballot, Mr. Allman supports the men and measures of the Democratic party. He is a devout member of the Catholic church, and has helped to organize the

churches at Tolono, Champaign, Ivesdale and Bement, but is now connected with St. Patrick's church of Decatur. He well remembers seeing the first Catholic missionary that ever came to Piatt county, and he has borne an active and prominent part in the moral and material development of this section of the state. He is one of the self-made men of the community, his success in life being due entirely to his own well directed efforts and good business ability, and he not only deserves the prosperity that has come to him, but he has also gained the confidence and good will of those with whom he has been brought in contact either in business or social life.

JOHN W. KINGSTON.

John W. Kingston is a member of one of the pioneer families of the state and has been a resident of Piatt county since 1867. He is now living a retired life on section 35, Goose Creek township. He is a native of Peoria county, Illinois, born April 5, 1827, the son of George and Susan (Miller) Kingston. George Kingston was born in County Cork, Ireland, and came to this country at the age of seventeen years. He later located in the middle west and purchased a tract of two hundred and eighty acres of government land in Woodford county, Illinois. He continued to cultivate this farm until the death of his wife, when he went to reside with the children. He was one of the early and respected settlers in Woodford county, and lived to the advanced age of eighty-seven years. He married Susan Miller in Morgan county and became the father of twelve children, six of whom are now living: John W.; George, who resides in Florida; Mary A., Mrs. Hollis Thompson, of Bloomington, Illinis; Charles W., a Nebraska farmer; Milton, a Kansas farmer; and Julia, widow of Charles Fredericks, now residing in Washington.

John W. Kingston is a product of western institutions, having been educated in the pioneer schools of Woodford county, which he remembers as being of the old log-house, puncheon-floor variety. He, however, succeeded in absorbing enough education to carry him through life, and has made a most useful and respected citizen. As he came to an age of responsibility, he worked by the month for adjacent farmers, and later learned the carpenter's trade. This trade he followed for a period of fifteen years, when he returned to the occupation of farming. He bought a tract of eighty acres in Woodford county, paying therefor two dollars and fifty cents per acre; improving this for a period of ten years he sold at the splendid advance of forty-five dollars an acre. With the result of this sale he came to Piatt county in September of 1867, and bought the farm of two hundred and eighty acres where he now resides. He continued in active cultivation of the soil until 1893, when his success was such as to warrant his retirement and the turning of his farms over to his boys. The original two hundred and eighty-acre farm is now one of the most highly improved in the county and is worth the highest price paid for farming land, though Mr. Kingston paid but seven dollars per acre for it at the time of purchase. It is thoroughly ditched and tiled, and there is a fine modern farmhouse, together with a complete equipment of barns and outbuildings. Mr. Kingston formerly owned forty acres, but has since sold twenty acres to his sons. He is looked upon as one of the solid men, financially, of Piatt county.

Our subject entered the state of matri-

mony in May of 1851, Mrs. Kingston's name having been Sarah M. Bunting. She was the daughter of John and Jane Bunting. Their children are as follows: Rose married Henry Purkheiser, a railroad conductor, living in Macon county, Illinois; George W. married Mary Ann Cooper and is a farmer living on section 26, Goose Creek township; Susan married James Spurling and is now deceased; John married a Miss Reynolds, and removed to California, where he died in 1891; Ansel is a farmer living near Weldon, Illinois; Ellis married Miss Cooper and is a farmer of Goose Creek township; Virginia died at the age of eleven years.

Mr. and Mrs. Kingston are prominent and leading members of the Baptist church, in which they were ordained as deacons in 1888. For a period of twenty-seven years, both our subject and his wife have been earnest and enthusiastic workers in this denomination, he being at the present time superintendent of the Baptist Sunday-school of Monticello, while she is one of the efficient teachers. The consistent Christian lives of our subject and his wife have endeared them to a very large circle of friends in the county, among whom they are most highly regarded.

GEORGE W. KINGSTON.

George W. Kingston, a son of John W. and Sarah M. (Bunting) Kingston, was born in Woodford county, Illinois, in 1857, and now cultivates a farm on section 26 and 35, Goose Creek township, Piatt county. He received his education in the common schools of Piatt county, and resided on the home farm until he had attained his majority. In February, 1879, he was happily joined in marriage to Mary Ann, daughter of Joshua and Martha (Rainwater) Cooper. Mrs. Kingston's parents were leading farmers of Goose Creek township. Her father entered the army during the Civil war as a member of Company D, Seventy-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and after a period of service was stricken with disease and died. A short time later the mother also died, Mrs. Kingston being thus left an orphan at the tender age of three years. The other members of the family were: James F., a stockbuyer of Kansas, and Martha E., who is the wife of John Laka, a farmer and storekeeper residing at Breeze, Missouri.

To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Kingston have been born five children, as follows: all of whom still reside at home: Alva E., Dora V., Bertha, Ray and Carl. After our subject's marriage, he rented a portion of his father's farm and met with such success in its cultivation that he was soon enabled to buy the quarter section adjoining, on which he now resides. On this farm he has erected a modern farm house and large barn, has tiled the entire place thoroughly, and has it under a high state of cultivation. He is regarded as one of the best farmers in the county, being particularly careful in the use of good stock and up-to-date machinery. He carries on general farming, and demonstrates that care given to such an occupation will make it pay.

In the field of politics Mr. Kingston supports the principles of Jefferson and Jackson, and has been school director of his district for the past twelve years. He and his wife are prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, taking an active part in all the work of that organization. They are most highly esteemed in their local community.

OLIVER M. MARTIN.

One of the younger representatives of agricultural interests in Piatt county is Oliver M. Martin, who resides on section 34, Goose Creek township. The birth of Mr. Martin occurred in Piatt county, November 29, 1868. His father was William S. Martin, his mother Jane M. Chandler. The former was born in the Hoosier state, November 9, 1835, and at eighteen years came west to DeWitt county, Illinois, where he passed three years on a rented farm. In 1856, he bought eighty acres of prairie in Piatt county, to which he later added another eighty acres, and at the end of fifteen years owned a half section. He continued to cultivate this body of land successfully until 1894, when he passed a year in Bloomington, and then settled in Monticello. Here he resided for the following four years, and after a trip to California moved to Weldon, Illinois, where he died October 25, 1901. He was a man of sturdy qualities and of patriotic mold, having served his country loyally during the Civil war as a member of Company B, One Hundred and Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry. His wife, whom he married February 28, 1866, was a daughter of Hiram and Rachel (Manlove) Chandler. She became the mother of six children: Ettie M., resides with her mother in Weldon; Oliver M. is the second child; Edgar O. is a farmer of Goose Creek township; Luther died at two years; Wenford B. is a practicing physician at Freeport, Illinois; Manford R. is a student of medicine in the College of Physician and Surgeons of Chicago.

Oliver M. Martin, since his father's death, has resided on the home place, which is regarded as one of the fine farms of the county. He was educated in the public schools of the county and lived dutifully at home until he was twenty years old. He then went to California with the intention of making that state his home, but after an eight months' period on his uncle, Wilbur F. Chandler's ranch, he was cured of his western fever and returned to his native state.

Here, on the 4th of June, 1891, Mr. Martin was united in marriage to Miss Sarah E. Ennis, who is also a native of Illinois, and they now have five children, namely: Erma F., Gladys E., Bernice, William Lawrence and Granville N. William H. Ennis, the father of Mrs. Martin, was born in Maryland in 1837, and in early life came west, locating in Sazewell county, Illinois. He was married at Pekin in 1866 to Sarah E. Houk, who died two or three years later, leaving one child, James E., now a minister at Catlin, Illinois. For his second wife Mr. Ennis married Martha Jane Houk, who was born in Tazewell county in 1847, and they now make their home on a farm in Willow Branch township, Piatt county. The children born of this union are: William D., a farmer of Macon county; Mrs. Martin; Thomas J., a farmer near Kanawha, Iowa; Mary E., Mrs. Emery McGinnis, of Piatt county, Illinois; Louie J., wife of Carmi Parrish, of Macon county; Ira Lee, a farmer of Sullivan, Illinois; Handy M., of Glenhaven, Illinois; Cora E., now Mrs. Clarence Pease, of Cisco, Illinois; and Lester C., who resides with his parents. The father of this family was a soldier of the Civil war, having enlisted in August, 1862, in Company B, One Hundred and Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

After the marriage of Mr. Martin, he settled on a rented farm in DeWitt county, where he passed three years, and then rented the old home place from his father, where he has since resided. Here he carries on gen-

eral farming, and has made a specialty of raising blooded cattle of the polled Angus breed. Mr. Martin has also a fine reputation as a dealer in thoroughbred horses, he having but recently purchased a car load of splendid animals in the famous state of Kentucky. Upon his settlement upon the old home place, he began systematically to put it in splendid condition, remodeling the house, fencing the entire place with a good wire fence, and adding many new outbuildings. He is now the owner of the farm, together with other lands, making in all three hundred and twenty acres.

The character of his citizenship has been such as to secure to him and his family the respect and esteem of the whole country side. In politics he favors the principles of the Republican party, and he is a liberal supporter of the Presbyterian church, of which his wife is a faithful member.

CHARLES F. WEILEPP.

Through forty-five years Charles Fleetman Weilepp has been a resident of central Illinois and is one of the venerable citizens of Piatt county, his mind bearing the impress of the early historical annals of this part of the state. He has passed the eightieth milestone on life's journey, having been born on the 9th of December, 1819, in Prussia. His parents were Christopher and Hannah Weilepp, and the father was a farmer by occupation, following that pursuit throughout his entire business career. He and his wife died in the fatherland, her death occurring before the emigration of her son Charles F. to the new world.

In the land of his nativity Charles F. Weilepp was reared and educated and in 1851 he crossed the Atlantic to America, believing that he might have better business opportunities in the new world than could be obtained in the older countries of Europe. He landed in New York with only fifty cents in his pocket. He had made the voyage in the sailing vessel Idelphia, which weighed anchor in the harbor of Bremen on the 6th of June and reached the harbor of New York on the 24th of August, 1851. He experienced pleasant weather and a voyage which was without danger. Mr. Weilepp did not tarry long in the east, but started at once for the interior of the country, making his way to Rush county, Ohio, where he remained for about six or seven years. It was necessary that he secure immediate employment for he was without funds, and he first worked at daily labor. He was afterward employed at farm work and in 1858 he came to Illinois, settling in Macon county upon a tract of rented land. Thus he began farming upon his own account, and for ten years followed that pursuit at his first location. As the years passed Mr. Weilepp prospered in his undertaking, gaining a comfortable competence, and in agricultural circles he was well known as a leading representative of that line of business activity. In 1885 he left the home farm and came to Cisco, where he has since lived with his son.

Mr. Weilepp was married in Prussia about sixty-four years ago, the lady of his choice being Christina Hyer, who was born in Prussia and who was long a faithful companion and helpmate to his on life's journey. They became the parents of nine children: Minnie, who is now the widow of Samuel Smith and resides in St. John's, Kansas; Charles, deceased; Edward, who is also living in St. John's; David, who resides in

Maroa, Illinois; Laura, who is the widow of John McKinley and makes her home at Forsyth: William and Samuel, who have passed away; Frank S., with whom our subject makes his home; and John, who died in Ohio. The mother of these children departed this life in 1870, dying in Macon county. She had gained many friends during her residence in this part of the state, and her loss was therefore deeply and widely mourned.

Mr. Weilepp, of this review, was one of the early settlers of Macon county, and assisted in breaking a great amount of new land there and in otherwise reclaiming the district for cultivation and improvement. He resided in that county for twenty-six years, but has spent his later years at the home of his son in Cisco, living retired. Mr. Weilepp cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, but since that time has supported the Democracy, and is unfaltering in his allegiance to its principles, for he believes its platform contains the best elements of good government. He is a member of the German Lutheran church, to which his wife also belonged, and has lived an earnest Christian life, doing unto others as he would have them do unto him, making the most of his opportunities, and at all times giving his influence for improvement along lines of benefit to the entire community.

FRANK S. WEILEPP.

The broad prairies of Illinois furnished splendid opportunities to the agriculturist who annually harvests good crops of grain. Because of this there has sprung up various industries of a kindred nature and Mr. Weilepp, of this review is a representative of one of these, being to-day extensively engaged in the purchase and sale of grain, having a large elevator in Cisco. He is a native son of central Illinois, and is imbued with the spirit of enterprise and progress which has been the dominant factor in the development and permanent improvement of this section of the state. He was born in Macon county on the 1st of June, 1862, and acquired his early education in the common schools. His youth was spent in working upon his father's farm, where he early became familiar with the labors of field and meadow and continued under the parental roof until eighteen years of age, when he went to Forsyth and embarked in the grain business. About 1882 he arrived in Cisco, where he began buying grain for the firm of Day, Sons & Company, with whom he remained for about seven years, when he purchased his employer's interests in the business in connection with M. Croninger. Since that time Mr. Weilepp has enjoyed a very prosperous career, meeting with gratifying success in his undertakings. The elevator has a capacity of about forty thousand bushels, the granary in connection about thirty thousand and the total capacity of elevator, granary and cribs is about one hundred thousand bushels of grain. This is a well equipped plant, of which Mr. Weilepp is sole owner. The valuation of his business property is fifteen thousand dollars, and he is to-day regarded as one of the leading representatives of the grain trade in this part of the state. His operations are quite extensive and his business furnishes an excellent market for producers so that his work is of value to the community as well as a source of good income to himself. Mr. Weilepp is also a stockholder in the bank owned by the late M. Croninger. He likewise owns about twenty-five acres of land near Cisco, and one

hundred and sixty acres in Macon county. He also leases and sublets about a section of land, and has some valuable real estate holdings, besides those already mentioned. He has a good residence in Cisco which he occupies and another which he rents, and altogether his property possessions represent large investments and indicate something of the success which has come to him in reward for his life work.

On February 1, 1883, Mr. Weilepp was united in marriage to Miss Ada F. Nogle, a native of Illinois, and this union has been blessed with eight children, namely: Lela N., Carl N., Edward S., Louise M., Eva F., Laura, Paul and Max. Mr. Weilepp is a Democrat in politics. He regards it the duty as well as the privilege of every American citizen to exercise his right of franchise unrestricted by a political ring, and he reserves to himself the right which he grants to others of forming an unbiased opinion. Socially, he is quite prominent. He has taken the three degrees of the blue lodge of Masonry at Weldon, also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias fraternity, and in the last two has held office. He has served as a member of the town board of Cisco, and both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Having spent his entire life in this section of Illinois, he is well known. The qualities of an upright manhood are his, and his reliabiltiy in business and his trustworthiness in every relation of life make him respected by all with whom he is associated. In business circles he sustains an enviable reputation, and is recognized as a man of energy and enterprise. He has ever conducted his affairs along progressive lines and commands uniform confidence.

OTTO LUBBERS.

One of the thrifty Germans of the county who has made a splendid success at farming is Otto Lubbers, residing at the present time on section 33, Goose Creek township. He was born March 9, 1846, in the fatherland. His father was Reemt Lubbers, his mother Dena Bookhoff. They came to this country in 1870 and purchased a farm near Manito, Illinois, where they lived for a period of four years, and then purchased a quarter section in Logan county. The father died on this farm in his sixty-third year, having survived his wife for a time. They were the parents of Eike, a farmer of Goose Creek township; Fannie, wife of Chris Roos, a Logan county farmer; Otto, the subject of this sketch; George, a farmer near Enden, Illinois; Nettie, Mrs. Harm Hohlfs, residing in Logan county; and Dena, wife of John Roos, a Goose Creek township farmer.

The education of Otto Lubbers was acquired in Germany, where he continued to reside until his twenty-second year. In 1868 he came to America and settled on what was then known as the Sculley land in Logan county, Illinois, where he purchased a quarter section. After five years he sold this farm and came to Piatt county, where he purchased the farm of two hundred and eighty acres on which he now resides, paying therefor thirty dollars per acre. To the original purchase Mr. Lubbers has added two hundred acres, constituting him one of the largest farmers in the county. He has made many improvements upon his place. In 1892 he erected a handsome residence on the site of the old frame house, and the previous year built a good barn for all purposes, good sheds and granary. Near the house stands a splendid orchard planted by his hand, while wind-

mills draw water from wells which have been sunk at different times. The farms are all thoroughly tiled and ditched, and in all their appointments are among the up-to-date farms of the county.

Prior to 1873 the wife of our subject was Miss Kate Remmers. She was the daughter of Jurko and Wendelke (Tenhove) Remmers, and is the mother of nine children: Dena married Lewis Meyer, and resides on section 32, Goose Creek township; Winnie is the wife of Jurgen Weets, also residing on section 32; Fannie is Mrs. Christ Lubbers, who resides on section 31; Reemt is a young man at home; Jurko, Kate and Otto are at home.

Mr. Lubbers and his family are consistent members and supporters of the Baptist church, of which he is one of the trustees. To this church they have given many of the best years of their life, he being at the present time secretary of the church, and superintendent of the Sunday-school, in which the wife is also a teacher. In political affiliation, Mr. Lubbers votes with the Democratic party, though he does not aspire to the emoluments of office. Men, as well as trees, are judged by their fruit. The life of our subject has been singularly fruitful in good works and deeds, and the splendid Christian character which he has built up in his home community wields a powerful and beneficient influence.

CASPER WACK.

Casper Wack is one of the well-known stock-raisers of Piatt county, his home being in Blue Ridge township. He was born September 20, 1850, in Canton township, Fulton county, Illinois, a son of Casper and Mary Jane (Linaberg) Wack. The father was a farmer and carpenter by occupation, following both pursuits. The subject of this review was reared on the old family homestead in Fulton county, Illinois, and acquired his early education there, pursuing his studies in the Mound schoolhouse, which is still standing and is yet used for educational purposes. In the summer months Mr. Wack assisted in the labors of the fields, and thus early gained practical experience of farm work. When he was twenty years of age his father began paying him wages. He received twenty dollars per month in compensation for his services, and he worked in this manner for his father for one year, at the end of which time they entered into partnership relations. They raised and bought considerable stock and as the result of their stock-dealing they prospered. Both were men of good business ability and marked energy, and their capable management and strong determination enabled them to progress along lines of their chosen occupation.

On the 4th of September, 1878, Mr. Wack was united in marriage to Lizzie Ashby, a daughter of Jeremiah and Ann (McKee) Ashby, of Hamilton county, Indiana, where Mrs. Wack was born September 13, 1851. Her parents died there many years ago. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wack were born three children: Garrett J., born July 23, 1879, is now living with his father; Wallace, born February 23, 1881, married Miss Millie Baker and they have two children; and Emery, born September 3, 1883, is yet at home. There is also an adopted child, Leo, born on the 27th of January, 1897.

Mr. Wack now devotes his attention almost exclusively to the raising of stock of various kinds. He perhaps pays more attention to Poland China hogs than any other,

but he has large numbers of cattle and horses upon his place. At the present time he has nineteen head of horses and mules, and he feeds annually about forty head of cattle, all of which he ships to the Chicago markets. He buys stock cattle in Kansas City, and being an excellent judge of farm animals he is thus enabled to invest his money so that his sales bring to him good financial returns. He feeds almost all of the grain which he raises to his stock, and yet he annually harvests good crops for his fields are rich and productive, returning to him excellent harvests. Mr. Wack lives upon a rented farm in Piatt county, but he owns a good tract of land in Hamilton county, Iowa, near Webster City.

In his political views he is an earnest Democrat, and has held some minor offices, having served as school director in his township for six years, while for nine years he was a trustee. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, holding membership in Mansfield Lodge No. 773. The beneficent spirit of the craft appeals to him, and he endorses its principles by active co-operation for its good. His business career has been honorable and awakens the admiration of those who know his history, for all that he possesses has been attained through his own labors.

JUDGE M. R. DAVIDSON.

Judge M. R. Davidson, who has gained distinction by capable service upon the bench and by marked ability in the trial of cases at the bar of Piatt county, now makes his home in Monticello, where he is enjoying a good practice. He was born in Macon county, Illinois, on the 4th of April, 1847, and is a son of Baxter W. and Elizabeth (Harbaugh) Davidson. The father was a native of Illinois and the mother of Kentucky. The parental grandfather of our subject was Samuel Davidson, who removed from South Carolina to this state before the admission of Illinois into the Union. Pioneer conditions were everywhere prevalent and in many sections of the state new settlements had been made. He took up his abode in White county, where later his son Baxter W. Davidson was born, and with the early development and progress of his locality he was actively identified, taking a helpful part in many measures which pertain to the public good.

Upon the old family homestead Baxter W. Davidson was reared amid the wild scenes of frontier life and early became familiar with the arduous task of developing and cultivating a new farm. In 1830 he removed to Macon county and became one of the early settlers of that locality. It, too, was a frontier district, and he entered land from the government and began its cultivation, turning the first furrows in the fields upon what became his homestead there. For many years he carried on agricultural pursuits in Macon county and was widely known as one of the successful, progressive and enterprising farmers of this portion of the state. His business career was honorable, because in all his dealings he was straightforward, never taking advantage of the necessities of his fellow men in any trade transaction. He died at his home in the village of Mount Zion, on the 23d of January, 1899, at the advanced age of eighty-one years, one of the honored pioneers and respected citizens of the community, in which he had made his home through nearly seven decades. His wife died on the 1st of March, 1867, and both lie buried in the cemeteries of Mount Zion, Illinois. This worthy couple were the parents

of seven children, five of whom are yet living, but the subject of this review is the only one residing in Piatt county.

Judge Davidson acquired his early education in the district schools of Mount Zion township, Macon county, and when he had mastered the branches of learning therein taught, he became a student in Mount Zion Seminary, which has since become the Millikin University of Decatur. He there pursued a classical course and for several terms he engaged in teaching school in Macon and Shelby counties. In 1871 he entered the law office of the firm of Nelson & Roby, having formed the determination to make the practice of law his life work. Both of his preceptors are still living and Judge Nelson is yet in active practice. They carefully directed his reading and he applied himself assiduously to the mastery of the principles of jurisprudence. Necessity compelled him to teach again in order to replenish his depleted pocket-book, and he taught for two years, and one year engaged in farming in the meantime. After studying for two years he was admitted to the bar before the supreme court of Springfield in January, 1877, and has since been an active factor in professional circles of the state. He first practiced in Lovington, Illinois, as a colleague of Judge William G. Cochran, there remaining for almost three years, and in 1878 he came to the county seat of Piatt county, since which time he has lived in Monticello and has been recognized as one of its most prominent lawyers. He was a partner of Samuel R. Reed from 1882 until 1885, but with that exception has been alone in the prosecution of his profession. He prepares his cases with great diligence and care, carefully weighing every point of evidence until he has ascertained with correctness the most important points, and is thus enabled to present them with clearness and force before the court and jury. His arguments are strong, his deductions logical, and he seldom fails to win the verdict desired. Many important interests have been intrusted to his care, and he has thus been connected with the litigation which has awakened much interest and attention in his district. In 1891 he was elected county judge and served for a term of four years. A man of unimpeachable integrity and with profound learning of the law combined with the ability to put personal prejudices and opinions aside in order to give an unbiased judgment, he took to the bench high qualifications for this responsible office and proved an able jurist.

On the 5th of March, 1874, Judge Davidson was united in marriage to Miss Emma M. Reeme, a daughter of William H. Reeme, and unto this marriage have been born four children: Myrtle F., who is a teacher in the city schools of Chicago; Mabel R., who is at home with her parents; Cloyd O., who is occupying a responsible position as manager of a canning factory in Barron, Wisconsin; and Lois A., who is still a student in the schools of Monticello. The family is well known and prominent in social circles here. In his political views the judge is a Democrat, warmly espousing the cause of the party and rendering effective aid in its behalf. He is likewise an active member of the Presbyterian church, of which he has been an elder for a number of years. Universal progress and improvement are causes dear to his heart and he has been a co-operant factor in many measures for the general good.

ANDREW J. DIGHTON.

Piatt county with its splendid agricultural opportunities attracted to this section of the state many men of marked business enter-

prise, whose qualifications prepare them for the conduct of extensive and important farming interests. Of this class Andrew J. Dighton was a representative and he became one of the most successful and honored agriculturist and stock-raisers of the community. He based his business principles and actions upon strict adherence to the rules which govern industry, economy and unswerving integrity, and by constant exertion associated with good judgment, he raised himself to a position of affluence and of prominence, and his straightforward career won him the confidence and respect of the entire community in which he lived.

Mr. Dighton was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, on the 1st of May, 1822, and was of English lineage. His paternal grandfather was born in England and came to America with Burgoyne's army. He was pleased with the country to which he had been transported for military service, and instead of returning to his native land he remained in the new republic, and, finally joining the Continental army, aided in securing independence to the nation. When the Revolutionary war was over he established his home in Watertown, New York, where some of his descendants are still living. John Dighton, the father of our subject, was born and reared in Watertown and after arriving at years of maturity, wedded a lady of that place. He, too, was loyal to this land when the war cloud hovered above the horizon and he took up arms against the British in the war of 1812.

In the state of his nativity Andrew J. Dighton spent his early boyhood days, remaining there until seventeen years of age. At that time he started out in life on his own account and whatever success he achieved afterward was the direct result of his own labor, merit and perseverance. He went first to Ohio, afterward to Kentucky and subsequently to Virginia, spending several years in the last named state. He was not only a self-made man, but also a self-educated one and by reading and study greatly broadened his knowledge, and thus became qualified for teaching, a profession which he followed for some time. He afterward completed a course of study in the Transylvania University in Virginia, where he was graduated, and also he won a diploma as a graduate of the law course. He never practiced the profession, however, although his knowledge of law proved of valuable assistance to him in his business career. His own education being completed, he engaged in teaching school in both Kentucky and Virginia, although he spent the greater part of his time as a representative of that profession in the Blue Grass state.

About 1852 Mr. Dighton arrived in Piatt county, Illinois, where he remained until the following year, when he returned to Kentucky, where he wedded Sarah C. Netherton, a most estimable lady, who was born in Kentucky, on the 26th of August, 1834. Her parents were John and Margaret Netherton, both of whom were natives of Virginia, and the ancestor on the paternal line came from the fatherland. Mrs. Dighton was the second daughter born unto her parents and she continued to reside in her native state until her eighteenth year, when she gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Dighton, and with him went to his new home in Piatt county, settling in Monticello township. Here she has resided almost continuously since, and by her marriage she became the mother of eight children: John N., Elvira, William and Mary, all of whom are living in Piatt county. Elvira is now the wife of F. V. Dilatush.

Those who have passed away are Morris, Andrew J., Annie and Ida M.

After his marriage Mr. Dighton brought his bride to Piatt county, and upon a farm north of Monticello, they began their domestic life. He purchased eight hundred acres of land at fifteen dollars per acre. Few improvements had been made upon it, but with characteristic energy he began its further development and cultivation, and in course of years it became a splendid estate. As his financial resources increased he made judicious investments in property until his land holdings were extensive and valuable. In all his farm methods he was progressive, was systematic in his work and was determined in carrying out his plans. His opinions were never hastily formed in regard to business matters, but when once reached he adhered to them closely. A man of resourceful business ability, he readily recognized, appreciated and utilized them for the benefit of his own business career. Moreover, in all of his transactions he was strictly fair and honorable and was never known to take advantage of his fellow men in any dealing. His word became a synonym ofr integrity, and he enjoyed, to an unusual degree, the confidence of those with whom he was brought in contact. About the time of the organization of the Bank of Monticello, he became one of its stockholders, joining the banking firm which was known as Houston, Moore & Dighton.

In public affairs pertaining to the general welfare, Mr. Dighton was deeply and actively interested, and he served as supervisor of Monticello township in a manner which reflected credit upon himself and was satisfactory to his constituents. His political allegiance was given to the Democracy. He passed away December 25, 1878, and for a number of years Mrs. Dighton continued to reside upon the old homestead, but in 1899 removed to the city of Monticello, where she erected a substantial frame residence, modern in all of its appointmens. There she is living with her daughter, Mary, a most estimable young lady, who was educated in Monticello Seminary in Godfrey, Illinois. The best thoughts and efforts of Mr. Dighton's life were wrought into Piatt county's prosperity. He was the friend of education, of justice and of the elements that prove of benefit to mankind. Though his early education was meager, yet he achieved for himself broad learning, and his continuous interest in every great question of the age made him a man of profound thought and scholarly attainments. The strong qualities which made him useful in one locality would have insured his eminence anywhere. Though never a seeker for political honors he exerted, through his wide acquaintance, an influence exceeding that of many whose names are familiar in public affairs. He was honored and respected throughout Piatt county, and his life record, indeed, furnishes an example worthy of careful study.

JAMES OLSON.

Prominent among the agriculturists of Piatt county is James Olson, who cultivates a farm on section 25, Goose Creek township. He has resided in the county since 1884, and has by his upright life secured the esteem and respect of his home community.

Mr. Olson was born in Sweden on the 13th of August, 1842, and is the son of Ola and Annie (Person) Jonsson, who were well-to-do farmers in the old country, and passed their entire lives there, the father dying at the

advanced age of eighty-nine, April 8, 1903, the mother having passed to her rest several years previously, May 5, 1894, at the age of eighty-one. The children born to them were: James, the subject of this sketch; John, farmer of Goose Creek township, residing on section 26; Betsy, the wife of Peter Nelson, of Helsingborg, Sweden; Kate, wife of Charles Seaburg, of Weldon, Illinois; Peter A., contractor, living in Chicago; and Hannah, who is the wife of P. Johnson, a merchant of Helsingborg, Sweden.

James Olson was carefully trained in the public schools of his native country, and at the age of twenty-nine came to America. He located first in Menard county, Illinois, where he worked on farms by the month for some two years. He then rented a farm near Farmer City in DeWitt county, which he cultivated for one year, thence to Piatt county, where he has since resided. He rented farms for several years, but by thrift and economy was finally enabled in 1884 to purchase eighty acres of the farm which he now cultivates, and where he has continued to labor successfully. He has added to his original purchase a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, and is now in possession of one of the most productive farms in the county. At the time of its purchase, it was much run down on account of the fact that it had been rented for many years. Under the careful management of Mr. Olson and at a large expense, the farm has been put in splendid condition, he having tiled it thoroughly, and in 1896 erected a handsome modern farm residence and the following year a commodious and well-appointed barn. At various times he has set out new orchards, and has improved his fencing with the best quality of wire fence, has sunk several deep wells, over which he has placed windmills, and in many ways has shown that he is an up-to-date, progressive farmer.

In the year 1875 he led to the altar Miss Christina Johnson, who has borne him three children: Oscar, the eldest son, is one of the progressive young farmers of Goose Creek township, cultivating a farm of his own, but still residing at home. The second son, Charles, also owns an eighty-acre farm near by, while Edgar, the youngest, has marked out for himself a career as a physician in the new line of osteopathy, and is at present at the famous school of Kirksville, Missouri.

During his residence in the county Mr. Olson has evinced a good citizen's interest in public matters, having been for the past fourteen years a member of the local school board, and for the past four years has been road overseer of his community. He and his wife are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is a trustee and steward. Both he and his wife are earnest and active members, and are always found at the head of any movement which looks to the advancement of the Master's kingdom. The political affiliation of Mr. Olson lies with the Republican party, though the casting of his vote on election day constitutes the extent of his interest in politics. Mr. Olson is in many respects a model citizen and well deserves mention in these memoirs of Piatt county's representative citizens.

DAVID H. PRINE.

This prominent and representative farmer cultivates a farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 15, Goose Creek township, where he has resided for some years. He is a Buckeye by birth, born in Pickaway

county, Ohio, on the 5th of April, 1856. His father, Albert Prine, was also a native of Pickaway county, and died when David was but three years of age. His mother was Nancy Robinson, who was born in Ohio in 1830, and is now an inmate of our subject's home. After the death of her first husband, she went to live with her father, David Robinson, with whom she came to Piatt county in 1861, where she later married Robert DuVall. To the first marriage three children were born, David being the only one living. To the second marriage were born: Maggie, now the wife of James Perkins, a farmer of Goose Creek township; Isabel, who resides at Monticello, the wife of John Fitzwater; and Nannie, who is the wife of Joseph Fitzwater, a farmer of Monticello township.

David H. Prine passed the early years of his life in Ohio, where he received a good common-school education. Upon his removal to Illinois, he was placed in the home of a Mr. Watson until the date of his mother's second marriage, after which he lived in her home. Upon the death of Mr. DuVall, the mother became an inmate of our subject's home, where she has since been tenderly cared for. Mr. Prine's own home life began in 1895, when he was happily joined in marriage to Annie May, daughter of William Perkins. Their children are: Edna Amy, six years old; Charles H., four years old; and Homer O., one year old.

The first purchase of land made by our subject was an eighty-acre tract adjoining his present farm, and which he now cultivates in connection with the farm which came to him through his mother. He has also purchased a farm of three hundred and eighty-four acres in Mississippi, as an investment. Mr. Prine's home farm is a model of neatness and thrift. It is thoroughly tiled, and every fence and building on the place shows the master hand of one who understands agriculture in its higher lines. He has placed upon the farm several new orchards and many fine shade trees, and is engaged largely in fattening shorthorn cattle and hogs for the general market.

Mr. Prine takes an active interest in the welfare of society about him. He is a Republican in politics and is a thorough believer in the fraternal principles, being a member of DeLand Camp of Modern Woodmen and of the Odd Fellows. In religious belief he is a member of the Church of God, his wife holding membership with the United Presbyterians.

DAVID H. DAWSON.

Not all who seek success win it. Some fail because of a lack of persistency of purpose, others because of unfitness for the work which they undertake, but the man who chooses wisely his calling and labors persistently therein may always gain the competence for which he strives. David H. Dawson is among the prosperous men of Piatt county, and after long years of active and honorable connection with agricultural interests he is now living a retired life in Bement. The story of the pioneer experiences in this section of the state is familiar to him for his residence here dates from a very early day. He is a native of Sussex county, Delaware, born on the 4th of July, 1824, his parents being Zachariah and Mary (Beacham) Dawson. The father was a native of Delaware and the mother's birth also occurred in that state. The Dawson family is of Scotch descent. The maternal grandmother of our

subject was Celia Beacham, who lived to the extreme old age of one hundred and ten years, and the grandfather also lived to be about as old.

The father of our subject was a farmer by occupation, and throughout the greater part of his active business life carried on agricultural pursuits. After coming to the west he also owned and operated a flouring mill at Winchester, Illinois. He arrived in this state in 1834, locating in Scott county and there he carried on business for a number of years, but the mill was eventually destroyed by fire, and he did not rebuild it. In his life history there is also a chapter of military experience, for he was a soldier of the war of 1812, joining the army as a private in defense of American interests in our second war with Great Britain. His political support was given the Whig party until the organization of the new Republican party, when he joined its ranks and continued to follow its banner until called to his final rest. In business he was successful and honorable in citizenship, was loyal and public spirited, and to the duties of his family and friendship he was most faithful. He passed away in Winchester, Scott county, Illinois, when about eighty-eight years of age and the mother of our subject survived for several years. She was born in Delaware, living there until her removal to Illinois with her husband in 1834. Called to the home beyond, her remains were interred by his side in the Winchester cemetery. This worthy couple were the parents of eleven children, six of whom are still living, and the eldest brother of our subject is Jesse Dawson, who is now eighty-eight years of age.

David H. Dawson and his brothers early became familiar with the arduous task of developing new land, for they cleared the timber from four hundred acres in Scott county. They were reared in one of the old log cabins with its primitive furnishings and pioneer surroundings, and David H. Dawson obtained his education in a log schoolhouse with greased paper windows and slab seats. The children were clothed in homespun garments, and the shoes for the family were purchased of a traveling shoemaker who visited the homes once each year, and made the shoes for the different members of the family. Tallow dips were used in lighting the house and the fires were started by striking sparks with flint. Each Sunday the family walked six or seven miles to church. The farm wagon owned by the family was but a two-wheeled cart, all made of wood, having neither tires or iron in any part of its construction. All grain was cut with the old time cradle and scythe, and farm work was carried on in a manner which seems very primitive compared with our modern progressive methods. Mr. Dawson of this review has witnessed almost the entire development and improvement of Scott and Piatt counties, and has seen the progress made in all lines of business activity. In the fall of 1854 he took up his abode in Piatt county, first settling in the edge of the timber in Willow Branch township. The prairie land at that time was completely covered with water during the rainy season, and was considered unfit for cultivation, but draining and tiling has made the tract very rich and productive. There was good fishing in all the streams around, and deer and other wild game was to be had in abundance. There were many prairie wolves and evidences of frontier life were seen in every direction. The nearest neighbor to the Dawson family lived six miles away, but hospitality in those days reigned supreme, and the latch-string always hung out.

Mr. Dawson first purchased a half sec-

tion of land in Bement township, but after a few years had passed he sold one hundred and sixty acres, retaining the other quarter section, which he still owns. The purchase price was seven and one-half dollars per acre and he paid one hundred and fifty dollars down, having seven years in which to pay the balance. He broke his land with five yoke of oxen, and purchased all his farming implements on credit from the agent who had sold him the land. Building a house on his land he soon afterward put up a barn and in due course of time developed an excellent home for himself and family. In 1874 he replaced his first residence by a large brick house, one of the substantial and attractive homes of the county. He has also placed many rods of tiling upon the farm, paying out altogether fifteen hundred dollars in this way. He has erected a large barn and, in fact, his is one of the model farms of the county. He continued its active cultivation until February 1884, when he left the farm and purchased a home in the village of Bement, where he has since resided, leading a retired life.

Mr. Dawson has been twice married. He first wedded Caroline Malissa Elliott, who is now deceased. They became the parents of eight children, of whom two died in infancy, while six are still living, namely: Belle, who married Joseph Medaris, of Bement, by whom she has three children; George, who wedded Emma Ragland and resides in Missouri; Clara, who is the wife of E. Deatheridge, of St. Louis; William Zeb, who is married and resides near St. Louis, where he is in the railroad service; Kate, at home; and Frank E., who is living in Louisiana. For his second wife Mr. Dawson chose Mrs. Ella (Holderman) Madden, who, in her early life was a successful school-teacher.

Mr. Dawson is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and his life has ever been in harmony with his profession. He has contributed liberally to the church as he has prospered in his work. He now makes his home in Bement and owns several village lots besides his valuable farm property. During long years he has witnessed the growth and development of this section of the state, and has borne an active and helpful part in the work of improvement. He certainly deserves to be mentioned among the honored pioneers, and his life history, if written in detail, would present a faithful picture of the early conditions in this section of the state. He has now almost reached the eightieth milestone on life's journey and because of his fidelity to principle, his honor and integrity in all life's relations, he can look back over the past without regret. He now receives the veneration and respect which should have ever been accorded to one who has lived uprightly and has reached an advanced age.

JOHN OLSON.

John Olson is another member of the family elsewhere spoken of under the sketch of his brother James. He is one of the stirring citizens of Goose Creek township, cultivating a large farm on section 26. He was born in Sweden, June 3, 1845. His education was such as could be secured in the local schools of his home community, after which he dutifully helped his parents on the home farm until he was twenty-five years of age. He preceded the coming of James to Menard county, Illinois, by a year, and as in his case, worked as a farm hand for the first few years. He finally rented a farm of two hun-

dred and eighty acres on the line between Piatt and DeWitt counties, but after producing one crop came over into Piatt county, where he rented a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Mansfield, and where he continued to reside for four years. By close economy he had by this time saved enough to purchase the first forty acres of the farm on which he now resides, and for which he paid thirty dollars per acre. He later at different times added an eighty and a forty to the original purchase. He is also the owner of a quarter section in Greene county, Iowa, which he purchased in 1901. The original purchase of his home farm was largely of wild land, and Mr. Olson has gone through the usual trials of the pioneer farmer in bringing order out of chaos. The farm has at present over two thousand rods of tile and is well ditched, making it one of the good farms of the county. In 1892 he erected a handsome new residence and later added a large barn. The farm is equipped with several good wells with the usual windmill pump, several fine orchards and many handsome shade trees, and the entire place is under good wire fence. Mr. Olson gives special attention to the breeding of cattle for the market and is also specially engaged in the raising of thoroughbred horses.

The married life of Mr. Olson was initiated in 1873, when on the 25th of September he led to the altar Miss Nellie Poulson. To them have been born children as follows: Philip, the eldest son, married Bessie Weddle, and is a farmer living near Paton, Iowa; Alma became the wife of Herman Melvin, a school-teacher residing near Weldon, Illinois; Annie was educated at Normal, Illinois, and is now one of the successful school-teachers of the county, her last school having been taught at Stringtown; Florence was also educated at Normal and is a successful teacher in the county schools; Clark, the youngest child, is a sturdy farm lad aiding his father at home.

Mr. Olson and his family are highly regarded in the social circles of Piatt county. In political belief he ascribes to the tenets laid down in the Republican platform and has served his community in several of the unpaid local offices, having been on the township board for the past two years, school director of his district, and for seven years has been drainage commissioner of district L, Goose Creek township. His religious affiliations lie with the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he and his family are active members and in which he is a trustee.

The hope of the Republic is in its well-ordered homes. The early inculcation of a love for home intensifies the spirit of patriotism in later life and cements the bond which exists between people and country. This principle is exemplified in the homes of M. James and John Olson, whose citizenship has always been of the highest character and received the deserved enconiums of a large circle of friends and neighbors.

FRED W. KEEL, D. D. S.

Dr. Fred W. Keel, who for the past five years has successfully engaged in the practice of dentistry at Monticello, is a native of Illinois, born in Marion county, September 9, 1874, and is a son of Ambrose and Mary Jane (Connaway) Keel, who are natives of Illinois and Indiana, respectively. For some time the father was engaged in farming in Marion county, this state, but when our sub-

ject was seven years of age he removed to DeWitt county, locating near Weldon, where the family spent one year. At the end of that time they came to Piatt county and Mr. Keel is now residing in Cerro Gordo township. He had eight children, of whom six are still living.

During his boyhood Dr. Keel received a good common-school education, and later entered the Western Dental College, at Kansas City, where he was a student in 1896, 1897 and 1898, graduating in the latter year with the degree of D. D. S. Soon after his graduation he opened an office in Monticello, where he has since engaged in practice with good success, having already secured a good patronage.

On the 22d of February, 1899, Dr. Keel was united in marriage to Miss Delta M. Parsons, of DeLand, Illinois, a daughter of Clay Parsons, now a resident of Missouri. Having lost her mother when quite small, she went to live with Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Marquiss, of DeLand, and made her home with them from the age of seven years until her marriage. The Doctor and his wife have a little son, Harold Marquiss, born August 26, 1901. They are members of the Presbyterian church, and, fraternally, the Doctor is also a member of the Illinois State Dental Society. In his political views he is a Republican. To some extent he has become interested in the real estate business, dealing in northwestern lands mostly, but given his attention principally to his professional duties.

T. J. KIZER.

If those who claim that fortune has favored certain individuals above others will but investigate the cause of success and failure it will be found that the former is largely due to the improvement of opportunity, the latter to the neglect of it. Fortunate environments encompass nearly every man at some stage of his career, but the strong man and the successful man is he who realizes that the proper moment has come, that the present and not the future holds his opportunity. The man who makes use of the Now and not the To Be is the one who passes on the highway of life others who, perhaps, started out ahead of him. It is this quality in Mr. Kizer that has gained him an enviable position in the business world and made him widely known as a grain dealer of Hammond, Illinois, and also as the president of the State Bank here. He is honored and respected by all who know him in both financial and commercial circles, and he is justly accounted the leading citizen of the village where he has made his home for over thirty years.

Mr. Kizer is a native of Macon county, Illinois, his birth having occurred near Decatur on the 11th of June, 1847, his parents being John S. and Lydia (Davis) Kizer, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Kentucky. The father resided in Ohio until 1835, when he came to the west, settling in Sangamon county, Illinois. There he engaged in carpentering until 1846, at which time he removed to Macon county, where he purchased a tract of land and again carried on general agricultural pursuits. He made farming and carpentering his life work, but in 1888 retired from business and lived in Decatur until his death, enjoying a well-merited rest. His life was ever honorable and upright, busy and useful, and the sterling traits of his character won for him the unqualified regard and confidence of those with

whom he associated. He passed away on the 10th of April, 1903, at the very advanced age of eighty-seven years, and his widow now resides in Decatur, making her home with her children. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Kizer were born nine children, eight of whom are yet living, five being residents of Macon county, two of Hammond, and one of Rockford, Illinois.

Mr. Kizer received only a common-school education, attending in Macon county. In his youth he remained at home, and through the months of summer he assisted his father in the operation of a farm, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. In December, 1873, he was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Adams, a sister of Dr. Adams, of the Wesleyan University, and a daughter of Christopher B. Adams, who was a farmer, spending the greater part of his life in Macon county, where his death eventually occurred. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Kizer were born two children: Ethel, who was born on the 16th of March, 1878, is now the wife of F. E. Benard, who is engaged in general merchandising in Hammond, and they have one child, Glenn P. Loren P., born June 2, 1880, resides in Decatur, where he is connected with the Weare Grain Company.

Mr. Kizer came to Hammond in June, 1873, and embarked in the lumber trade. Four years later he also entered the grain trade, conducting both enterprises with good success until 1885. In that year he sold out the lumber business, but continued operations in the grain trade, which has since claimed considerable of his time and attention. He now owns two large grain elevators in Hammond, with a capacity of forty thousand bushels, and is carrying on the grain business on a more extensive scale than any other man in the southern part of Piatt county. He ships largely to Cincinnati, Indianapolis and St. Louis, makes judicious purchases and profitable sales, and in the control of his business has met with creditable and gratifying success. When the State Bank of Hammond was organized John Dighton was made its first president, but in January, 1902, Mr. Kizer succeeded him, and has since acted in that capacity. The bank is capitalized for twenty-five thousand dollars, and a general banking business is carried on along lines which have won for the institution a most enviable reputation for reliability.

In matters of citizenshp Mr. Kizer is also progressive, and for twenty years he served as school treasurer. He gives his political support to the Democratic party, and never fails to cast his ballot for its men and measures. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Hammond, of which he is now serving as trustee, steward, treasurer and recording secretary. He takes much interest in church work, putting forth every effort in his power to extend the influence of the church and promote its permanent growth. He thoroughly enjoys home life and takes great pleasure in the society of his family and friends. He is always courteous, kindly and affable, and those who know him personally have for him warm regard. A man of great natural ability, his success in business, from the beginning of his residence in Piatt county, was uniform and rapid. As has been truly remarked, after all that may be done for a man in the way of giving him early opportunities for obtaining the requirements which are sought in the schools and in books, he must essentially formulate, determine and give shape to his own character; and this is what Mr. Kizer has done. He has persevered in the pursuit

of a persistent purpose and gained the most satisfactory reward. His life is exemplary in all respects, and he has ever supported those interests which are calculated to uplift and benefit humanity, while his own high moral worth is deserving of the highest commendation.

MRS. PERMELIA E. STAATS.

Mrs. Permelia E. Staats, widow of John P. Staats, makes her home on section 3, Willow Branch township, where she owns a fine, well-improved farm. She is a native of Illinois, having been born two miles and a half from Lincoln in Logan county, this state, and is a daughter of John and Mary Musick, who were old settlers of that locality and were of German descent. Her father was engaged in farming in Logan county for many years, and there Mrs. Staats was reared and educated, remaining under the parental roof until her marriage, which was celebrated on the 2d of March, 1871.

Her husband, John P. Staats, was born May 23, 1841, in Clifton, West Virginia, near the Ohio line, and was also of German lineage. His parents, Isaac and Elizabeth Staats, were lifelong resident of West Virginia. He was only three years old when his mother died, and his father passed away five years later. Thus he was left an orphan at the early age of eight years, and his educational advantages were consequently limited. For some time he made his home with a family by the name of Coleman, in West Virginia, and was forced to work when only a small boy. His sympathies being with the south he served for three years as a soldier in the Confederate army during the Civil war, and when hostilities ceased in 1865, he came to Illinois and settled in Logan county, where he had sisters living at that time. For one year he rented the farm of Levi Musick—his brother-in-law—and at the end of that time bought a tract of land near what is now the home place in Piatt county. It was not long, however, before he sold that and bought a portion of the present farm, to which he added from time to time as his financial resources increased, until at the time of his death his landed estate consisted of three hundred and twenty acres of rich and arable land. Mr. Staats began life in this state with no capital, and when he made his first purchase he had but one hundred dollars. He was, however, a very energetic enterprising and industrious man, who made the most of his advantages, and through his own unaided efforts was able to leave his family in comfortable circumstances. He converted the wild prairie and swamp land into well-tilled fields, tiling, fencing and breaking the land, and making many substantial improvements thereon.

On the 15th of October, 1896, Mrs. Staats was called upon to mourn the loss of her husband. For many years he was a faithful and consistent member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, of which he was an elder, and he was a man highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him. Three of his sisters are still living, namely: Cynthia, wife of A. Blake, a resident of Fisher, Illinois; Mrs. Elizabeth Musick, who makes her home near Lincoln, Illinois; and Rebecca, wife of David Atwell, of Monmouth, Illinois.

The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Staats are as follows: Alma, wife of Joseph Rainey, of Willow Branch township; Mary F., wife of Hiram Starkey, who lives near

the home place; John R., a resident of Norcross, Minnesota; Cynthia I., wife of Louis Kreker, of Willow Branch township; Edith E., John D. and Raymond, all three at home with their mother. Mrs. Staats operates the farm with the assistance of her sons, and in the management of her business affairs has met with good success. Two years ago, however, she had the misfortune to lose her house by fire, but promptly rebuilt, erecting a more modern and attractive residence, which is now the home of the family. They are active members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church and are people of prominence in the community where they reside, their circle of friends and acquaintances being extensive.

JOHN BLACKER.

John Blacker is a retired farmer, now living at DeLand. He was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, November 20, 1834. He can trace his ancestry back through several generations to his great-grandfather, Lucas Blacker, who was born in Germany and became the founder of the family in America. It is believed that he was married in this country and that his wife was a native of Ireland. The grandfather of our subject emigrated to Virginia in his early days, and later took up his abode in Pickaway county, Ohio. He married Clarissa Payne, who was of Scotch descent.

Our subject's father, Augustus Blacker, was a native of West Virginia, born August 28, 1810, and in that state he resided until he was about eighteen years of age, when he removed to Pickaway county, Ohio, and secured work as a farm hand. He was employed in that way until 1839, when he rented a tract of land and began farming on his own account. In the meantime he had married, having wedded Miss Aner Madden, a daughter of Major and Elizabeth (Miller) Madden, the latter of German descent. The Major was a native of Ohio, while his wife went from Delaware to the Buckeye state. For many years Augustus Blacker continued to engage in farming in Pickaway county, Ohio, following that pursuit there until his life's labors were ended in death in August, 1855. His widow still survives him and now makes her home with her eldest daughter, Mrs. Frank Hott, in Monticello. She was born in Belmont county, Ohio, and is now in her ninety-first year.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Blacker were born eleven children, of whom John is the eldest. The others are Elizabeth, who was born April 7, 1836, in Pickaway county, Ohio, and is the wife of F. M. Hott, of Monticello; James Madison, who was born in Ross county, January 15, 1838, and is now living retired upon his farm near White Heath; Joseph, who was born in Ross county, April 10, 1839, and is a retired farmer of Monticello; William, who was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, December 13, 1840, and is living retired in Monticello; Mary Jane, who was born in Kosciusko county, Indiana, in 1842, and died in early childhood; Rebecca, who was born in Kosciusko county in 1844, and died in infancy; Francis Marion, who was born in Kosciusko county, March 13, 1845, and is now following the carpenter's trade near White Heath; Helen V., who was born October 19, 1847, and is the wife of Harvey Camp, a resident of Lincoln, Logan county, Illinois; Levi, who was born April 5, 1851, in Pickaway county, Ohio, and is a retired farmer living in Shelby county, Illi-

nois; and Cynthia Jane, who was born in Pickaway county, March 27, 1854, and is the wife of John Firnish, a farmer of White Heath, Piatt county. Of this family James, Joseph and William were all soldiers of the Civil war, who valiantly fought for the defense of the Union.

John Blacker, whose name introduces this record, was educated in Kosciusko county, Indiana, pursuing his studies in a log schoolhouse, in which was a puncheon floor. The seats were made of slabs and there was an immense fireplace in one end of the room capable of accommodating a very large back log. He afterward continued his studies in Pickaway county, Ohio, but all the schools were conducted on the subscription plan and he had little opportunity to attend, because his parents were in limited financial circumstances and his labors were needed to assist in support of the family. He had the privilege of pursuing his studies, however, to some extent in the winter months, while during the summer he worked as a farm hand until about 1857. He then worked with his father on the home place for two years, after which he was married and made preparations for having a home of his own.

It was in September, 1859, that Mr. Blacker was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Orrison, of Circleville, Ohio, at which time he rented a tract of land in Pickaway county, where he carried on agricultural pursuits for two seasons. He then came to Piatt county, where he has since lived. Unto him and his wife were born the following children: Frank Douglass, who is a farmer of Sangamon township, Piatt county; Matilda, the wife of Lewis Robinson, a farmer near DeLand in Goose Creek township; Mary, who died on a farm in Monticello township in her twentieth year; Cynthia, who died in infancy; Henry C., a resident farmer of Bement township; John, who died at the age of a year and a half; Marcus, who died when but two years of age; Arthur, who is now carrying on agricultural pursuits in Monticello township; Jasper Augustus, who is also a farmer of Monticello township; Charles Clarence, who is engaged in the tilling of the soil in Goose Creek township; and Lena Myrtle, the wife of Ora Stiverson, who is living in Goose Creek township.

The mother of these children has been called to her final rest, and Mr. Blacker is now living with his daughter, Mrs. Ora Stiverson. He has put aside business cares and is now enjoying a well-merited rest. For many years he was a well-known and active agriculturist of Piatt county. He came here at an early day and undertook the task of developing a farm. He is a man who carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes, and in the control of his business affairs he won a comfortable competence. In all his dealings he was strictly honorable and straightforward, and those with whom he was associated respect him for his genuine worth and unfaltering integrity. His life has been in constant harmony with manly principles and wherever he has lived he has won the good will and confidence of those whom he has met. His political support is given to the Democratic party.

MRS. JACOB E. ANDREWS.

In a pleasant home in the village of Cisco live Mrs. Jacob E. Andrews and her two sons, Hanson and Harmon. The young men are proprietors of the Cisco Press, a weekly newspaper which they purchased in

1902, and which they are rapidly making a power in their local community.

The salient points in the history of the Andrews family are as follows: Mrs. Andrews was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, March 25, 1844, the daughter of H. S. and Charlotte (Martin) Coonrod. The Coonrods were of German descent, the Martins being traced to New Jersey. The father, H. S., was brought from Virginia to Ohio in his mother's arms on horseback long before the days of wagon roads, this occurring about the year 1815. The father of the family died shortly after removing to Ohio, and H. S. was reared by the widowed mother. He was given a fair education and remained at home until his majority. He had previously purchased a farm near the old homestead and there in 1842 began his married life. The family remained in Ohio until 1856, thence removing to Piatt county, Illinois, where they located on what is now known as the Allerton farm. Six years later purchase was made of a farm three miles northeast of Cisco, where the family resided until 1882. Mr. Coonrod was a stock-buyer and, circumstances making it desirable to locate in Missouri, a farm was purchased in that state near Nevada. Later the family removed to Iowa and were residents of Cushing at the time of the father's death, December 6, 1899, the mother having died in Piatt county, Illinois, in 1875. Five children constituted the family—J. H., now a resident of Flandreau, South Dakota; J. B., of Rock Rapids, Iowa; Lavinia, wife of Jasper Chandler, Cushing, Iowa; Frances, now Mrs. George Dawson, of Monticello, Illinois; and Sophronia, now Mrs. Andrews.

Mrs. Andrews received an excellent educaton, finishing in Mount Zion Seminary, following which she taught successfully for a period of five years in the schools of Piatt county. Jacob E. Andrews, of Kendallville, Indiana, had come west from the Hoosier state and soon found an attraction of irresistible quality in the fair Piatt county schoolma'am. Their marriage was celebrated on the 29th of December, 1870. Mr. Andrews was a son of J. E. and Elizabeth (Coonrod) Andrews, and was a gentleman of many noble traits of character. He took his bride to a farm of eighty acres, two and one-half miles northeast of Cisco, where the first six years of their married life were spent. Prior to the purchase of the present home the family passed three years in the cultivation of a Champaign county farm, The years passed happily away until the 3d of September, 1894, when the husband and father was taken away, leaving the wife and three sons to mourn his death. The children living are Hanson, Harmon and Chester. The last named is now engaged in the sheep business in North Dakota. Three others are deceased—Grace M., Claud Abbie, and Lester. The father of these children was one of the gallant defenders of the Union in the dark days of the Civil war, having enlisted first in the hundred-day service and later in Company B, Twenty-second Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He served faithfully in the ranks, his honorable discharge dating July 24, 1865, at Louisville, Kentucky.

The two boys, Hanson W., aged twenty-seven, and Harmon R., seven years his brother's junior, are still inmates of their mother's home, to whom they yield a loving fidelity. Their present business enterprise is the result of their own efforts. The paper had not been a paying venture under its former owner, and it has tested the metal of the boys to place it on its present prosperous basis. But the powers that be always help those that

help themselves, and with a continuance of past energetic effort and good judgment in business management the future of the Press is assured. Both they and their gentle mother have a warm place in the hearts of all to whom they are known.

MAJOR LAWSON S. KILBORN.

No history of Piatt county would be complete without mention of Major Lawson S. Kilborn, for he is a self-made man, an honored veteran of the Civil war and, moreover, was formerly connected in a prominent manner for many years with the educational interests of this section of the state, and is at present a representative of its journalistic interests. His labors have in many ways touched the activities of the world, bearing upon advancement and improvement, and today he is regarded as one of the representative men of his adopted county.

The Major is a native of Kingston, Canada West, his birth having there occurred on the 28th of December, 1835. When but an infant, however, his parents removed to the Empire state, crossing Lake Ontario to Monroe county, New York, when the Major was but six weeks old. At the age of eleven the father died. The eldest daughter of the household married, and three of the older brothers had gone to Indiana to seek their fortunes, the family at home then consisting of the mother, two sisters, an elder brother named Hiram, and Lawson. It was arranged that the Major was to care for the home, and throughout all his spare time was to work through the day and thus supply the table of the family while Hiram, who could command high wages as a farm hand, was to spend his time in that way and apply his earnings to paying for a home on which he had traded the family horse as a first payment. Major Kilborn's first act as he started upon this independent career was to go in debt for a sack of flour, but the strength of character of the boy was shown by the promptness with which he discharged this obligation, and it also foreshadowed the correct business methods which he has ever followed. He has never allowed himself to become burdened by debt and has ever met every trust reposed in him. Through the summer months Major Kilborn continued to work, and in the winter months attended school, his time being thus passed until his seventeenth year, when it was decided to sell the home, the members of the household being disposed of in the following manner. The two youngest children were to spend a year in a near-by academy, and the mother was to visit through the winter with a married daughter, while Hiram was to go to Indiana, there to be joined by the others of the family in the following spring. Thus it was that Major Kilborn and his sister Emma became students in Riga Academy in the town of Riga, New York, through the winter of 1852-3. In the spring of 1853 he came to the west in company with his mother and his eldest sister and her family, her husband having gone to Indiana the previous year with his brother-in-law, Hiram Kilborn.

On reaching Lafayette, Indiana, Lawson Kilborn began working for his brothers, who were engaged in carpentering in that city, but soon he became connected with the educational interests of the west. In the winter following his arrival he was employed to teach in an old log schoolhouse about seven miles from Lafayette. The school was conducted on the subscription plan, and he

realized about ten dollars per month from his labors. For some time thereafter he continued his work as an educator, his third term of school-teaching being spent at Linden, Montgomery county, Indiana. It was during that time that the Major was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Samantha Aydelott, a daughter of a farmer living near Linden. In the spring of 1860 Major Kilborn secured the position of principal of the Central school of Lafayette, and proved there a most capable and successful educator, winning popular favor and acceptably serving until the spring of 1862. The country, however, was then engaged in civil war, and he felt a strong desire to join the army. When at length he left for the field there devolved upon his wife the care of their little children, the youngest of whom was only a month old. It was with regret that he left his family, although he so much wanted to serve his country, but when speaking on the subject to his wife, she replied: "I know how you feel, and if I were a man I should go. I and the little ones will be taken care of, never fear." This response decided him at once, and he set about recruiting a company in connection with his brother-in-law, Dr. J. B. Johnson. In about a month's time the company was raised and mustered in with the Seventy-second Indiana Regiment, with Dr. Johnson as captain, H. B. Wilson, first lieutenant, and L. S. Kilborn, second lieutenant. He took a very active part in Indianapolis the Doctor was promoted to the medical deparment, Mr. Wilson became captain, and Mr. Kilborn was then made first lieutenant. He took a very active part in many important military movements with his regiment. When his captain's health failed and he resigned his command at Murfreesboro, Mr. Kilborn was given the vacant position as commander of the company, and just before the army moved he was detailed to command the pioneers of the brigade. This cut him off from active participation in the movements on the battlefield and therefore was not pleasing to him, but as Colonel Wilder said that he had only one other man in the brigade who could get as much work out of men as Captain Kilborn, and as that man could not be spared for the position Captain Kilborn was compelled to remain in that service for a time.

However, after the capture of Gurley, he was relieved of the command of pioneers by General Crook and was detailed to command scouts to be attached to the general headquarters. In that position Major Kilborn accompanied General William S. Smith on his raid along the Mobile and Ohio Railroad to West Point and Columbus, Mississippi, and was thus often engaged in severe and perilous service. A part of the Seventy-second Regiment together with Major Kilborn's scouts were all of the Wilder Brigade that went on this expedition. Captain Kilborn was promoted to the majority of his regiment November 9, 1864, and served with credit until the close of the war. He went with General Wilson on his famous raid through Alabama and Georgia, resulting in the capture of Selma and Montgomery in Alabama, of Columbus and Macon in Georgia. From the latter place the command was ordered home and the Seventy-second was mustered out in June, 1865.

While Major Kilborn was in the field faithfully performing his duty to his country, and doing everything possible for the preservation of the Union, his wife was caring for their little family at home, and by her economy and industry she had bought a house and lot in the village of Ladoga, In-

diana, and had almost completed the payments thereon. After the Major's return they traded this property for a quarter section of land in Shelby county, Illinois, and removed there in the fall of 1895. The following year they went to Marion county, Illinois, and as Major Kilborn had not prospered in his agricultural pursuits he again became connected with educational work as principal of a graded school. Through many years he continued to follow the profession and won high standing among its representatives in this section of Illinois. He was principal of the schools of Marshall, Illinois, for seven years, and his name was prominently mentioned as a candidate for superintendent of public instruction at the Prohibition convention at Bloomington, in 1882. In the schoolroom he closely studied the needs and requirement of the situations and planned for the furtherance of the schools and the permanent improvement of the educational systems of the various localities in which he was located. His own zeal in the work inspired the teachers who came under his guidance and he won for himself a prominent position in educational circles.

In 1900 Major Kilborn became a resident of Monticello, and here he is now well known as a representative of journalistic interests, being the senior member of the firm of L. S. Kilborn & Son, editors and proprietors of the Monticello Pilot, which he publishes in the interests of the Republican party. It is a bright entertaining journal and its editorials from the pen of Major Kilborn show comprehensive understanding of the questions which affect the state and national welfare. He has always been a fluent and ready writer, a master of the art of rhetoric, and yet one whose language is but the adornment for keen thought and decisive logic. His life has been all that is exemplary of the unright and therefore truly great citizen. He has favored progress, reform and improvement, and has labored as earnestly for the welfare of his country in times of peace as when he followed the starry banner of the nation upon the battlefields of the south.

CHARLES EDWARD ENGLAND.

Charles E. England, one of the most progressive and successful agriculturists of Piatt county, is the owner of a valuable farm of several hundred acres in Goose Creek township, and his management of the estate is marked by the scientific knowledge and skill which characterize the modern farmer. A native of this county, he was born on section 4, Goose Creek township, on the 9th of April, 1866, and is a son of A. T. and Harriet (Plunk) England. His paternal grandfather was Rev. John England, a minister of the Christian church, who was engaged in preaching the gospel through this section of the state for many years, his home being in Sangamon and Logan counties most of the time. He was also a mechanic and followed farming to some extent.

A. T. England, the father of our subject, was born in Sangamon county, but was principally reared in Logan county, whither his parents removed when he was quite young. He received a good common-school education and throughout his active business life successfully engaged in farming, but is now living a retired life in Monticello, Piatt county. He was married in 1865.

Mr. England, of this review, attended first the public schools of Monticello, and later became a student at the State Univer-

sity at Champaign, where he remained for two years. His school life being ended in 1884, he returned home and on attaining his majority, began life for himself by operating a farm which was formerly owned by his father. He has since devoted his time and energies almost exclusively to agricultural pursuits, and has made his home in the neighborhood where he now resides. In his undertakings he has met with remarkable success and his landed estate now amounts to eleven hundred and twenty-six acres, all in Goose Creek township. His crops consist principally of corn, oats and hay, and he is also engaged in the feeding of stock for market, shipping from three to four carloads of hogs each year. He also raises some very nice colts for the market. Mr. England's home is a beautiful place, his splendid residence being well and tastefully furnished. The farm buildings are neat and substantial and a beautiful grove near the house adds to its attractive appearance. There are also fine orchards and many kinds of small fruit on the place, the land is under a high state of cultivation, and in fact it is one of the model farms of the locality. Mr. England is a stockholder and vice president of the First National Bank of DeLand, and is a man of marked business and executive ability.

In 1893 he was united in marriage to Miss Esta M. Fitzwater, and to them have been born four children, namely: Leland, now eight years of age; Helen, five; Dorothy, three; and Herbert, a year and a half. Both Mr. and Mrs. England are members of the Christian church, and he is also identified with the Blue lodge of the Masonic fraternity at DeLand, and the Twentieth Century Lodge, Knights of Pythias, of the same place. By his ballot he supports the men and measures of the Republican party, and takes an active interest in public affairs, giving his support to every enterprise for the public good, and materially aiding in the advancement of all social, educational and moral interests.

JOHN F. McGINNIS.

John F. McGinnis, who is successfully engaged in the operation of a nice farm on section 10, Willow Branch township, Piatt county, was born on the 5th of March, 1857, in Owen county, Indiana, and is a son of John H. and Marinda (Hinkle) McGinnis. The father was also a native of that state, where he was reared and educated in much the usual manner of farmer boys of his time, and he made his home with his parents, Elisha and Amelia Abigail McGinnis, until grown. They were originally from Kentucky and of Scotch-Irish descent, our subject's great-grandparents having come to this country from the north of Ireland.

On the 2d of January, 1851, was celebrated the marriage of John H. McGinnis and Miss Marinda Hinkle and to them were born ten children, as follows: Amelia A., now the wife of C. C. Bales, a farmer of DeWitt county, Illinois; Emily Jane, who died at the age of two years; Elisha, who died in 1896; John F., of this review; James H., who died August 11, 1888; Jesse B., who died May 23, 1893, leaving a wife and three children; George R., who died March 5, 1901, leaving a wife and five children; Thomas Lee, who is married and is engaged in the draying business in Cisco; Emory S., a farmer of Cisco; Charles P., who died January 21, 1891.

After his marriage the father of our subject continued to reside in Indiana until 1868, when he came to Illinois and located two miles west of Weldon in DeWitt county, where he rented land and engaged in farming quite successfully for some time. Later he removed to the farm on which his son now resides, and in 1881 purchased the place which was then known as the William Coleman farm and consisted of seventy-eight acres. He erected thereon new buildings, fenced and tiled the land, and made many other substantial improvements. At an early day he raised considerable wheat, but for the past twenty years there has been very little of that grain produced in Piatt county, corn and oats being the principal crops at the present time. Mr. McGinnis died on the 7th of January, 1895, and his wife passed away July 19, 1898, honored and respected by all who knew them. They left many friends, as well as their immediate family, to mourn their loss, for they were widely and favorably known.

John F. McGinnis began his education in the public schools of Indiana, and after coming to Illinois at the age of eleven years he continued to attend school here during the winter season until he attained his majority. In the meantime he also gained an excellent knowledge of all kinds of farm work, and to-day successfully operates the old home farm. He gives considerable attention to stock-raising and usually raises about a carload of hogs each year. He never left the parental roof, and after the death of his father he took entire charge of the farm, and since his mother passed away he has also managed the household affairs. He has made many improvements on the place, and to-day has a fine bearing orchard of one hundred trees and all kinds of small fruits. Politically, Mr. McGinnis is a stanch Democrat, and for fifteen years has most efficiently filled the office of school director, being clerk of the board at the present time. He takes a deep interest in educational affairs and gives his support to all measure which he believes will prove of public benefit.

ELIJAH CAMPBELL.

Elijah Campbell, who resides on section 33, Goose Creek township, owns and operates a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres pleasantly located two miles north of De-Land, its neat and thrifty appearance plainly indicating his careful supervision. Substantial improvements are surrounded by well tilled fields, and all the accessories and conveniences of a model farm are there found.

A native of the neighboring state of Indiana, Mr. Campbell was born in Clark county, July 7, 1840, and is a son of Turner and Isabel (Hinthorn) Campbell. The father was born in Ireland, of Scotch ancestry, and the mother was of Irish descent. Throughout life Turner Campbell followed farming and died in Indiana in 1844. Four years later his widow became the wife of John Loudenback, of Kentucky, and after residing in Indiana for a few years, they removed to Fulton county, Illinois, making their home there until 1888, when they went to Howard county, Missouri, settling near Moberly, where Mrs. Loudenback died about 1892.

Mr. Campbell is one of a family of nine children, who in order of birth were as follows: Isaiah died in Indiana; William died in Missouri in 1899; John died in Indiana, leaving a wife and three children, Francis

Marion, Elizabeth and John Floyd; Oliver died when about twenty-two years of age; Isaac married Jane Ailman, a daughter of John Ailman, of Canton, Illinois, and with his wife and children is now living on a farm near Wyoming, Illinois. Alexander, who was single, disappeared from a farm near Canton, Illinois, about fifteen years ago, when forty-five years of age, and has never been heard from since; Turner died of typhoid fever at the age of fourteen years; Elijah is the next of the family; and Sarah married Michael Phalen and died in Missouri about 1863, leaving three children. Her husband has since married again.

Elijah Campbell obtained his early education in an old-fashioned log schoolhouse in Indiana, with its puncheon floor, hewed seats and a fireplace large enough to hold a six-foot log. He attended school only through the winter season, while through the summer months he worked on the home farm from sunrise until sundown. The school also lasted all day and through the noon hours the boys cut wood, meeting on Saturdays to haul it to the building with ox teams.

In 1863 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Campbell and Miss Sarah Elizabeth Carter, of Lewiston, Fulton county, Illinois, where her parents, Jackson and Harriet Jane (Riley) Carter, made their home. She is the oldest in their family of seven children, the others being Atha, wife of James O'Brien, a farmer of Fulton county; Eldora, wife of H. D. Porter, a grain-dealer of DeLand; Everett, also a farmer of Fulton county; Almeda, deceased wife of Jacob Miller, a farmer; Quincy, who is engaged in the lumber business at Sidell, Illinois, and Jessie wife of John Wertman, a farmer of Fulton county.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Campbell have been born twelve children: Hattie Belle, the oldest, was married in 1886 to Thomas Wisegarver, and they have one daughter, Aubra. Cora is the wife of Frank Huddleston, of Webster City, Iowa. Atha is the wife of Luther Cox, a member of the mercantile firm of Gantz & Cox, of DeLand. Lillian is the wife of George Galliver, of Bagdad, Santa Rosa county, Florida. Both are physicians and are graduates of the Harvey Medical College of Chicago. Wynona is the wife of Smith Wisegarver, a farmer of Piatt county. Pearl is the wife of Edward Haggard, also a farmer of this county. Raymond R. was recently graduated at Lombard College, Galesburg, Illinois, with the highest honors, being three points higher than any other graduate there during the forty-eight years of the existence of the college. He has taught in a training school in Chicago, and by teaching earned the money with which to pay his way through college and meet all his expenses while there. He is a young man of marked ability and deserves great credit for what he has accomplished. At present he is in Chicago, undecided as to what he will devote his time in the future. Turner Jackson, the next of the family, married Jennie Armstrong, a daughter of Leonard Armstrong, and at present is engaged in draying in DeLand, though he previously followed farming in this county. Canova died in infancy. Caddie is the wife of Oscar Moody, who follows farming near DeLand; Wave and De Forest are both at home with their parents.

After his marriage Mr. Campbell rented a farm in Fulton county for two years, and in its cultivation was fairly successful. He then came to Piatt county and purchased eighty acres of land, which he operated for

two years, and on disposing of that he purchased another tract here. Since then he has bought and sold a number of places, usually making money on the transaction, and finally purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 33, Goose Creek township. His crops are principally corn and oats, and he gives considerable attention to the breeding of pure blooded Ohio Improved Chester hogs, which are considered a superior breed, and in the raising of which he has met with remarkable success for several years. He usually ships from eighty to one hundred hogs each year, and as those he raises are among the best to be found on the market, they command the highest prices. He may well take a just pride in his success in this enterprise. He also feeds some cattle for market. His farm is under a high state of cultivation, and there is a good orchard and many varieties of small fruit upon it. He has erected a new house, barn and other buildings, and everything is in first-class condition.

Mr. Campbell, his wife and all his children are members of the Christian church of DeLand, and for thirty-two years he has also been connected with the Masonic order, now holding membership in DeLand Lodge, No. 812, F. & A. M. The Democratic party has always found in him a stanch supporter of its principles, and his fellow citizens recognizing his worth and ability have called upon him to fill several local offices, the duties of which he has most capably and satisfactorily discharged. He was road commissioner one term, road overseer seven years and township treasurer twenty-two years. He is still filling the last named office, and is also school treasurer of his township. Upright and honorable in all the relations of life, he well merits the confidence and trust reposed in him.

MALDEN O. CURRY.

To succeed where others have failed, to advance where others have retrograded indicates certainly thorough understanding of the business in which one is engaged together with marked capability, close application and keen sagacity. Malden O. Curry in 1890 became proprietor of a paper in Bement, which, previous to this time, had had various proprietors and editors, none of whom had made the journal a paying enterprise. He brought to the work strong determination, resolving that he would brook no obstacles that could be overcome by honorable and determined effort. He is now editor and proprietor of the Bement Register, which is a weekly newspaper, and the only one published in the village.

Mr. Curry was born in Moultrie county, Illinois, March 16, 1866, a son of Thomas A. and Martha A. (Davis) Curry. The father was born in Kentucky on the 22d of December, 1827, and in an early day came to Illinois, locating in Moultrie county, where he engaged in farming. During his residence in Moultrie county he drove cattle through Piatt county, taking them to market across the prairies. There were then no railroads through this part of the country, and but a few settlers, so that one could journey for miles without coming to a fence or other evidence of settlement to impede progress. By trade he was a cabinetmaker, learning the business at Sullivan, Illinois. He followed the pursuit for some years before going to Missouri, in which state he resided for some time. Upon his return to Illinois he located in Shelby county, where he is yet living. His political support is given to the Democracy, and his religious faith is that of the Christian church, with which he has long held membership. His wife, who bore the

maiden name of Martha A. Davis, was born in Moultrie county, Illinois, April 8, 1837, and died on the 26th of August, 1900, in Shelby county, Illinois. She, too, was a member of the Christian church, and was a most estimable lady. By their marriage September 4, 1855, eight children were born, five of whom are now living, but Malden O. Curry is the only one residing in Piatt county.

Malden O. Curry spent the first six years of his life in Moultrie county, Illinois, and then accompanied his parents to Missouri, where they resided for six years, returning then to this state. He has since been a resident of Illinois, and in the public schools of Shelby county he acquired his early education, pursuing his studies there until fourteen years of age. He began learning his trade in 1880 in a newspaper office in the village of Stewardson, Shelby county, Illinois, where he continued for several years. He was afterward employed at his trade in Effingham, Altamont, Kinmundy, Chicago, Brazil, Indiana, Bloomington, Monticello, Assumption and Bement. All these places are in Illinois, with the exception of Brazil. On the 10th of January, 1890, he became editor and proprietor of the Bement Register, entering into partnership at this time with G. A. Burgess, of Monticello, under the firm style of M. O. Curry & Company. Later our subject formed a partnership with C. A. Burks, which continued for three years, and he was afterward with F. E. Unholz until 1895, when he sold his interest to Mr. Unholz. He then purchased the Assumption News in Christian county, Illinois, and remained there until October, 1897, when he returned to Bement and again became owner and editor of the Bement Register, which he is still publishing. The office is well equipped with the latest improved machinery needed in his line, and he turns out a high grade of work as viewed from the printer's standpoint.

On the 19th of November, 1886, Mr. Curry was united in marriage to Miss S. Olive Patton, who was born in Shelby county, Illinois, near Shelbyville, was educated in that county and taught school there for several terms. Both Mr. and Mrs. Curry are devoted and active members of the Christian church and are greatly interested in temperance work, doing all in their power to suppress the evil of intoxication. Mr. Curry votes with the Prohibition party, and his wife is a member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Unto them have been born four children, of whom two are living: Marvella O., who was born in Chicago and educated in Bement; and Lois O., who was born in Assumption, Illinois, and is now seven years of age. The other two children died in infancy. Mr. Curry holds membership in Bement Lodge, No. 199, Knights of Pythias. Through the columns of his paper he advocates every measure which he believes will prove of permanent benefit to the community.

EVAN STEVENSON.

Evan Stevenson is numbered among Piatt county's native sons for his birth occurred on the old home farm in Willow Branch township, September 3, 1872. He is the only son of Wilbur F. and Alice (Tallman) Stevenson, who are mentioned on another page of this work. Back to a pioneer epoch in the history of Kentucky can the ancestry be traced, and his paternal great-grandfather, Job Stevenson, was not only a

leading business man of that state, but was also a member of the legislature and aided in framing the early policy of the commonwealth. His son, Evan Stevenson, for whom the subject of this review was named, became well known in political circles and was equally prominent as a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church. While on the maternal side Mr. Stevenson of this review is descended from John Boggs, his grandfather, who served as major in the War of 1812, and aided in laying broad and deep the foundation for the present development of Pickaway county, Ohio, being one of its pioneer settlers.

Upon the home farm Evan Stevenson was reared and in his early youth he attended the district school of the neighborhood. Later he continued his studies in the Monticello schools and subsequently he pursued a collegiate course as a student in the Michigan State University at Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he remained for two or three years. On account of ill health he was obliged to leave school, and returning home he became owner of the Monticello Bulletin, but when a year had passed he severed his connection with that paper and in 1898 went to Texas with the hope of benefiting his health. At that time the Spanish-American war was in progress and he joined a volunteer cavalry company which was used in patroling border, remaining in the service four months. The state militia had gone to Cuba and it was rumored that an attempt might be made by Mexican adventurers to invade Texas.

Since his return to Piatt county Mr. Stevenson has taken an active part in politics. In 1900 he was nominated by the Democracy as a candidate for state senator, but was defeated after a vigorous campaign. In 1902, however, he was elected to the lower house of the general assembly of Illinois, where he served on a number of important committees. Each question which came up for settlement received his close consideration and he labored in behalf of many improvements which he believed would contribute to the general good. Particularly he worked for liberal appropriations for the University of Illinois, which is located in his district. His influence and efforts have extended beyond the confines of Illinois. In 1901 he went to New York city and took an active part in the campaign there in support of Edward M. Shepherd, the Tammany nominee for mayor of New York. He is a fluent and forceful speaker, logical in his argument and bases his statements upon fact as shown by history and statistics. He never fails to entertain an audience and to leave an impression upon the thinking mind. Mr. Stevenson is a typical American citizen, alive to the interests and questions of the day, and to the welfare of his county, state and nation. Although yet a young man, his work has been felt in political circles and should he continue to give his attention to political work he can undoubtedly win success and distinction in that line. His fellow townsmen respect and admire him for what he has acomplished, and he well deserves mention in the history of Piatt county.

AUGUST OHLER.

August Ohler, who is now so efficiently serving as supervisor of Unity towship, was born on the 28th of August, 1858, in Frederick county, Maryland, his parents being Jacob and Emeline (Forney) Ohler, both now deceased. In the county of his nativity he

grew to manhood, and is indebted to its common schools for the educational privileges he enjoyed during his boyhood and youth. He remained on the home farm, assisting in its operation until the spring of 1880, when he went to Decatur, Illinois, and was there engaged in the manufacture of tile for four years. At the end of that time he came to Piatt county and rented a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 23, Unity township, belonging to Charles S. Traver, of Decatur. This place he has since successfully operated, being engaged in general farming. He is a very industrious and energetic man, and is highly respected and esteemed by all who know him.

On the 7th of December, 1882, Mr. Ohler was united in marriage to Miss Christina Winn, of Decatur, who was born in Arkansas, and they have become the parents of five children, two of whom died when about seven years of age. Those living are Florence, now the wife of Morris Broyles, of Hammond; and Clarence and Roy, both at home. The family is one of prominence in the community where they reside. Mr. Ohler is one of the leading Republicans of Unity township, and on his party ticket was elected supervisor, which office he is now so acceptably filling.

ERNEST L. CRONINGER.

The gentleman whose name is here presented belongs to one of the oldest families of the county, Mr. Croninger's grandfather, Peter Croninger, having settled on the farm upon which the grandson now resides in about 1840. With his wife, Cynthia, he had come from the Buckeye state, and they were of German descent. They built the usual log cabin and started in to subdue nature's wilds. With the patience characteristic of the pioneer, they cleared their land, and year by year saw the result of their efforts in the attempt at home building most splendidly realized. In 1868 they had so prospered as to erect one of the best homes in the county, which still stands a monument to their energy. It is of brick, burned on the farm by the aid of neighbors, and stands in a noble grove of shade trees well back from the road. Grandfather Croninger was a man of remarkable mold, and was instrumental in settling the high standard of morals which early characterized the citizens of Piatt county. He died at the age of seventy-seven years. He reared but one son, Mahlon Croninger, who was born in this county. In 1868 he married a daughter of James Rhinehart and to them four children were born, as follows: Ernest L., who constitutes the subject of this review; Charles L., of Decatur; Nellie G., wife of Dr. M. Pategale, of Cisco, Illinois; Braley F., still residing on the old homestead, which he helps to cultivate.

Ernest L. Croninger, eldest son of the family, was born on the old homestead, March 8, 1870. He received a good common-school education in Langley school, and later attended Brown's Business College. He aided his father in his large farming interests until 1897, when he became interested with his father and others in a banking business at Cisco, he acting as cashier of the institution. The confinement attendant on such employment, however, threatened to undermine his health, and while he is yet cashier of the bank and assistant attends to the more arduous duties. At his father's death our subject succeeded to his interest in the bank. In addition to his banking interests

Mr. Croninger, together with other members of the family, is interested in a large grain elevator, and the business attendant to it, under the firm name of Croninger & Weilepp. This firm carries on an extensive business, handling nearly all the grain raised in Piatt county. After the original purchase of land by the grandfather, different members of the family have at various times added to the domain, until at the present time the farm consists of two thousand two hundred and twenty-five acres, all of which save two hundred acres of wood land, is under cultivation.

Mr. Croninger is a gentleman of genial temperament and fine social qualities, and it is not strange that the fraternal idea appeals to him with such force. He has taken the third degree in the noble lodge of Masons, is a Knight of Pythias, an Odd Fellow, and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Politically, Mr. Croninger supports the principles of the great Jefferson, and is now serving his second term as supervisor of Willow Branch township, to which he was elected on the Democratic ticket. Though still in the hey-day of youth, our subject has fully demonstated his fitness to handle any trust imposed on him by society, and may look forward with confidence to a career of great usefulness.

JOHN GARDINER.

John Gardiner, living on section 20, Blue Ridge township, was born in Ireland in 1844, the place of his birth being County Antrim. His parents, John and Mary Ann (McKnight) Gardiner, were also natives of County Antrim, where the mother died. Crossing the Atlantic to the new world, the father spent his last years in America. He died at the age of eighty-five years and the mother reached the very advanced age of ninety-two years. In their family were seven children, who attained adult age, but the subject of this review is the only one now residing in Piatt county. It was in 1867 that the father came to America with Andrew and John, and located in Piatt county, where he remained until called to the home beyond.

John Gardiner spent the first twenty-three years of his life on the Emerald Isle, no event of special importance occuring to vary the routine of life for him in his youth. Work and play fell to his lot, and it also became his duty to master the branches of learning taught in the common schools. After reaching years of maturity, however, he sailed for the new world, taking passage at Londonderry, Ireland, upon an old-time steamer, which was upon the water for some days. At length, however, he landed at Portland, Maine, and by way of the Grand Trunk Railroad went to Chicago, and afterward proceeded to Pittsfield, Pike county, Illinois, where he spent a few months. He then removed to Logan county, this state, where he remained for two years, during which time he was employed by the month as a farm hand. In 1869 he arrived in Piatt county where he worked for William Johnson, whose daughter he afterward married. Later he rented a farm and for three years he was in the employ of A. J. Langley. Subsequently he purchased a tract of land of eighty acres and locating thereon, at once began its improvement. He broke the prairie and after turning the sod planted crops which in due course of time yielded good harvests. He also built a house and improved that property in many ways. After

a time he sold it and purchased another tract of eighty acres, which he later disposed of. He then bought the one-hundred-and sixty-acre farm upon which he now resides, paying for this thirty-seven and a half dollars per acre. He has since added to its boundaries to the amount of two hundred and forty acres, so that he now has in one farm a valuable tract of four hundred acres. His attention has been more largely given to the raising of grain and in his work he has met with very creditable and gratifying success.

In 1874 Mr. Gardiner was united in marriage to Miss Teresa Emily Johnson, a daughter of William and Julia Ann Johnson. Her father passed away many years ago, but was survived for some time by his wife. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner have been born eight children: William E.; Andrew; Mary Ann; one who died in infancy; Walter; Addie; Ida and John.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner hold membership in the Presbyterian church of Mansfield, of which he formerly served as a trustee, and at the present time he is an elder. He takes a deep interest in church work, doing all in his power to promote the growth of the church and extend its influence. His first presidential ballot was cast for General Grant, and he has since voted with the Republican party, having firm faith in its principles. He has also served as school director for five years and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart friend. Landing in this country without capital, he has, through his persistency of purpose and untiring efforts, steadily worked his way upward until he is now one of the prosperous agriculturists of Piatt county. His manner is genial and entirely free from ostentation. Without pretense or display he commands the respect of his fellow men and is regarded by them as one who has been true and faithful in every relation of life in which he has been placed.

TIMOTHY F. DEVENY.

Among those who valiantly fought for the Union when the South endeavored to secede was Timothy F. Deveny, who to-day is one of the leading citizens of Goose Creek township. He is engaged in farming and the dairy business, supplying the people of De-Land with milk of the finest quality. He was born in Richland county, Ohio, August 8, 1841, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Dewitt) Deveny. The father was a native of the town of Little York, York county, Pennsylvania, and of German descent, while the mother was born in Ulster county, New York, and belonged to an old Holland family. In early life John Deveny learned the tailor's trade, and for over thirty years conducted a shop in Plymouth, Ohio, where he was making his home at the time of his death in 1855. His wife died at the same place in 1890. This worthy couple were married in Plymouth and became the parents of seven children, namely: Benjamin F., a resident farmer of Plymouth; Timothy F., of this review; Jennie, wife of John Wilson, a molder of Plymouth; Elizabeth, deceased wife of James Moore; Henry, who died when quite young; Henrietta, wife of Frank Sable, a plasterer and mason of Plymouth, Ohio; and Martha, who died at that place in 1892.

The boyhood and youth of our subject were passed in Plymouth, Ohio, and he is indebted to its common schools for his early educational advantages. He learned the

trade of a stationary engineer at that place, and later was employed as a locomotive engineer on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad for about ten years. At the end of that time he removed to Columbus, Ohio, where he ran a stationary engine for five years, and then, in 1884, went to Le Roy, Illinois, where he ran the engine in the flouring mill of Barnum & Kenun for the same length of time. On the expiration of that period he came to DeLand and rented a farm of eighty acres near the village, which he has since operated. There is a fine orchard upon the place, the fields are well tilled and everything is in first-class condition. The home is a pleasant residence of nine rooms, surrounded by beautiful shade trees, and is known as the old Marquiss homestead. Mr. Deveny raises the cereals best adapted to the soil and climate, and keeps a number of milch cows for dairy purposes, having a good milk route in DeLand.

Soon after passing his twentieth birthday, Mr. Deveny entered the army, enlisting on the 15th of August, 1861, in an Ohio regiment of volunteer infantry, which was assigned to the Seventeenth Army Corps. On the expiration of his term of enlistment he was discharged at Chattanooga, Tennessee, September 1, 1864, but afterward reenlisted, this time becoming a member of Company G, One Hundred and Ninety-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry. When hostilities ceased he was again discharged on the 27th of August, 1865, by order of the government, as his services were no longer needed. He was in the siege of Vicksburg and in the battles of Greenbrier, Crosskeys, Winchester, Kenesaw Mountain and Peach Tree Creek, and finally returned to his home with a war record of which he may be justly proud.

At Newark, Ohio, October 9, 1879, Mr. Deveny was united in marriage to Miss Hattie Smith, a daughter of Wesley and Mary Ann Smith, of that place, and to them has been born one son, Justus Neal, who is at home with his parents. All three are members of the Christian church, and Mr. Deveny is also connected with the Masonic Lodge, No. 812, of DeLand, in which he is now serving as senior warden. By his ballot he supports the men and measures of the Republican party and is as true to his duties of citizenship in days of peace as he was when following the old flag to victory on southern battlefields.

OSCAR D. NOE, M. D.

The life history of Dr. Oscar D. Noe touches upon many fields of activity. His efforts have covered a wide range and have been of practical benefit to his fellow citizens as well as to himself. He is now successfully engaged in the practice of his profession at Hammond, where he also conducts a drug store. He is the vice president of the State Bank of Hammond. A typical American citizen realizing the force of industry, perseverance and integrity in the affairs of life he has so directed his efforts that he seems to have realized at any one point of progress his possibilities for accomplishment at that point. At the same time he has been a cooperant factor in many measures for the general good, and we express the public sentiment when we speak of him as one of the representative, valued and honored residents of Piatt county.

Dr. Noe came to Hammond in 1875, and is now one of the oldest physicians in years of connection with this part of the county.

He was born in Columbia, Boone county, Missouri, on the 16th of October, 1849, and is a son of Joseph and Matilda Noe, both of whom were natives of Kentucky, and were there reared and married. They afterward removed to Boone county, Missouri, where the father engaged in merchandising until the last five years of his life. During that period his attention was devoted to agricultural pursuits, which he carried on successfully until his death in 1879. The mother of our subject died when the Doctor was but six years of age, and the father afterward married Miss Elizabeth Angel, who now resides in Columbia, Missouri. There were five children of the first union: James, a resident of California; Amon, who is living in the same state; George, who makes his home in Woodland, California; Oscar D., and Newton, who became a physician, having graduated from the Missouri Homeopathic Medical College, of St. Louis, and who died at the age of thirty-five years. The three children born of the father's second marriage are R. B., who is a practicing physician at Thorntown, Indiana; Issathar, who makes his home in Columbia, Missouri; and Amanda, the wife of W. B. Holmes, of Kansas City, Missouri.

Dr. Noe, whose name introduces this record, acquired his early education in the public schools of his native city, and afterward attended Columbia college, of Columbia, Missouri. With broad general learning to serve as an excellent basis for professional knowledge, he began preparation for the practice of medicine as a student in the St. Louis Allopathic Medical College, in which he was graduated in the class of 1872. He then received his certificate for practice and came direct to Hammond, where he opened an office and entered upon his professional work. Soon afterward, however, he returned to St. Louis, where he pursued a course in the Homeopathic Medical College, being graduated therein with the class of 1877. Again coming to Hammond he once more resumed practice here and also established his drug store, which he has since conducted in connection with the prosecution of his chosen calling. Dr. Noe continued in active practice here until 1898, when he was elected professor of senior obstetrics in the National Medical College and Hospital of Chicago. He occupied that chair until the 1st of March, 1899, when he returned to Hammond and again took up the practice of medicine, giving especial attention to the diseases of women and children, and to surgical practice. He has, moreover, a large general practice as well as an extensive patronage along the line of his specialties, his business making constant demands upon his time and energies. In his store he keeps a general line of drugs, stationery and wall paper, and has a liberal patronage there.

Dr. Noe, unlike many professional men, possesses marked business ability and executive force as well as broad scientific learning, and his counsel and aid have therefore been important factors in the successful control many interests. He is the vice president of the State Bank of Hammond, and is the president of the Hammond Telephone Company—both enterprises of importance in the town. He is also the owner of over five hundred and twenty acres of valuable farming land, two hundred acres of which lie in Moultrie county, while the remainder is situated in Cerro Gordo township. The Doctor is thoroughly progressive along all lines, and is the owner of the only automobile in Hammond, finding his machine of value to him in his profession as it enables him to reach his patrons with very little loss of time.

The Doctor was united in marriage in

Hammond to Miss Clara Van Hook, a native of Kentucky, as was her father, Lawrence Van Hook, who at an early day brought his family to Piatt county, Illinois. He engaged in farming in Unity township and afterward removed to the village of Hammond, where he engaged in the drug business until his death, which occurred in 1890. His wife also died here. Unto the Doctor and his wife has been born a daughter, Dr. Estella V. Noe, whose birth occurred September 19, 1881. After acquiring her preliminary education in the public schools she attended the Bloomington University at Bloomington, Illinois, and subsequently the Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago, in which she was graduated with the class of 1901. She then returned to Hammond where she began practice with her father, and now she has a large patronage, having demonstrated her skill by the successful handling of a number of important cases. The family occupy one of the finest residences in this part of the county, and in social circles are prominent while the hospitality of their own beautiful and attractive home is greatly enjoyed by their many friends.

Both the Doctor and his wife hold membership in the Christian church of Hammond, and he belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge here, and also to the Odd Fellows lodge. In politics he usually gives his support to the Democracy, but at local elections frequently casts his ballot for the men whom he thinks best qualified for office, regardless of party affiliations. The Doctor is a man of scholarly attainments and of broad general learning, as well as comprehensive scientific knowledge. He is a man of keen forsight and marked executive ability in business affairs, and at all times and in all relations of life he is found reliable, his life being in conformity to the strictest professional, commercial and social ethics. He came to Hammond a young man with little capital, but his personal worth and professional ability proved the foundation upon which he has builded creditable and gratifying success, and to-day he is one of the most prosperous and respected residents of this portion of the state.

NELS LARSON.

It is astonishing to witness the success of young men who have emigrated to America without capital and from a humble position have worked their way upward to one of affluence. The readiness with which they adapt themselves to circumstances and take advantage of opportunities offered brings to them success and wins them a place among the leading men of the community in which they reside. To this class belongs Mr. Larson, who now makes his home in Voorhies, where he has a most beautiful residence.

A native of Sweden, he was born January 29, 1841, and is a son of Lars and Elma (Wrensen) Johnson, both of whom are now deceased. In their family were four children, two of whom, a son and daughter, still reside in Sweden, while our subject and his sister, Mrs. Johnson, are now living in Piatt county, Illinois.

Mr. Larson was reared to manhood upon a farm in his native land, and was twenty-six years of age when he crossed the Atlantic to America, landing in New York city, whence he made his way at once to Galesburg, Illinois. For one year he worked on a farm in Knox county, and then came to Piatt county, where during the ensuing

eighteen months he was employed on the farm of William Burgess in Bement township. On his arrival in this country he was entirely unfamiliar with the English language, and had that difficulty to encounter as well as many others, but he soon overcame these and is to-day a well-informed man keeping abreast with the times in all particulars. In 1870 he entered the employ of William Voorhies, for whom he worked a year and a half and afterward operated rented land in Unity and Cerro Gordo townships. Subsequently he purchased an eighty-acre tract in the former township and began life in earnest as a general farmer. He has since added to his property from time to time until he now owns four hundred and eighty acres of as well improved and valuable land as is to be found in that part of the county. With the assistance of hired help he operates two hundred and forty acres of this, raising principally corn, which yields on an average of from fifty to sixty bushels per acre. Mr. Larson is also interested in the grain trade, having erected an elevator at Voorhies, where he is engaged in buying and selling grain, handling about three hundred thousand bushels a year through J. M. Camp, of Bement. His son George W. now has charge of the business and attends to the office work for his father.

At Bement, Illinois, March 16, 1872, Mr. Larson was united in marriage to Miss Johanna Nelson, who was also born in Sweden, April 14, 1842, and came to America when twenty-six years of age. Two children have been born to them, namely: George W., who was graduated at the Bement high school in 1893, and received a diploma from Brown's Business College of Decatur, the following year; and Eleanora, who is also a graduate of the Bement high school. The home of this family is a model one, being complete in all its appointments and elegantly furnished. It was built in 1901 by James Howard, a contractor of Bement from plans made by a Chicago architect, and without an exception is the finest home in Piatt county, having cost about eight thousand dollars. It contains fifteen rooms lighted and ventilated by a large number of windows, is heated by hot water, and supplied with hot and cold water. The grounds are beautifully laid off and adorned with flower beds, and the walks are all of cement. In addition to his own private residence Mr. Larson owns all of the houses at Voorhies and much other property.

He was reared in the Lutheran faith, but he and his family now attend the Christian church. Politically, he is a stanch Republican and has been a delegate to various county conventions of his party. For five years he served as postmaster of Voorhies under the first administration of President Cleveland, and also under President Harrison, and his son, George, is now filling that office. He is a man of exceptionally good business and executive ability, and to his own untiring efforts and good management is due his wonderful success in life.

MISS LYDA COLEMAN.

Miss Lyda Coleman, the well-known librarian of the Allerton Public Library of Monticello, is a native of that city and a daughter of Dr. J. W. and Carrie R. (King) Coleman. The mother is now deceased and with the exception of Lyda, all of the six children of the family have also passed away. Dr. Coleman has been engaged in the prac-

tice of medicine in Monticello since 1860, and is one of the leading physicians and prominent citizens of that place. He was one of the organizers of the Monticello Cemetery Association in 1873, and has been its secretary ever since. He also assisted in organizing the Monticello high school and was president of the board in 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868 and 1899. For a number of years he has been a member of the United States board of pension examiners, and has served for some time as commander of Franklin Post, No. 256, G. A. R. His daughter obtained her preliminary education in the public schools of Monticello and later entered Farmer's College at College Hill, Ohio, where she continued her studies until the close of the junior year. In June, 1897, she assumed the duties of librarian in the Allerton Public Library, and has since filled that position in a most creditable and satisfactory manner.

JESSE BUSHEE.

Jesse Bushee, an honored veteran of the Civil War, who is now living a retired life in White Heath, Illinois, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on the 11th of September, 1840, and is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Gettings) Bushee. The father was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1787, and on leaving that state removed to Ohio, where he engaged in farming until his death. The mother died in 1852. In their family were seven children, but our subject is the only one of the number now living.

In the county of his nativity Jesse Bushee spent the first sixteen years of his life, remaining at home until his mother's death. His education was acquired in the local schools, the temple of learning being a log structure with puncheon floor, slab benches and greased paper windows. On starting out in life for himself he worked as a farm hand by the month until 1856, when he decided to come to Illinois, and by team journeyed with his brother-in-law, Ezra Fosnaugh, across the country to Macoupin county, it requiring about six weeks to make the trip. There Mr. Bushee engaged in splitting rails for about six months, and then came to Piatt county, where he worked on a farm by the month until the Civil war broke out.

Prompted by a spirit of patriotism he entered the service of his country, enlisting for three months in the Twenty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry—General Grant's old regiment, and was mustered in by General Grant himself. After five months spent in the army he returned home and rented a part of the George Boyers farm, which he operated until the 13th of August, 1862, when he again entered the army, this time as a member of the One Hunded and Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was in the march from Glasgow, Kentucky, through Ohio and Indiana to Ironton, where they captured General Morgan and his army. Mr. Bushee, with others of his command, took the prisoners to Cincinnati, and from there went to Lebanon, Kentucky, and on the noted march over the Cumberland mountains, where they were forced to live on two or three small pieces of hardtack per day. He was in the siege of Knoxville and all through the Georgia campaign as far as Atlanta, and was also in the battle at Loudon, Tennessee. Mr. Bushee was taken ill at Atlanta and sent to the hospital at Marietta, Georgia. On his recovering he was granted a furlough and returned home to vote. Later

he rejoined his regiment and was in all of the engagements from Atlanta to Resaca, and was in the battles of Buzzard Roost, Kenesaw Mountain and many others, including that of Nashville. After the last named engagement he returned to Cincinnati by boat, and from there went to Washington, D. C., whence he proceeded by boat to Smithland, North Carolina. He was in the fight at Fort Anderson and Raleigh where his command met that of General Sherman, and then proceeded to Salisbury, North Carolina, where he remained until mustered out at the close of the war in the spring of 1865.

After his return home, Mr. Bushee resumed farming on Benjamin F. Cressip's place, but shortly after marriage in 1866 he removed to the farm belonging to Jehu Trotter, where he spent two years, and the following year was passed on the John Jones farm. For one year he made his home in Champaign county, but at the end of that time he returned to Piatt county, operating the Charles Smith farm for two years. He next farmed on property adjoining the village of White Heath, owned by the firm of White & Heath, remaining there until 1890, when he retired from active labor, buying a nice little home in the village and three and a half acres of land at the edge of town.

On the 2d of September, 1866, Mr. Bushee was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Jane Teats, who was born in Adelphi, Ross county, Ohio, March 27, 1849, and in 1856 came to Piatt county, Illinois, with her parents, Mathias and Mary (Puffinberg) Teats. All of their seven children are now deceased with the exception of Mrs. Bushee and her brother, George W. Teats, of White Heath, who is represented elsewhere in this volume. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bushee were born five children: Mary Elizabeth, who died at the age of three months; Carrie J., wife of John Cox, a resident of DeLand; Jessie Estella, who is at home with her parents, and is a member of Mount Royal Court of Honor, No. 320, White Heath; Ralph W., who is now working on a farm by the day, but spends his evenings at home; and one who died in infancy. The family is widely and favorably known and their circle of friends is extensive.

CHRISTIAN ROTH.

Christian Roth, one of the leading and influential citizens of Blue Ridge township, residing on section 28, was born in Wittenberg, Germany, on the 18th of July, 1834, his parents being William and Elizabeth (Craft) Roth, both of whom were natives of the same province. They were farming people who spent their entire lives in Germany. In their family were eight children, of whom Christian Roth is the fifth in order of birth. He attended the home school until fourteen years of age, and then worked upon a farm up to the time of his emigration to America in the year 1857. A forward look into the future, a mental review of the advantages afforded in his native land and in the new world and a comparison of the opportunities which both offered, led him to cross the Atlantic, and in the year 1857 he sailed from Havre, France, being six weeks upon the voyage. They encountered rough weather and lost three of the sailors, but ultimately the vessel reached the harbor of New York in safety. Mr. Roth landed in that city, but did not tarry long there, immediately coming to the west. He went first

to Springfield, Illinois, where he had friends living, and soon afterward he commenced work on a farm in Sangamon county, receiving eighteen dollars per month for his services. This seemed to him a large sum of money when he compared it with the wages paid in Germany. He continued to reside in Sangamon county until 1862, when his patriotic spirit being aroused in defense of his adopted land, he enlisted in the Union army, becoming a member of Company A, One Hundred and Sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry under the command of Captain Yates, an uncle of the present governor of the state. The commander of the regiment was Colonel Latham. Mr. Roth participated in the siege of Vicksburg and took part in a number of the important battles with the Army of the Tennessee. He was very fortunate in that he was never wounded, and after the close of the war he was mustered out in Springfield, Illinois, in 1865.

Following his military experience, Mr. Roth was engaged in conducting a butcher shop in Old Berlin for two years, and then came to Piatt county and purchased land. As a companion and helpmate for the journey of life he chose Miss Julia Ann Auer, a daughter of Mathew Auer, who lived and died in Germany. Mrs. Roth was born in that country and their marriage occurred September 22, 1866. Unto our subject and his wife have been born ten children: Elizabeth, who is the wife of Simeon Keiser, a resident of Champaign county, Illinois, by whom she has four children, John, Teresa, Juliana and Alma; Agnes, who is the wife of German Wesler, a resident of Mansfield, by whom she has two children, William and Lawrence; Mary, the wife of Mark Schudel, by whom she has one daughter, Juliana; Katharine, the wife of Michael Schudel, by whom she had three children, John, Mollie and Irene, but the first named is now deceased; William, a resident farmer of Blue Ridge township, who married Minnie Kruzweg, by whom he has three children, Clarence, Mabel and Emma; Lena, the wife of John Beckenholdt, a resident of Blue Ridge towship; Emma, the wife of Frank Wolf, who is living in Oklahoma; and Nellie, John and Christian, all at home.

After coming to Piatt county Mr. Roth purchased eighty acres of land which was wild prairie, paying for it ten dollars per acre. Since that time he has carried on agricultural pursuits with excellent success, gradually adding to his landed possessions until they now aggregate four hundred acres, all of which is located in Blue Ridge township, with the exception of a tract of eighty acres that lies in Hensley township, Champaign county. He carries on general farming, raising both grain and stock. He makes a specialty of beef cattle and of hogs, and the products of the farm annually find a good sale on the market and bring to him a desirable financial reward for his labor. Year by year he has carried on his farm work, making his labors of such force in the business affairs of life that he is to-day one of the substantial citizens of his community.

Mr. Roth belongs to the Presbyterian church, and his wife is a member of the Catholic church. He also belongs to Mansfield Lodge, No. 589, I. O. O. F., and in politics he is a Republican. He has served as school director, but at other times has always preferred to give his time and energies to his business interests. If those who claim that fortune favors certain individuals above others, will but examine into the life records of the majority of successful men, it will be found that the great number of them have

gained their possessions as Mr. Roth has done, though close application, earnest labor and unfaltering perseverance. Coming to America empty-handed he has adapted himself to the changed conditions of this country, has improved the opportunities which have come to him and to-day is one of the men of affluence in Blue Ridge township, where he is also known as a loyal citizen. No native born son of America could have been more true to her interests during the dark days of the Civil war and his entire life has been characterized by unswerving fidelity to this land.

CHARLES MINER.

This well-known and highly esteemed citizen of Goose Creek township, who carries on general farming on section 21, has spent his entire life in that location, being born on a farm on the same section, March 12, 1857. His father, James G. Miner, was a native of New York, his birth having occurred on the 27th of October, 1814, but he was principally reared and educated in Chillicothe, Ohio, his family having removed to that state during his boyhood. His parents were Jonathan and Mary (Mallet) Miner. The former was born in Connecticut in 1783, and in early life removed to New York, where in 1816 he married Mary Mallet, a native of that state. His second removal made him a resident of Ross county, Ohio. By trade he was a cabinet-maker and followed that occupation throughout life, dying in 1867, at the ripe old age of eighty-four years. His wife had passed away in 1854.

James G. Miner, our subject's father, learned the tailor's trade in Columbus, Ohio, and worked at the same time in various cities for a number of years, spending twenty-one years at Clarksburg, Ohio. In 1856 he came to Monticello, Illinois, where he was similarly employed for five years, and then turned his attention to farming, renting land in that vicinity. Ere long he was able to purchase a farm in Willow Branch township, but in 1867 he sold that place and bought two hundred and fifty-seven acres of land on section 21, Goose Creek township, where he lived until life's labors were ended in death on the 24th of March, 1900. He was married April 26, 1836, to Miss Emaline Fleming, who was born in Kent county, Delaware, in 1818, and was a daughter of Richard and Piercy (Harrington) Fleming, natives of Maryland and Delaware, respectively. During her infancy her parents removed to Ross county, Ohio, and in her new home she grew to womanhood. Her father, who was a tailor by trade, died May 2, 1847, at the age of sixty-five years, and her mother departed this life November 8, 1852, at the age of sixty-seven. She was a life long member of the Methodist Episcopal church and a most estimable lady.

Charles Miner is the fifth in order of birth in a family of six children. Annie, the eldest, is now the widow of James Harrington, a carpenter of Monticello, who made the first wagon ever manufactured in Piatt county and dropped dead at his work, about six years ago. Ira married May Broffet and is engaged in farming in Goose Creek township. Elbert is living retired in Monticello. Richard married Hannah Stewart and is now living a retired life in Mansfield. Eliza is the wife of Jacob Warner, a farmer near Mahomet, Illinois.

During his boyhood Charles Miner attended the public schools of Goose Creek township and aided in carrying on the home farm. At the age of seventeen he commenced

operating a part of his father's land on the shares, and on the death of the latter the property was divided among the heirs and he came into possession of sixty-two acres of the old homestead, which he now farms quite successfully. He raises principally corn and oats and keeps a good grade of stock for his own use. There is a good brick house upon his place, surrounded by beautiful shade trees, and he has set out a new orchard and equipped his farm with the latest improved machinery for carrying on his work in the best and easiest manner.

On the 12th of April, 1876, Mr. Miner was united in marriage to Miss Mary Shafer, a daughter of Samuel and Mahala (Coffel) Shafer, the former a native of Ohio, and the latter of Indiana. Mrs. Miner is the oldest of their children, the others being Elizabeth, wife of Lorenzo Tinsmon, who is living retired in Monticello. John, who married Dora Frey and follows farming in Monticello township; Susie, wife of Elijah Parsons, foreman of the tile-yard at Monticello; Charles, a horse-buyer and trainer of Monticello; Addie, wife of Albert Plunk, a farmer of Sangamon township; and three who died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Miner have seven children: Olga, wife of Oliver Hostler, a farmer living near Monticello; Fenton, who married Gertrude Widdershine and is a clerk in his brother-in-law's grocery store at Monticello; Samuel, a fireman on the Illinois Central Railroad and a resident of Champaign; Grace, wife of Thomas Parsons, a farmer of Monticello township; Richard, who assists in the operation of the home farm; and Josie and Charlie, also at home. In his political affiliations Mr. Miner is a strong Republican and he takes a deep and commendable interest in public affairs.

FREDERICK HAMMAN.

Frederick Hamman, who is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits on section 28, Cerro Gordo township, was born in Pike county, Ohio, on the 2d of February, 1855, and is a son of Franz and Kate (Rocky) Hamman, also natives of that state, the former born in Pike county, the latter in Fairfield county. Coming to Illinois in 1868, the father was engaged in farming in Morgan, Sangamon and Macon counties for some years, and afterward lived retired in Piatt county, where he died at the home of his son, William, in 1890, at the age of seventy-one years. His wife survived him and passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Hamman, in Bement, in January, 1903, when in her eighty-fourth year.

The ten children of the family were as follows: Daniel and William, both residents of Bement township, Piatt county; Philip, a resident of St. Louis; Nancy, wife of James H. Boyer, of Bement; David, who died in infancy; Henry, a resident of Kansas; Frederick, of this sketch; Elizabeth, wife of Philip Hamman, of Bement; John, of Kansas; and George, of Moultrie county, Illinois.

Frederick Hamman's boyhood days were passed amid rural surroundings, and his literary education was received in the common schools of his native county. In 1876, on attaining his majority, he started out in life for himself, and for a number of years operated rented land in Macon county, Illinois. About 1887 he purchased eighty acres of unimproved land on section 27, Cerro Gordo township, and also bought an improved place of one hundred and sixty acres on section 28. Both farms are now under a high state of cultivation and yield to the owner a good return for the care and labor expended upon them.

On the 6th of March, 1884, Mr. Hamman married Miss Nettie M. Wade, a native of Macon county and a daughter of Thomas and Martha (Myers) Wade. Her father is now deceased, but her mother is still living and now makes her home in Warrensburg, Macon county. To Mr. and Mrs. Hamman were born seven children, namely: Lovina; Mabel, Thurman; Everett; Clifford, who died in infancy; Flossie and Annetta. The family hold membership in the Church of God, of which Mr. Hamman is one of the elders and also a trustee, and he has served as superintendent of the Sunday-school at Gulliford schoolhouse and as assistant superintendent at Milmine. He has held the office of school director in Cerro Gordo township and has ever taken an active interest in promoting the social, educational and moral welfare of the community in which he has resided. He is an upright, honorable man, and has the confidence and respect of all.

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